

Submitter: Jake Vaage  
On Behalf Of: ARCPDX  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3214

Please vote in support of this bill. Traveling animal acts are cruel, outdated, and do not align with the values of Oregon.

Recent national polls show that more than 2/3 of Americans oppose the use of wild or exotic animals as entertainment. Within the U.S., more than 100 jurisdictions have bans in place, including several states. In Oregon, Benton, Multnomah, and Washington Counties have passed similar ordinances. Modern, human-powered circuses are increasingly popular, lucrative, and the preferred alternative to outdated animal performances.

The business model of traveling animal acts requires near-constant travel, often 15,000-25,000 miles per year in extreme confinement for months on end, either in small cages or shackled. Neglected and deprived of basic necessities such as natural light and substrate, veterinary care, ventilation, and adequate space to move, eat, defecate/urinate, and exercise, they also must endure extreme temperatures. Years of documented undercover investigations and animal welfare violations prove that inhumane treatment is inherent in the industry. The Animal Welfare Act is rarely enforced in the entertainment industry.

Human safety and health issues are well documented. "Trained" wild animals have injured and even killed handlers and the public, and damaged property. Wildlife diseases, such as tuberculosis (TB) and SARS, are transmissible to humans. Seven zookeepers at the Oregon zoo contracted TB from elephants. According to the USDA, 12-14% of Asian elephants in the U.S. have TB. SARS has been transmitted from civets to humans. Elephant rides and photo/petting ops with dangerous animals create risk for both health and safety.