



# RING OF CRUELTY

**An investigation into  
animal circuses  
in Ireland**



The Captive Animals' Protection Society  
[www.captiveanimals.org](http://www.captiveanimals.org)



# Contents & introduction

## RING OF CRUELTY

### Contents

Animal circuses in Ireland	3
Elephants	4
Hippo, rhino, giraffe	5
Other wild / exotic animals	6
Horses, ponies & dogs	7
Health and safety	8-9
International trade in animals	10
Conclusions	11

**The Captive Animals' Protection Society**  
PO Box 4186  
Manchester  
M60 3ZA  
England

Phone/Fax: +44 (0)845 330 3911  
E-mail: [info@captiveanimals.org](mailto:info@captiveanimals.org)  
Website: [www.captiveanimals.org](http://www.captiveanimals.org)

### Introduction

The use of animals in circuses has come under increasing criticism around the world. In some countries, including Austria, Israel and Singapore, governments have banned the use of wild animals in performances, and there are active calls for similar bans in many other countries.

Since 1957, the Captive Animals' Protection Society (CAPS) has campaigned for an end to the use of animals in circuses.

Our investigations have taken us to several countries to examine how animal circuses operate, and for several years we have investigated animal circuses in the Republic of Ireland, often at the specific request of concerned residents and tourists.

This report discusses the current situation concerning animal circuses in the Republic of Ireland, mostly based on investigations by CAPS in 2006.

Conditions for animals in circuses can vary greatly from site to site. Unless otherwise stated, comments in this report relate to conditions at the time of the visits by CAPS investigators and the vet. Conditions could be better – or worse – at other venues.

'Ring of Cruelty' is a summary of the full report '*An Investigation into Animal Circuses in Ireland in 2006*'. The full report, as well as a video from the investigation, is available on DVD from CAPS or can be downloaded from our website.

All photographs in this report were taken at Irish circuses in 2006. © CAPS

Printed on recycled paper.

## The Captive Animals' Protection Society





# Animal circuses in Ireland

## Circuses in the Republic of Ireland

The number of circuses in Ireland using animals fluctuates annually and some change their names regularly. In 2006, the following Irish-based circuses were all on tour:

- 1 Tom Duffy's Circus
- 2 Fossett's Circus
- 3 Circus Gerbola
- 4 Circus Hoffenburg
- 5 Royal Russian Circus
- 6 Circus Sydney
- 7 Circus Vegas

Most of these circuses also visit Northern Ireland at some point during the circus season, which spans most of the year.

## Number of animals in all Irish circuses in 2006\*

These circuses have a total of 102 animals –  
43 of wild / exotic species, 59 of domestic species

### Wild / exotic animals:

Alligators	4
Camels	7
Elephants: Asian	3
Elephants: African	3
Giraffe	1
Hippopotamus	1
Llamas	10
Ostrich	1
Rhinoceros	1
Snakes	4
Tigers	4
Wallabies	4

### Domestic animals:

Dogs	19
Donkeys	2
Horses and Ponies	38

\*Figures listed were compiled during visits to Irish circuses in July 2006. In August 2006, two of the African elephants were sent back to Germany (see page 4)

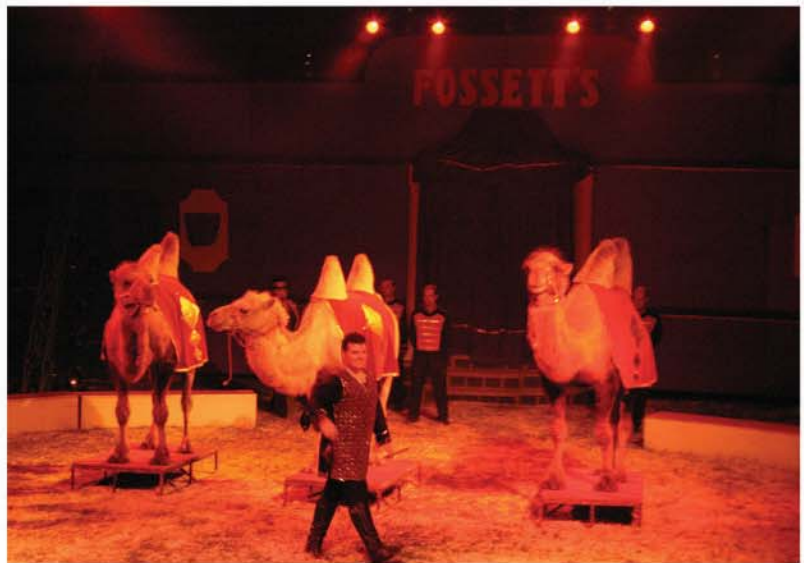
On several occasions in 2006, investigators from the Captive Animals' Protection Society (CAPS) visited five circuses:

