

The Nation's First Elephant Sanctuary



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Bans and Regulations on the Use of Exotic Animals Worldwide*

AUSTRALIA

Local bans on the use of animals in circuses in several towns including Hobsons Bay, Surf Coast Shire, Parramata and Lismore.

ASIA

India

Nationwide ban on the use of certain species in circuses.

Singapore

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Taiwan

Nationwide prohibition on the import or export of protected species for circuses.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Local bans on the use of wild animals in circuses in over 20 cities including a ban in the city of Buenos Aires.

Bolivia

Nationwide ban on the use of wild and domestic animals in circuses.

Brazil

Local bans on the use of wild and domestic animals in circuses in the districts of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Pernambuco, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Sul, Espiritu Santo, Mato Grosso do Sul, Alagoas and a number of bans in cities within another four Brazilian states.

Chile

Local bans on the use of wild and domestic animals in circuses in the city of Santiago.

Colombia

Local ban on the use of animals in circuses in the capital, Bogota.

Costa Rica

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Ecuador

Nationwide ban on the use of native wild animals; restrictions on the use of exotic animals; ban on the import of both native and exotic wild animals with circuses.

El Salvador

Nationwide ban on the "Income, use or abuse of wildlife species in all kinds of entertainment."

Guatemala

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Honduras

Nationwide ban on use of all wild animals.

Panama

Nationwide ban prohibiting "entry of wild animals for use in static and travelling circuses and similar shows."

Paraguay

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Peru

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses as well as a local ban on all animals in Magdalena del Mar.

EUROPE

Austria

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Belgium

Nationwide ban on the use of most wild animals in circuses. (Parrots and camel are classified as domestic.)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nationwide ban on all animals in circuses.

Bulgaria

Total ban on wild animals.

Croatia

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Cyprus

Nationwide ban on all animals in circuses.

Czech Republic

Nationwide ban on the use of certain species in circuses.

Denmark

Nationwide ban on the use of certain species in circuses.

Estonia

Nationwide ban on the use of wild-born animals in circuses.

Finland

Nationwide ban on the use of certain species in circuses.

France

Local bans in more than 30 cities.

Greece

Nationwide ban on all animals in circuses.

Hungary

Nationwide ban on the use of wild-caught animals in circuses, the purchase and training of elephants and primates for circus performances and the purchase, training and use of CITES (Appendix 1) listed species in circuses.

Italy

Nationwide ban on all animals in circuses.

Latvia

Ends the use of tigers, lions, bears and other wild animals in circuses, as part of the country's new Animal Protection Act.

Malta

Nationwide ban on all animals used for exhibitions, performances, shows or training for the circus.

Netherlands

Nationwide ban on the use and transport of animals in circuses, with exemptions for certain species (mostly domestic).

Norway

Nationwide ban on the use of elephants in circuses. Local ban on wild or exotic animal shows in Tromsø municipality.

Poland

Nationwide ban on the use of wild-born animals in circuses. Beginning in 2017, elephants and other exotic animals were banned from use in circuses.

Portugal

Nationwide ban restricting the use of Great Apes in circuses and the acquisition and breeding of CITES listed species.

Romania

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Serbia

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals.

Slovakia

Circus/performance ban on species listed by CITES. There are no Slovakia-based circuses; foreign circuses entering the country with restricted species will not be allowed to perform.

Slovenia

Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Spain

Local bans on the use of wild animals in circuses in several cities including Barcelona.

Sweden

Nationwide ban on the use of certain species in circuses.

United Kingdom

Over 200 local authorities have bans on animal circuses (more than two thirds of these ban all performing animals, the remainder ban just wild animals).

Ireland: The use of wild animals in circuses banned as of January 2018. Local bans currently exist on the use of animals in circuses in Arklow, Clonakilty, Cork, Drogheda, Dublin, Fingal, Galway City, Kildare, Limerick, Monaghan, Moyle, South Dublin, Waterford and Wicklow.

Scotland: Bans the use of non-domesticated animals for performance or exhibition in travelling shows, does not apply to static circuses.

There is a government commitment to ban the use of wild animals in circuses in England and Wales, but these have yet to be enacted.

MIDDLE EAST

Israel

Nationwide ban on use of all wild animals.

