

My name is Gigi Glendinning and I live in Gwynedd Valley, PA.

I have been documenting US exhibitors traveling with wild and exotic animals since 2010.

I've attended countless circuses and state fairs to record the animal welfare issues as well as the inherent public safety risks. I am tracking 10 circuses currently touring with elephants, big cats, bears, camels, buffalos, and zebras.

My evidence has been used to educate legislators, the public, and helped secure a ban on traveling animal acts in Whitemarsh Township near my home.

I testify that my experiences are in line with what the many groups researching this industry have concluded; there is no way to humanely care for—or—safely travel with and exhibit wild and exotic animals.

It is clear to me they are forced to perform. Anyone truly paying attention can see the animals reacting to the trainer with fear in their eyes and have stressful body language. Big cats hiss and cringe, elephants intently watch and dodge the bullhook or hot shot, camels and zebras are constantly whipped to keep them moving, bears are muzzled and moved leashed.

They are deprived of everything natural and spend the majority of their lives being loaded in and out of semi-trucks. They are constantly confined on hard surfaces in transport trucks and cages, behind collapsible crowd fencing in parking lots and back hallways of arenas. I have witnessed elephants, lions, tigers, and bears swaying and pacing repetitively between shows. Behaviors scientifically classified to mean these species are having difficulty coping with their circumstance.

I have witnessed aggressive punishment of elephants behind the scenes and then minutes later watched the same animals being used to give rides to young children.

I have documented elephants with histories of escaping, being walked past patrons with no barrier and housed in parking lots or on open fields with nothing preventing them from running off the property onto main city streets. Sometimes one trainer walking two elephants and often trainers preoccupied with their phones while moving animals. The unknown histories of these stressed-out wild animals being used at public venues is concerning to say the least.

It's inexcusable that the very children we invite to enjoy these events are the ones put risk, ringside or right on the backs of these animals. I sincerely hope Oregon takes action to protect its citizens and join the other US states and jurisdictions, and 50+ nations which have banned these cruel and dangerous acts.

I am happy to provide videos and still photos which support the behaviors and conditions I have mentioned here. Feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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