- 1 Tom Duffy's Circus
- 2 Fossett's Circus
- 3 Royal Russian Circus
- 4 Circus Sydney
- 5 Circus Vegas

A veterinary surgeon experienced in animal behaviour, Samantha Lindley, also visited three of the circuses in July 2006.

This report is a summary of the findings of the CAPS team on the performances, housing and treatment of animals in Irish circuses.

*Quotes listed throughout this report are from reports compiled by vet Samantha Lindley.*



## Some of the key findings of the CAPS study:

- ❖ Some of the animals are imported from across Europe, facing gruelling journeys of up to 1,000 miles. In a few cases, the animals are transported back to their source country at the end of ten months of touring in Ireland, only to be brought back to Ireland a few months later,
- ❖ The touring season often lasts ten consecutive months, during which time the circus may travel the whole of Ireland (Republic and North), sometimes performing at two venues in the space of a week. In addition to being on the road for most of the year, the animals are not usually able to become accustomed to some of the sites that they visit,
- ❖ Evidence obtained by CAPS has revealed that many animals used in Irish circuses are suffering physical and behavioural welfare problems as a direct result of their captivity and use in the circus,
- ❖ A significant number of animals in circuses in Ireland live restricted lives, with temporary and inadequate accommodation, constant transportation and unnatural social groups,
- ❖ CAPS' research has found that few attempts are made to provide suitable environmental enrichment for the animals,
- ❖ There is no legislation in Ireland specific to the use of animals in circuses and the law is inadequate to protect the animals used in circuses.



# Elephants

Of all species used in circuses around the world, elephants are perhaps the animals that raise most concerns about their welfare.

Samantha Lindley: "Now consider the elephant – non domesticated, complex, intelligent, physically massive, with a requirement for the company of its own kind (more than one), ranges of space, access to water and dust bathing, surfaces to rub against for skin health and a variety of surfaces for foot health. ... Elephants are singularly unsuited to circus life.."



↑ Elephant headstand, Circus Vegas



↑ Elephants chained, Circus Sydney.  
Inset: close-up of deformed leg



↑ Elephant handstand, Royal Russian Circus

There are **six elephants** in Irish circuses:

*Royal Russian Circus* - two elephants (one Asian, one African)

*Circus Sydney* - two African elephants\*

*Circus Vegas* - two Asian elephants

## The Acts

The elephants in all three circuses were made to perform the usual circus tricks of walking across pedestals, standing / sitting on pedestals and raising legs.

In some cases the animals were clearly reluctant to carry out the acts, resulting in pushing and prodding from their handlers and use of sticks / ankus (elephant hook).

Tricks such as balancing on front legs, (a sort of elephant handstand), "puts unnatural and dangerous weight on the front legs" and "is unwarranted and potentially dangerous."

## Welfare concerns

Acts at *Circus Sydney* were of particular concern. An act where an elephant thrashes her trunk around and moves her head violently from side to side (mimicking a dance) are completely unnatural movements and run the risk of damaging the trunk musculature and nerve supply, putting unnecessary strain on neck muscles and cervical spine, and contributing to 'trunk paralysis'. "These are not normal behaviours for an elephant; they represent potential injury and suffering and should be stopped."

The African male has a deformed left hind foot, but is still made to perform in the ring and travel long distances frequently, in addition to being chained up for long periods of time.

