



# CONNECTICUT FOR ANIMALS

Education Fund 501(c)(3)

# EXOTIC & WILD ANIMALS IN TRAVELING ACTS

## THE PROBLEM

*Traveling shows cannot meet the needs of wild animals.*

### Traveling shows are constantly on the move

Animals in traveling circuses endure long periods shut in small spaces, physical and social deprivation and brutal, violent methods of control. Abnormal, stereotypic behavior, such as pacing or swaying or bobbing heads, are common abnormalities seen in circus animals, indicating the animal is not coping with its environment.

### Safety and Oversight

Keeping large, stressed wild animals in dangerously close proximity to the public in lightweight, temporary enclosures has proven disastrous. Circus workers, and members of the public, including children, have been injured by circus animals; lions, tigers and elephants have escaped. Poor oversight by USDA leaves animals, workers and the public unprotected.

## WHERE IT'S HAPPENING

*There are places in CT where this is still a concern.*

Commerford Zoo, a Connecticut-based traveling show and petting zoo located in Goshen is one example. They participate at the Big E in Springfield, MA each year. Peta and the Non-Human Rights have been following and documenting their violations dating back to 1989. For more information, visit: <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CommerfordPettingZooFactsheet.pdf>, <https://www.nonhumanrights.org/blog/new-commerford-zoo-records-highlight-usda-failures/>

## EXEMPTIONS

- Accredited zoos
- Wildlife sanctuaries
- Educational programs
- Falconry
- Research institutions



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

*Stop the use of exotic & wild animals in traveling acts.*

Like all US businesses, circuses need to change with the times to stay relevant and profitable. An educated public prefers to see humane entertainment. Around 20 human-performance circuses currently tour the US. Barnum and Bailey just re-opened its traveling show but this time without any animals. While attendance is declining in animal circus shows, it is increasing in human performance shows. Human-only performance shows create jobs without exposing citizens to stressed and abused animals.

## STATE AND LOCAL RESTRICTIONS

Recent years have seen increased action in the US, with more than 150 localities in 37 states, have passed various restrictions governing the use of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows, including Bridgeport and Stamford. Statewide bans have been enacted in New Jersey, New York, Hawaii, Illinois, Colorado and California.

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