

## Non-Domesticated Animals in Entertainment

### Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society does not support the use of non-domesticated animals in circuses, carnivals, and other traveling acts shows for the purposes of public entertainment.

### Rationale

- Animals become “domesticated” only after hundreds or thousands of generations of breeding for particular characteristics that allow human handling and contact. Wild animals are never entirely predictable and never completely under control.
- The Society believes animals used in circuses, carnivals, and other travelling acts experience undue stress due to the conditions in which they are kept.
- Animals in entertainment are often inhumanely kept in confinement for extended periods. Conditions are often unsanitary and overcrowded.
- Animals in entertainment often receive limited access to adequate and consistent veterinary care.
- Animals in entertainment are often subject to cruel and inhumane training methods that focus on punishment; the Society opposes such methods and advocates positive reinforcement training.
- Circuses often show animals performing unnatural behaviours, which holds no educational value for the audience and is of no benefit to the animals.

### References

1. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. “Circuses and Traveling Shows.” ASPCA policy statement, New York, n.d.
2. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. “Animals Used in Entertainment or Displays.” CFHS position statement, Ottawa, 1995.
3. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. “Animals Which are Wild by Nature Used in Entertainment.” CFHS position statement, Ottawa, n.d.
4. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. “Use of Animals in Entertainment and Recreation.” CVMA position statement, Ottawa, 2010.
6. Humane Society of the United States. “The Truth Behind the Big Top.” HSUS brochure, Washington, 2007.