



## ANIMALS SHOULD **NOT** BE IN A CIRCUS

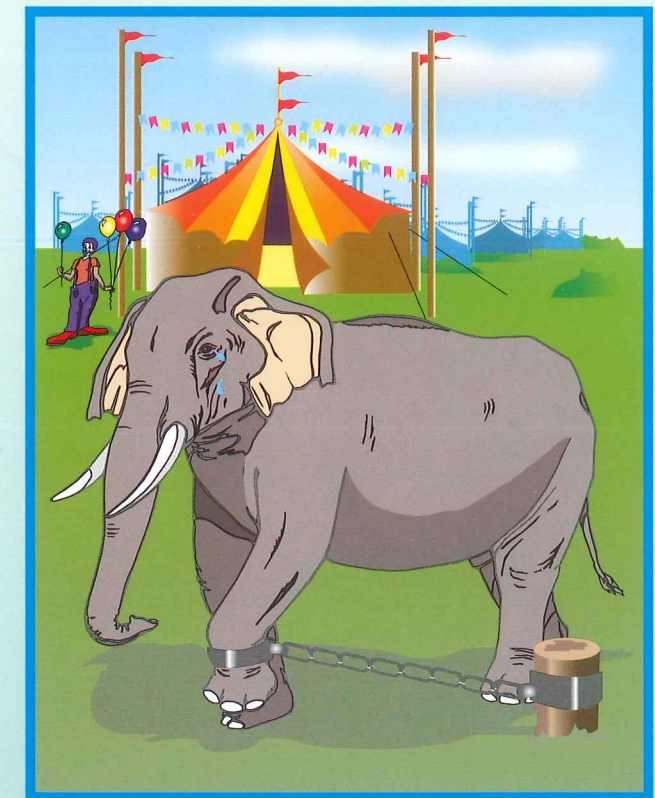
- 1 There is absolutely no place for animals in circuses. It is inhumane to remove animals from their habitats and force them to perform for our entertainment. Here are some of the reasons why circuses should be banned from using any animals in their shows.
- 2 Firstly, circus animals are kept in cages or small yards. These are not their normal habitats. In the wild, circus animals would have plenty of room to roam, run or climb. Also, every few days all the animals are put into cages and loaded onto trucks. They are taken from town to town, and are forced to

adapt to another environment in a short time. This is not natural for animals; it is, in fact, cruel.

- 3 The way the animals have to behave in a circus is not natural either. Animals have certain instincts that are integral to their natural way of life. Performing in a circus does not have any relation to such instincts. Circus animals are taught tricks by having their instincts overridden through cruel methods of "training". These involve being physically punished when the animal does something wrong. When an animal performs a trick properly, they will be rewarded with food. This presents a problem to animals, such as lions and tigers, that instinctively hunt for their food. Circus training inevitably removes their ability to survive in the wild.

- 4 Also, it is important to remember that animals do not react to stress the same way that humans do. An animal that is frightened or disturbed can become aggressive without warning. The size and ferocity of these animals, as well as their unpredictability, can be very dangerous for anyone around them. In 1998, a 3-year-old tiger named Jupiter was being walked on a leash when he turned on his trainer and mauled him to death. Jupiter was so dangerous that three SWAT team sharpshooters had to put him down. There have been many other times when trainers, owners and, tragically, members of the audience, have been killed or badly injured by circus lions, tigers and even elephants. This is very sad, most importantly because the animal is acting instinctively, as it would if faced with a stressful situation in the wild.

- 5 However, this violent reaction to stressful conditions is even more concerning given the fact that the very state of being in captivity will affect animals. In other words, even the place they sleep is causing stress for the animals. Animals in captivity, such as those at the circus, will quite often display *stereotypical behaviour*. This is when the animal starts repeating a strange action again and again, sometimes to the point of injuring themselves. The common image of the caged tiger, pacing backwards and forwards, is a classic example of this sort of behaviour. It is no wonder then that the life expectancy of a circus animal is much lower than that of an animal that lives in the wild.



6 The main reason animals are still part of circuses today is that people pay to see them. Having an animal on stage that appears to be dangerous is exciting. If people keep buying tickets, then the shows will continue. But some of the circuses that sell the most tickets, like *Cirque du Soleil*, do not use a single animal. Such shows thrill their audience with humans performing amazing feats in situations that seem very dangerous. Artistic lighting and beautiful costumes heighten the experience of such circuses. If people will pay to see these animal-free circuses, then there really

is no excuse for taking animals from the wild and making them part of a show.

7 As you can see, using animals in circuses is not natural. It is cruel to the animals, and dangerous to performers and audiences. Other types of circuses should be encouraged so that abusing animals for profit can be banned forever. In my opinion, the circus will always be an exciting place to be, but circus animals really must be left in the wild, where they belong.



## Questions

- 1 Why do circus animals' environments keep changing?
  - a They aren't as big as their natural habitat.
  - b They move from town to town all the time.
  - c They are allowed to roam free.
- 2 Doing tricks in a circus is
  - a not how an animal is supposed to behave.
  - b similar to how an animal would live in the wild.
  - c an animal's reward for living in a small cage.
- 3 Who was a three-year-old tiger that killed its trainer?
  - a SWAT
  - b Soleil
  - c Jupiter
- 4 An example of *stereotypical behaviour* is
  - a an animal's normal behaviour.
  - b a tiger pacing backwards and forwards.
  - c the behaviour used to train animals in a circus.
- 5 The only performers in *Cirque du Soleil* are
  - a wild animals.
  - b people.
  - c lighting and sound effects.
- 6 How do we know that circus animals go back to their natural instincts?
  - a They perform the wrong tricks.
  - b They play with their trainers.
  - c They sometimes attack their trainers.

## Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- 7 Cruel or brutal (1)
- 8 Hostile (4)
- 9 Confined and imprisoned state (5)
- 10 To excite or delight (6)
- 11 A personal belief (7)

## Grammar

**Adverbs** describe how, when or where an action was done. They often end in **ly**, e.g. The dog barked **loudly**. Find an **adverb** in these sentences from the text.

- 12 These involve being physically punished.
- 13 When an animal performs a trick properly they will be rewarded.
- 14 Circus training inevitably removes their ability to survive in the wild.
- 15 Tragically, members of the audience have been killed.

## Back To The Text...

- 16 The author's main purpose is to
  - a persuade.
  - b instruct.
- 17 Writers often use emotive language to persuade the reader. Which of the following words, from section 10, are emotive?
  - a inhumane
  - b habitats
- 18 Another good name for this text would be:
  - a Circus Capers
  - b Circus Cruelty

## Think About This

- 19 Look at the title. Why do you think the word NOT appears in red?
  - a To link it to the animal's blood.
  - b To make it stand out from the other words.
  - c To create an even balance between the other words.
- 20 How has the illustrator tried to influence the reader?
  - a By using vivid colours.
  - b By including lots of images.
  - c By showing animals chained up or behind bars.
- 21 In which section does the writer discuss the impact of teaching animals to perform?
  - a one
  - b two
  - c three
- 22 Why has the word "training" (3) been placed in quotes?
  - a To help to clarify the meaning of the word.
  - b To highlight the misuse of that term.
  - c The author is unsure of the spelling.
- 23 The word *instinctively* (4) is best replaced by
  - a indistinctly.
  - b indiscreetly.
  - c intuitively.

## Challenge Option

Drawing: Not all circus acts require animals. Draw one that doesn't need animals.