Iran

Use of wild animals in circuses effectively banned nationwide (no permits issued).

United Arab Emirates

Nationwide ban on exotic pets.

MEXICO

Nationwide ban on performing animal acts.

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

Local bans on the use of animals in circuses in 38 municipal jurisdictions.

British Columbia

Burnaby, Castlegar, Chilliwack, Coquitlam (city), Cowishan, Delta (municipality), Kamloops, Kelowna, Langley (township), Maple Ridge (regional district), Nanaimo (city), New Westminster (municipality), North Cowichan, North Vancouver, Parksville, Prince George, Salmon Arm, Sannich, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria

Newfoundland

Mount Pearl, St. John's

Nova Scotia

Argyle, Bridgewater, Cape Breton, Digby, Shelburne, Yarmouth

Ontario

East Gwillimbury, Erin, Guelph, Manitouwadge, Puslinch, Cobourg, Windsor

Quebec

Mont Royal, St. Laurent

United States

83 municipalities in 36 states in the U.S. have partial or full restrictions on animals used in circuses and traveling shows:

City: 69

County: 14

Restrictions include public contact with wild/exotic animals, use of bullhooks and methods that cause pain, and use of certain/all performing wild and exotic species. Some restrictions are by legislation, and some come through agency regulation.

There are 10 statewide bans on public contact with wild/exotic animals (some bans exempt certain species).

Arizona

Statewide ban on public contact.

Arkansas

- Eureka Springs (*bans all shows featuring wild/exotic animals*)
- Sherwood (*bans possession of wild/exotic animals*)

California

Statewide ban on the use of elephant bullhooks.

- Corona (*bans display of wild/exotic*)
- Encinitas (*bans display of wild/exotic*)
- Huntington Beach (*bans display of wild/exotic animals*)
- Irvine (*bans display or wild/exotic animals*)
- Los Angeles (*bans use of the bullhook and other tools designed for inflicting pain; bans the use of wild animals for entertainment or amusement, including in circuses, other wild animal exhibitions, and rentals for house parties*)
- Marin County (*regulates animal acts, bans keeping of wild or undomesticated animals*)
- Newport Beach (*by mayoral proclamation, no display or wild or exotic animals for entertainment*)
- Oakland (*bans use of the bullhook and other tools designed for inflicting pain*)
- Pasadena (*ban on the display of wild/exotic animals*)
- Rohnert Park (*ban on display of wild/exotic animals*)
- San Francisco (*bans all exotic animals from performing in the city, includes motion pictures*)
- Santa Ana (*ban on display of wild/exotic animals*)

- West Hollywood (*ban on the display of wild/exotics*)

Colorado

- Boulder (*bans display of exotic animals*)

Connecticut

- Stamford (*bans carnivals, circuses and wild west shows*)

Delaware

Statewide ban on public contact (contact with elephants allowed).

Florida

- Clearwater (*bans keeping wild animals*)
- Hallandale Beach (*bans the use of bullhook on elephants*)
- Hollywood (*bans all displays or exhibits*)
- Lauderdale Lakes (*bans display of wild/exotic animals*)
- Margate (*bullhook ban*)
- Miami Beach (*bans bullhooks and electric prods*)
- Pompano Beach (*bans animal displays on City property except for educational purposes; bans bullhooks citywide*)
- Town of Palm Beach (*restricts use of Class I animals and other wild and exotic animals*)
- Tallahassee (*bullhook ban*)
- Weston (*bans keeping, confinement, display of wild animals*)

Georgia

Statewide ban on public contact.

- Fulton County (*bans the use of bullhooks and any device or instrument that inflicts pain on, or is likely to cause injury to, an elephant*)
- Union City (*bans the use of bullhook on elephants*)

Hawaii

Statewide ban on performing wild animals.

- Maui County (*bans exhibit of cetaceans*)

Idaho

- Ketchum (*bans the use of traveling non-domestic and exotic animals from performing*)

Illinois

Statewide ban on the use of elephants in traveling shows, including circuses.