## Chained

It is usual for elephants in circuses to be chained when not performing or training. Metal chains are attached to one front and one back leg, the animals unable to move more than a step backwards or forwards.

The *Circus Sydney* elephants were chained in this way during our investigation. Both elephants were displaying typical stereotypic behaviours of weaving and head bobbing. Elephants at the *Royal Russian Circus* and *Circus Vegas* were not chained during our visits. They were in small fields but with no shade, shelter, or obvious enrichment. The availability of grazing or exercise areas will vary from site to site.

\* In August 2006, a few days before the male elephant was due to have a veterinary examination (arranged by the Dublin Society for the Protection of Animals), both elephants at Circus Sydney were returned to Germany.



# Hippo, Rhino, Giraffe

Animals used in circuses in Ireland in 2006 include a **hippo** and **rhino** at *Circus Vegas* and a **giraffe** at the *Royal Russian Circus*. The hippo and rhino were imported from an Italian circus and the giraffe from Germany.

The hippo's 'act' consists of being walked into the ring and fed some bread by his handler.

The rhino runs around the ring with the presenter standing on his back.

The giraffe is walked around the ring and fed bread by audience members.

Outside the ring, all three animals were confined to small areas that provided no enrichment to meet the animals' social or behavioural requirements. Hippos and giraffes naturally require the company of others of their own species; rhinos should have the choice of spending time with their own kind or being solitary. In these circuses, all three species are held solitary.

The hippo has a small metal "tank of filthy water, smelling of, and clearly laden with, faeces" and was even unable to submerge fully. Being unable to submerge properly, and having unclean water can result in physical health problems.

Samantha Lindley: "rhinos have extremely sensitive olfactory (smell) sense and poor eyesight. The overwhelming noise, flashing lights and competing smells will have been alarming to this animal." The rhino was held in a small pen. "There are no scratching posts provided; these are important for skin and behavioural health. Rhinos require both wet and dry wallows, but this enclosure has neither."

"The rhino and hippo are deprived of basic behavioural and physical needs."

Outside of the ring, giraffe Shakira was confined to a small pen where children crowded around to feed grass to her.

"Giraffes require, as the minimum, a large space (certainly in excess of half an acre) and a variety of habitats. A variety of substrates including sand, mud and a hard packed surface are essential, along with shade and pools. Overhanging browse is the minimal requirement for delivery of feed."

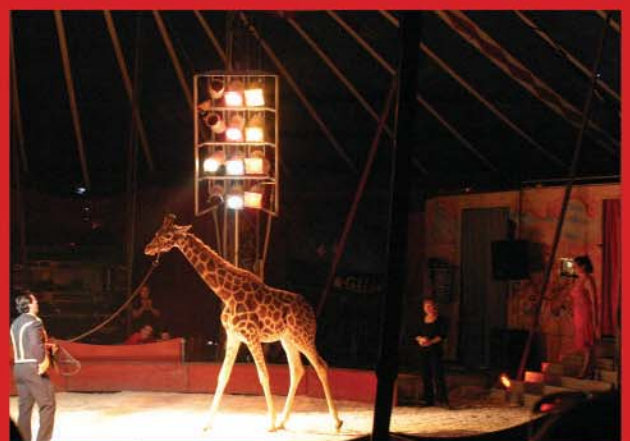
"There is ample reason for this animal to be frustrated in any attempt to behave normally... This giraffe paced and neck stretched, both signs of abnormal behaviour. The pacing was evident at times even through the distraction of offered food. She paced in front of the open lorry from one side of the enclosure to the other, neck stretched over the bars, turned in an identical manner on each occasion and returned to the other side. Neck stretching occurred randomly at other times: this is a behaviour that is obviously normal in giraffes as they reach for browse, but which can occur in the absence of browse, in which case it is deemed abnormal (performs no useful function) but fills a behavioural vacuum."



↑ "The sounds of, and contact with, other hippos is important for fulfilment of normal behavioural needs and this animal is deprived of that most basic commodity: company of its own kind."



