

PAWS CALL TO ACTION

LETTERS/PHONE CALLS NEEDED!

Performing Animals in Traveling Shows Need Your Help Today!

If you live in the United States, your constituent letters and phone calls to your member in Congress will make a huge difference in the life of an animal in a traveling show.

Why should you write and call your representative?

- Citizens in the United States, and around the world, are becoming increasingly aware that circus animals suffer from violent training techniques, as well as the severe confinement forced upon them due to the constraints of constant on-the-road travel.
- Animals in traveling circuses not only endure confinement, but also physical and social deprivation, long, arduous journeys, brutal control methods and physical violence.
- Investigations have documented patterns of physical violence, where routine training methods involve pain and punishment, and animals are forced to perform unnatural tricks out of fear.
- The training tools of the circus industry include bullhooks (a heavy bar with a sharpened point and hook used on elephants), electric prods, whips and other weapons.
- Large animals, such as lions and tigers, spend their lives cramped in small cages, and elephants are forced to live chained by one or more of their legs for hours and hours on end.
- Traveling circuses pose a serious threat to public safety, and keeping wild animals confined under duress, in dangerously close proximity to the public, has proven disastrous.
- Circus workers, and members of the public, including children, have been killed and maimed by circus animals. Lions, tigers and elephants have all escaped.
- Progressive countries around the world such as Austria, Denmark, India, Sweden, Costa Rica, Singapore, Peru, Bolivia and others, have taken action to ban wild animals from traveling circuses, and a similar measure is being discussed right now in the United Kingdom.
- Cities and counties across the United States have also passed ordinances prohibiting circus animal performances in the interest of protecting animals and the public.

To PAWS friends in the United States. . . if we work together with Congress we can prevent wild animals from suffering in traveling circuses here in the United States.

We need your help NOW!

We need everyone's help! However, if your Representative happens to be one of the following, **we urgently need your calls and faxed letters today:**

[Ackerman](#), [Andrews](#), [Baldwin](#), [Berman](#), [Blumenauer](#), [Capps](#), [Capuano](#), [Cohen](#), [Conyers](#), [Courtney](#), [Davis-Susan](#), [DeLauro](#), [Dicks](#), [Engel](#), [Faleomavaega](#), [Gerlach](#), [Grijalva](#), [Holt](#), [Kildee](#), [King](#), [Kucinich](#), [Langevin](#), [LoBiondo](#), [Lowey](#), [McCotter](#), [McGovern](#), [Miller, G.](#), [Peters](#), [Price](#), [Reichert](#), [Ros-Lehtinen](#), [Sherman](#), [Speier](#), [Sutton](#), [Tierney](#), [Towns](#), [Van Hollen](#), [Woolsey](#).

Find your representative: <http://www.house.gov/> View sample letter, next page.

SAMPLE LETTER

**Please fax and mail to your representative's district office today.
Your phone calls are also needed!**

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman _____,

I am writing as a constituent concerned about the welfare of wild animals forced to perform in traveling circuses in the United States.

Americans are becoming increasingly aware that circus animals suffer from severe confinement - unavoidable because of the constraints of a difficult life of constant travel on the road. Tigers, bears, elephants and other wild animals spend hours on end either chained, in small cages, or crowded onto trailers and train cars.

A circus animal's life of ongoing deprivation is punctuated by moments of physical violence. Investigations have documented a pattern of abusive training methods where pain, punishment and fear are employed to force these wild animals to do unnatural and demeaning tricks. The tools of the trade include bullhooks, whips, and electric prods which are used to hit, "hook", and shock animals.

Countries around the world, and cities across the country, have recognized the importance of banning non-domesticated animals in traveling circuses. I am respectfully calling on you to take a stand, with your compassionate constituents, against this abuse and work toward protecting circus animals in the United States.

Sincerely,