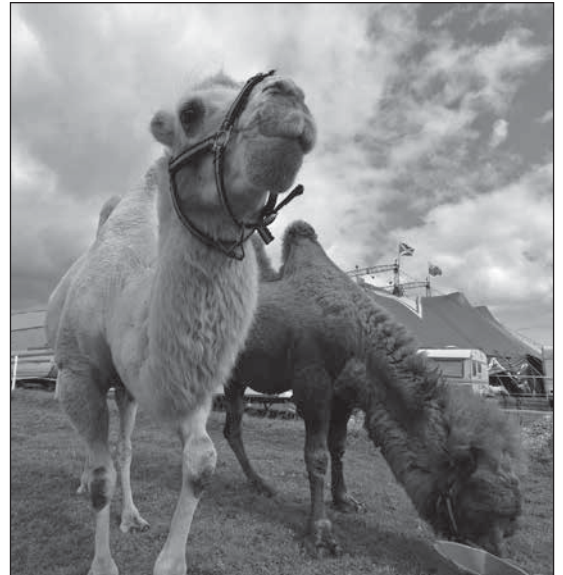


# CIRCUSES

The image that many people have of the circus is of a spectacular and wondrous world full of colour, music, glitter, fun and excitement – one where trapeze artists, lion tamers and clowns perform amazing acts to delight the audience. Harmless family entertainment, you might say? However, there is another side to the world of the circus that you are not supposed to see.



**Most people who go to a circus with performing animals are unaware that, behind the scenes, there is a sad story of cruelty and suffering.**

## Animals in UK circuses

In the past, circuses toured the country with a variety of performing wild animals such as tigers, lions, elephants, bears and monkeys.

After years of campaigning against the cruelty of animal circuses however, only two still use wild animals. Peter Jolly's Circus and Circus Mondao continue to tour England and Wales with zebras, camels and reindeer.

In 2014 Peter Jolly's Circus put on shows with three tigers and two lions. In 2015 however, Thomas Chipperfield, Britain's 'last lion tamer' who owns the 'big cats', was refused a licence to operate in England, so he put on his own show in Wales where a licence is not required.

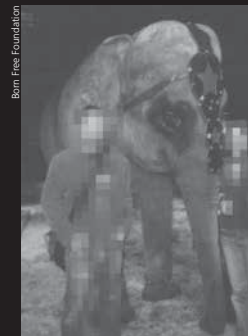
Circuses in the UK that have 'domesticated' animals such as llamas, horses and dogs, include Gifford's Circus, Zippos Circus, Duffy's Circus (Northern Ireland), Courtney Brothers/Royal Russian Circus (Northern Ireland), Moscow State Circus and Circus Tyanna.

## The circus is no place for animals

Travelling circuses cannot meet the many needs of wild animals.

Circus animals spend much of the year in transit from one location to another, confined in small 'beast' wagons. When they are not performing in the ring, they are kept inside tiny cages or enclosures, or in the vehicles in which they are transported. Some animals spend more than 95% of their time confined or tethered.

Undercover investigators have exposed the cruel methods that have been used by circus trainers to force the animals to carry out acts that are totally unnatural to them.

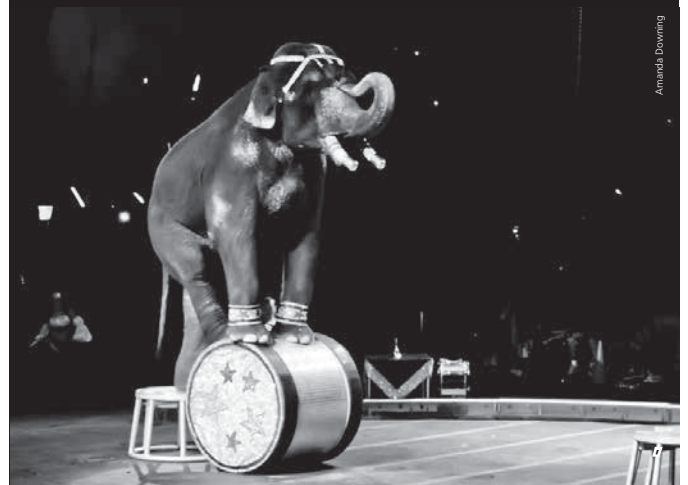


Born Free Foundation

Anne was the last UK circus elephant. She had been with the Bobby Roberts Super Circus since being taken from the forests of Sri Lanka at the age of five years. Until 2001 Anne at least had the company of other elephants, but has been alone since her companions, Beverley and Janie, died.

Anne was saved from Bobby Roberts' Circus in 2011 after an undercover investigation by ADI captured footage of her being beaten and kicked while chained to the ground. Anne was moved to Longleat safari park in 2011 and in 2012 Anne's owner was convicted of cruelty to Anne.

Tragically Anne, who had been alone since 2001, is still on her own. It was initially planned that a 'sanctuary' be built for other elephants, but sadly this is not now the plan.



Amanda Downing

## Campaign for a UK ban

Most people want to see an end to circuses with wild animals: during a public consultation in 2010, 95% of people who responded said that they were in favour of the government introducing a law to ban wild animals in circuses.

In June 2011, MPs voted unanimously for a motion in support of such a ban.

Eventually, the government in 2012 announced that they would introduce a law to end wild animals in circuses in England and Wales.

They have, however, failed to act, despite public opinion and the wishes of the majority of MPs being in favour of legislation. Rather than a ban, they introduced a licensing scheme in England for wild animals in circuses, supposedly as a temporary measure.

Although circuses are supposed to be checked, the inspectors cannot be there all of the time and it is known that those people who mistreat animals will be unlikely to do so in front of an inspector.

Groups opposed to animal circuses are calling on people to lobby the government to introduce the ban that they promised back in 2012.



Zebras and camels performing in the ring of Peter Jolly's Circus



Camels performing in the ring of Peter Jolly's Circus



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Vote with your feet - don't visit circuses that use animals, and encourage your friends and family to do the same.**
- **Email Prime Minister David Cameron (at <https://email.number10.gov.uk/>) and ask him to keep his promise to end the use of wild animals in circuses.**
- **Ask if you can have a display about animal circuses at your school.**
- **Ask your teacher to invite a visiting speaker from Animal Aid to give a talk on animal circuses.**
- **If a circus with animals visits your area, here's a plan of what you can do:**
  1. Email your local newspaper, asking people to boycott the circus and explain why.
  2. Ask local shops that have the circus posters on display to take them down.
  3. If the circus has been 'fly posting' or attaching notices to barriers at road crossings, complain to your local council.
  4. Ask the Captive Animals Protection Society (see details below) for some circus leaflets to hand out when the circus opens its gates.

For more information contact:  
**The Captive Animals' Protection Society**  
PO Box 591  
Manchester  
M12 0DP  
0845 330 3911  
[info@captiveanimals.org](mailto:info@captiveanimals.org)  
[www.captiveanimals.org](http://www.captiveanimals.org)

**For more information on animal issues please contact: Animal Aid, The Old Chapel, Bradford St, Tonbridge, TN9 1AW**  
**Tel: 01732 364546 ext 221 | [www.animalaid.org.uk](http://www.animalaid.org.uk) | [education@animalaid.co.uk](mailto:education@animalaid.co.uk)**