↑ "In short, it is disgraceful that one of the world's most endangered species, the white rhino, is travelling in a circus and being shunted back and forth across Europe."



↑ "This giraffe is not coping with this environment or life and should not be kept in a circus of any description."



# Other wild / exotic animals



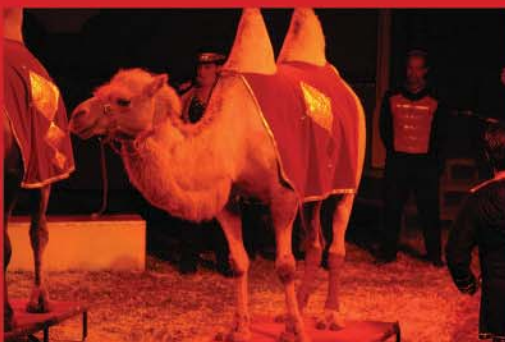
↑ Tigers caged at Tom Duffy's Circus



↑ This lorry is 'home' to alligators



↑ A young wallaby at Circus Sydney



↑ A camel at Fossett's Circus

## Tigers

*Tom Duffy's Circus* has four Bengal and Siberian tigers, presented by Tommy Chipperfield.

Acts include jumping between pedestals, all four sitting up and lying down and a hind-leg stand.

Outside of the ring, the tigers are housed in a 'beastwagon' – a traditional circus lorry with cages built into it. The tigers have access to an 'exercise cage' which is simply a small cage attached to the lorry. The 'exercise' area provides no real opportunity for exercise and has no obvious enrichment.

## Alligators

*Tom Duffy's Circus* has four alligators, used in an act that includes a display of large snakes. The alligators are walked around the ring with a presenter occasionally holding their mouths open.

When not used in the circus ring the alligators are housed in small enclosure built into a lorry.

## Wallabies

On our first two visits to *Circus Sydney*, the show's Australian theme appeared to come solely from an act involving a two-year-old wallaby who, the vet stated "had to be carried into the ring and was clearly frightened by the noise and keeps trying to leave, but is restrained by a harness. Kangaroos of any species are prey animals and are not normally solitary. There is no excuse for carting this frightened animal around the country and exposing it to the sights and sounds and deprivations of a circus existence."

Children were actively encouraged to reach over the ringside barrier and touch the wallaby.

A third visit to this circus by CAPS at the end of July 2006 found that there were now four wallabies.

## Ostrich

*Circus Sydney* also had the only ostrich in an Irish circus, named Kylie.

Samantha Lindley: "Its 'trick' is to lie flat on the ground. This is the natural behaviour of the threatened ostrich and would hardly need much reinforcing." Ostriches tend to be nomadic and live in groups of 5 to 50 individuals – again this animal in living in unnatural isolation in this circus."

## Camels

Camels are social animals, normally living in herds of up to ten individuals.

*Fossett's Circus*: The only animal act at Fossett's Circus consisted of three camels.

One camel had bandaging on both rear legs, but without conducting a veterinary examination it is unclear why.

There was no opportunity to see the animals or their housing before or after the show

*Royal Russian Circus*: This circus has two camels, running around the ring a few times with one then standing with his front legs on the ringside barrier leaning over the audience.

Samantha Lindley: "There was no restraint and nothing apart from the power of whatever training it had received to stop it continuing onwards into the crowd."

The camels were observed after the show, one tethered to a pole, the other loose.



# Horses, Ponies & Dogs

## Horses and Ponies

During a performance involving six horses at *Circus Sydney*, the vet noted: "There was obvious aggression, tension and fear amongst all the horses", but mostly between two. "The black bucked and reared repeatedly. At the end of the performance two of the greys broke free and ran around the back of the front row and had to be retrieved. During the performance the horses had to be controlled with the whip by the performer and by someone in the background. This was a dangerous display which caused distress and fear to the animals."

The same presenter returned with a single horse act, the equine put through a 'dancing' routine to rock music. The vet commented that this act "put even more unnecessary strain on a horse's musculoskeletal system than occurs with normal riding or even dressage. ... Muscle strain, joint injury, ligament and tendon damage are all possible with this kind of performance when repeated on a regular basis."

