

Submitter: Melissa Sidoti
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3214

This bill needs to be passed, AS IS, this year, and not delayed. The animals suffering in the circus industry can not wait another year. Shriners and Jordan circuses come through Oregon every year, and they need to join Ringling and Barnum and Bailey by eliminating animal performances right now.

This bill is designed to stop human beings from forcing exotic and protected animals to do extravagant tricks exclusively for entertainment. It is not designed to impact educational shows, and will not impact licensed and accredited education systems.

If there are unrecognized businesses that use animal performances, they need to get a permit or accreditation to verify that their facilities and procedures are in line with the global welfare of the protected species.

We can not reject this bill that will protect elephants, kangaroos, koalas and lions from the rampant abuses they experience every year, simply because reptile breeders "enjoy" showing them. If the breeders can not prove their welfare and educational intent, the animals protected in this bill should not be punished. That is a personal problem that the breeders will need to fix for themselves with a simple application to the AZA and inspection of their facility. A simple solution for the reptile breeders would be to apply for accreditation, and just "show" the animals in their enclosures while they wait, versus having them performing for audiences before the license is issued. "Enjoying it" is not a sufficient reason to reject this wild animal protection bill. The circus trainers that use bull-hooks and whips on gentle animals can say they enjoy it too, and that doesn't make it okay.

Oregonians love animals with over 93% of them considering their pets "family."

Please pass HB 3214 now.