- Collinsville (*bans training of wild/exotic animals for performance*)
- Peoria (*ban on public contact*)
- Waukegan (*ban on public contact*)

Indiana

- St. John (*bans performing animal exhibitions/bullhooks/instruments of pain*)
- Fort Wayne (*bans bullhooks/instruments of pain*)
- Blaine County (*bans the display of certain exotic and non-domestic animals county-side*)

Kansas

- Douglas County (*bans ownership or possession of dangerous/exotics, barred in certain areas*)

Kentucky

- Jefferson County (*bans methods that cause pain or suffering*)

Maine

Statewide ban on public contact (except elephant rides).

- Portland (*bans use of wild animals in traveling shows*).

Maryland

- Beech Grove (*prohibits the use of chemical, electrical or mechanical devices on performing animals*)
- Takoma Park (*bans animal displays*)

Massachusetts

Statewide ban on public contact - contact with elephants allowed.

- Braintree (*ban on using non-domesticated animals for entertainment*)
- Cambridge
- Pittsfield
- Plymouth (*full ban*)
- Provincetown (*bans the display of wild animals for entertainment*)
- Quincy (*full ban*)
- Revere (*full ban*)
- Somerville (*full ban*)
- Weymouth (*full ban*)

Mississippi

Statewide ban on public contact - contact with elephants allowed.

Missouri

- Richmond (*bans display of wild/exotic animals*)

Montana

- Missoula (*bans the use of wild and exotic animals in shows and non-educational displays*)

Nevada

- Clark County (*bans future private possession of tigers, bears and chimpanzees*)

New Jersey

Statewide ban on the use of elephant bullhooks.

- Jersey City (*prohibits the use of certain exotic animals in performances, including circuses, fairs, petting zoos and carnivals*)

New Mexico

- Santa Fe (*bans use of wild animals in traveling shows*)

New York

Statewide ban on the use of elephants in entertainment acts, including circuses, carnivals, parades and trade shows; statewide ban on public contact with elephants (per permit requirement of N.Y. Dept. of Environmental Protection).

- Greenburgh (*bans wild or exotic animals from circuses; prohibits all rodeos on town property; bans exotic and wild animal species from "parades, carnivals, races, rides, public shows, trade shows, photo opportunities, or similar undertakings in which animals perform tricks, fight or participate in performances for amusement"*)
- New York City (*prohibits the use of wild animals for circuses*)
- Plattsburg (*bans circuses or other traveling shows that use captive animals*)
- Southampton (*bans wild or exotic animal displays*)
- Wallkill (*bans public contact with exotic cats and bears*)

North Carolina

- Asheville (*local arena prohibits performing animal acts*)
- Chapel Hill (*bans display of wild/exotics*)
- Orange County (*bans display of wild/exotics*)

Ohio

Statewide ban on use of electric prods.

Oregon

- Clatsop County (*bans bullhooks, whips and electric prods*)
- Multnomah County (*prohibits traveling animal displays that include wild or exotic animals for live public entertainment or amusement*)

Pennsylvania

Statewide ban on public contact (contact with elephants and chimpanzees allowed).

- Pittsburgh: (*Outlaws certain tools used for training or controlling wild animals, including bullhooks, electric prods, whips, or other instruments capable of "inflicting pain, intimidating or threatening pain." This action essentially prohibits the use of wild animals in circuses and other shows. It also affects the Pittsburgh Zoo.*)

Rhode Island

Statewide ban on use of the elephant bullhook.

South Carolina

- Chester (*bans display, exhibition of dangerous animals*)
- Aiken County (*bans use of bullhook*)

Tennessee

Statewide ban on public contact (contact with elephants and with big cats under three months of age allowed).

Texas

- Austin (*city prohibits the use of painful devices such as bullhooks, pitchforks and baseball bats on circuses animals*)
- Simonton

Vermont

- Burlington (*bans display of non-domesticated animals*)

Virginia

- Fairfax (*regulates public display of animals*)
- Falls Church (*bans public contact*)
- Richmond (*bans public contact*)
- Fairfax County (*bans contact between people and exhibited exotic animals; elephants used for rides are exempted*)
- Spotsylvania County (*bans contact between people and exhibited exotic animals*)

Washington

- Port Townsend (*bans display of wild/exotics*)
- Redmond (*bans display of wild/exotics*)

Wisconsin

- Green Bay (*bans use of exotic animals in traveling shows, circuses*)
- Madison (*bans public displays of cougars and bears*)
- Dane County (*bans use of elephants in performances*)