At *Circus Vegas* the vet noted: "The performing ponies were a pathetic sight. Tightly reined, they were unable to look to either side or use neck movement to balance. ... One of the ponies was smaller than the rest, had a stilted gait and poor musculature. ... This animal should not even have been in the ring as it did not appear fit to perform the kind of tricks required of it."

"On closer examination after the show its skin was covered in lesions, at least down to subcutaneous level, which were white - this may indicate either treatment or disease. Animals under treatment should not perform or be on display so as to give them optimum opportunity to recover."

The ponies at *Circus Vegas* appeared not to have been cleaned out since their arrival six days previously, just having fresh straw put on top of the wet and soiled straw. "If this is the regular environment for these animals, it can predispose to foot, skin and respiratory problems. One of the dappled ponies had very forced respirations (breathing). They had no fixed water supplies and the bucket in the pen of the pony with the skin lesions had tipped over, depriving it of water and adding to the dampness of its environment."

"The ponies should be simple to manage competently; even this husbandry is substandard and poses a risk to the health and welfare of the animals."

## Dogs

### *Circus Sydney:*

"The lurcher had to walk for some distance on its hind legs - this puts unnecessary and unnatural strain on the hind legs and potentially the stifle (knee) joints; it also looked stressed on the back of the horse, having difficulty balancing."

"Most worrying was the terrier - it was either in pain or sedated... It had to be carried into the ring and carried to its tricks. As a veterinary surgeon one can recognise an animal that is centrally depressed (by chemical, disease or behaviour) and this animal was depressed. I gather that it had been lively enough four nights before [*on a previous visit by CAPS investigators*] and had to be restrained from jumping off the horse and jumping down from its tricks. Now it appeared spaced out, vacant and slow. This dog was not fit to be used in this performance..."

### *Tom Duffy's Circus:*

Dogs were housed in small pens, approximately 3 metres by 2 metres that did not allow exercise within the pens. Some of the dogs were chained within the pen, restricting movements even further. It is not known if the dogs are given regular exercise apart from their time in the ring.



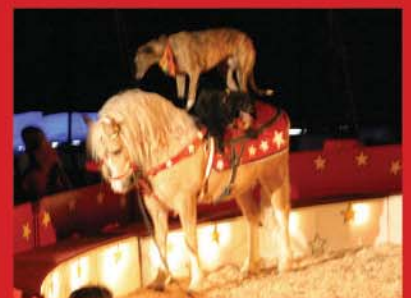
↑ Two frightened horses escaped from the ring



↑ Pony with lesions on skin



↑ Horse walking on hind legs



↑ Dogs riding on pony



↑ Dogs confined to small pens



# Health & Safety

The health and safety of the visiting public and of circus staff is of serious concern to CAPS and this investigation has highlighted many issues that we encourage the relevant authorities to take action on.

Circuses pose a particular problem with safety due to the hands-on nature of training the animals and performing with them in the ring and the fact that the public are very close to the animals both in the ring and in the circus 'zoo' before or after a performance.



↑ Children sitting on an elephant at the Royal Russian Circus



↑ Just a few strands of wire separated children from elephants at the Royal Russian Circus



↑ Children unsupervised next to elephants chained at Circus Sydney



↑ One strand of wire kept these unsupervised elephants away from children at Circus Vegas

Not surprisingly, given their sheer size, **elephants** are a species that pose a particular risk to humans in a circus. Since 1990, over 70 people have been killed and 140 others injured by elephants in circuses, zoos and other captive environments around the world.

## Photo prop

At the *Royal Russian Circus* and *Circus Sydney*, people could pay to have their photo taken sitting on, or standing next to, an elephant. Those sitting on the crook of the elephant's front leg were, in the words of vet Samantha Lindley: "within easy reach of her trunk, which swept around from time to time and she could easily have risen with a child on her back. For the most part her handler was at some distance taking photographs."

## Chained

During two visits to *Circus Sydney* the elephants were chained inside a tent next to the box office. CAPS photographed children touching and feeding the elephants - there was no circus staff supervising the elephants and no barrier to prevent public access or signs warning people to keep away.

## Electric

At the *Royal Russian Circus* and *Circus Vegas* the elephants were loose in a field, with a few strands of electric wire to contain them.

*Royal Russian Circus*: "The elephants have clearly been trained to the visual signal of an electric fence. However, when we visited the current appeared not to be switched on. The few strands of wire surrounding the elephant enclosure will fool the animals for a while, but they will only need to brush it once or twice and not get a shock to learn that the current is only there sometimes. They could then walk through this barrier without even noticing. Children spent fifteen minutes crowding around the fence, feeding the elephants, leaning across and through the fence and at one point Maya had her trunk over the fence amongst three toddlers." *Circus Vegas*: Samantha Lindley: "It was not clear as to whether the electric fences were live, but if they were, there were no warning signs to protect the public from an electric shock. Whilst animals will mostly respect electric fencing, they can still walk or run through it when aroused. If they were not electrified, then there was nothing protecting the public but a fragile conditioning of the animals to the sight of white tape."

## 2005 – Worker injured by elephant

In June 2005, Paul Dineen, a 35-year-old worker at *Circus New York* was gored and seriously injured by an elephant named Mausie when he entered the tent housing the three elephants at the show. He spent time in intensive care in hospital but the extent of his injuries were not made public.

A spokesperson for the circus said Dineen should not have been in the elephant tent and that he had 'provoked' the animals to perform.

*Circus New York* closed down in 2005. Its co-owner set up *Circus Ozzy* in 2006, now called *Circus Sydney*.

While the other two elephants, Maya and Baby, are performing at the *Royal Russian Circus* in 2006, the whereabouts of Mausie are unknown.



## Horses

The horse act at *Circus Sydney* posed a risk to public safety as the performer was clearly unable to retain control over the horses. Samantha Lindley: "This is an appalling accident waiting to happen and those in the ringside seats were particularly vulnerable had a horse gone crashing into the ringside barrier. There was obvious aggression, tension and fear amongst all the horses... At the end of the performance two of the greys broke free and ran around the back of the front row and had to be retrieved ... This was a dangerous display which caused distress and fear to the animals, as well as putting the audience in danger."

## Hippo and rhino (*Circus Vegas*)

Samantha Lindley: "Hippos are notoriously dangerous ... The 'barrier' used to herd the hippo into the ring and presumably stop it escaping, consisted of a wooden gate of approximately 1.5 metres by 1.5 metres and a podium tipped up against various other bits of circus flotsam. Either side was policed by a couple of staff. None of these measures would stop a hippo walking, let alone charging in the wrong direction." "Similar comments apply to the rhino, but one should also bear in mind that rhinos have extremely sensitive olfactory (smell) sense and poor eyesight. The overwhelming noise, flashing lights and competing smells will have been alarming to this animal."

## Giraffe

At the *Royal Russian Circus*, children and other visitors were feeding and touching the giraffe through the bars of her pen, without supervision and without being encouraged to wash their hands. In the ring, the presenter held a young boy's head to stop him moving while the giraffe ate bread from the boy's mouth.

### 2005 – Children bitten by monkey

In July 2005, a five-year-old girl was injured by a monkey at *Circus New York*. The macaque was brought into the ring for people to have their photo taken next to him. The girl's mother claimed the monkey jumped on her daughter's back, scratching and biting her before a circus worker beat the monkey off with a stick. The circus said the girl had entered an area off-limits to the public, although the girl's mother denies this. Later, three more people came forward claiming the monkey had also attacked them, on different occasions in 2005.

When approached by CAPS, both the local council and the Health and Safety Authority claimed it was not their responsibility to investigate the injuries. The monkey disappeared and was discovered in May 2006 locked in a van (belonging to a different small travelling show) which had been unattended for a week.



## Health & Safety



↑ The horse act at *Circus Sydney* was, according to the vet, "an appalling accident waiting to happen".



↑ "The overwhelming noise, flashing lights and competing smells will have been alarming" to the rhino



↑ Children were allowed to feed the giraffe without supervision



↑ This boy received a 'helping hand' from the giraffe presenter



# International trade in animals

## Where the animals come from

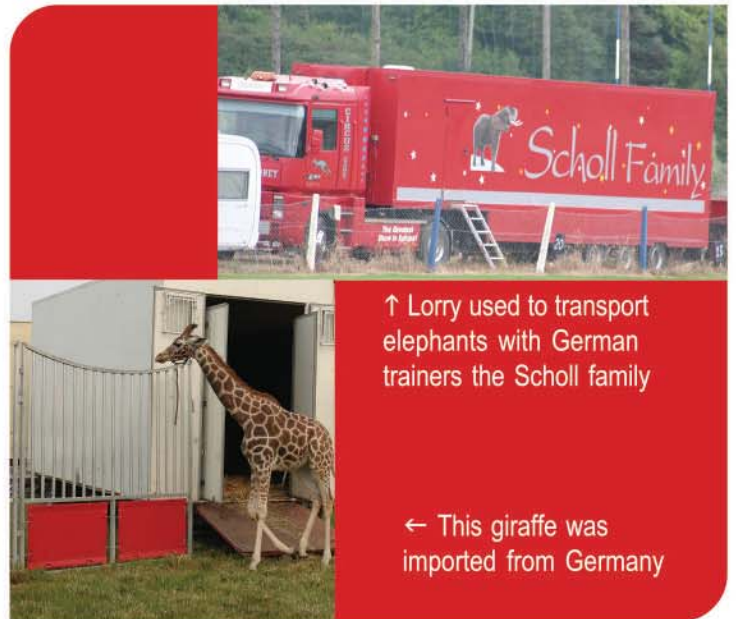
The source of animals in circuses in Ireland is difficult to monitor, particularly as they are regularly moved between circuses. Inquiries by CAPS established that there is a major trade in animals from across Europe to circuses in Ireland. According to figures from the Department of Agriculture and Food, the following animals were imported into Ireland by circuses in 2004 and 2005:

### Year 2004

Species	Number	Origin
Elephant	5	France
Elephant	3	Germany
Camel	1	Germany

### Year 2005

Species	Number	Origin
Elephant	7	Germany
Elephant	3	France
Elephant	2	Italy
Rhinoceros	1	Italy
Hippopotamus	1	Italy
Camel	1	Germany
Llama	8	Germany



↑ Lorry used to transport elephants with German trainers the Scholl family

← This giraffe was imported from Germany

Numbers and species change on an annual basis.

There are clear welfare problems in transporting animals over such huge distances and then transporting them around Ireland for up to ten months at a time. Circuses in Ireland often only stay at one venue for two or three days before moving on, so the animals are rarely provided the opportunity to settle into new surroundings and are subjected to confinement and regular transportation.

There is no legislation specifically concerning the private keeping of dangerous wild animals in the Republic of Ireland. The ISPCA claim that this has resulted in a large trade in certain species; although legal, such unregulated trade raises serious animal welfare concerns. The animal welfare problems and risks to health and safety of people are massive.

## International transportation of animals

In 2005, a rhino and hippo belonging to an Italian circus were transported around Ireland with *Circus Hoffenburg*. After approximately ten months in Ireland the animals were sent back to the continent around October 2005.

In January 2006, CAPS discovered that a truck carrying the same rhino and hippo was on its way back to Ireland, a journey of around 1,000 miles.

The animals were carried by ship into England and then by road through Wales. Unable to go by ferry from Fishguard to Rosslare, the lorry was diverted to Holyhead. After at least a couple of days on the road, the lorry was involved in road accident in west Wales. Then, just 15 miles further on, the lorry broke down; the driver had no money for diesel or animal food and the lorry had two flat tyres. After six hours stuck in a lay-by the truck was back on the road.

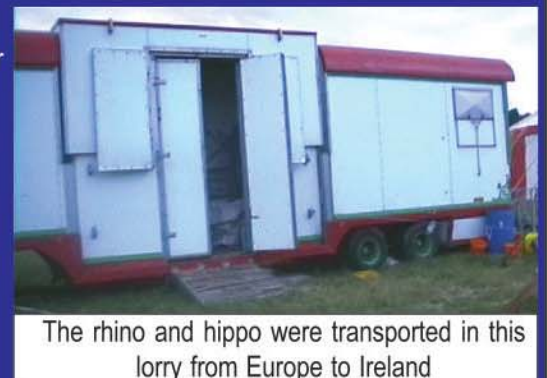
No local or national government officials CAPS spoke to in England or Wales were aware of the animals and it appears that no officials inspected the animals after either incident.

The vehicle then went by ferry to Dun Laoighaire and by road to Kilkenny where the animals were to join the *American Three Ring Circus* (better known as *Circus Vegas*).

Despite CAPS sending an urgent request to the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF) in Dublin with our concerns for the welfare of the animals, it took five months to get a detailed response (and only after a formal complaint to the Ombudsman and the Minister for Agriculture and Food).

In that response, DAF stated that, although it had given permits to import the animals, the delay had not been reported to it so it was not aware that the animals had arrived.

Although a local vet checked the animals after arrival, the Animal Health Division did not check the animals until five months after our initial complaint. DAF stated that they found no "cause for concern" on either inspection.



The rhino and hippo were transported in this lorry from Europe to Ireland



# Conclusions

The CAPS study into the use of animals in circuses in Ireland reveals that many animals are subjected to regular confinement and transportation with severe restrictions on their ability to carry out normal physical and behavioural needs.

The facts speak for themselves – the welfare of animals is seriously compromised by their use in travelling circuses. These problems are not just associated with wild animals but with domesticated species as well.

In addition to welfare concerns, the ethical opposition to the use of animals in circuses – that we do not have the right to make animals perform simply for our entertainment – has achieved growing public support for many years.

Current legislation has no provisions specifically relating to the use of animals in circuses. While a person who keeps a dog is required to pay for a dog licence, a person keeping an animal such as an elephant, rhinoceros or tiger does not require a licence for that animal.

The welfare of animals in circuses in Ireland is not adequately monitored and is often left to animal welfare and animal rights groups who have no powers of entry to circuses and no powers to arrange veterinary examination of the animals.

No government body carries out regular checks on the circuses to monitor animal welfare.

However, while it may be suggested by some quarters that regulations should be brought in specifically to control the welfare of animals in the circus environment, CAPS strongly believes that the only way to protect the animals (and public and circus staff) is to prohibit the use of animals altogether.

Regulations, however strict and well enforced, could still not allow the majority of the natural physical and behavioural needs of the animals to be carried out. A travelling circus, by its very nature, cannot meet all the needs of animals.

Prohibition provides the only clear way to prevent animal cruelty taking place and end the risks to the public and staff.

The circus industry itself would benefit from an end to animal use. Given the increasingly negative feelings held by the public towards animal circuses, a new era of circuses would be welcoming to those people who currently avoid them.

As animal acts are just a small part of many circuses (for example, Fossett's Circus had just one animal act at the time of our visit in 2006) it would be easy for these circuses to adapt to being animal-free. This has happened in the UK, where the use of animals has declined by almost two-thirds in the past decade and well-known circuses have dropped their animal acts – resulting in the welcoming back of many families and the use of prime-location, council-owned sites from which animal circuses are banned.

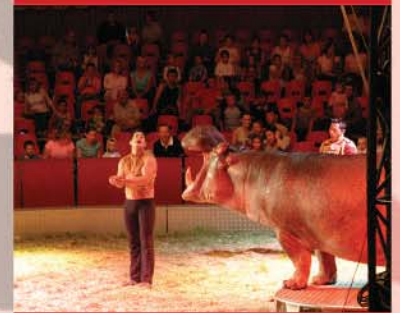
We urge the Dail to introduce legislation to prohibit the use of all animals in circuses.

In the meantime, we encourage the following interim action to be taken:

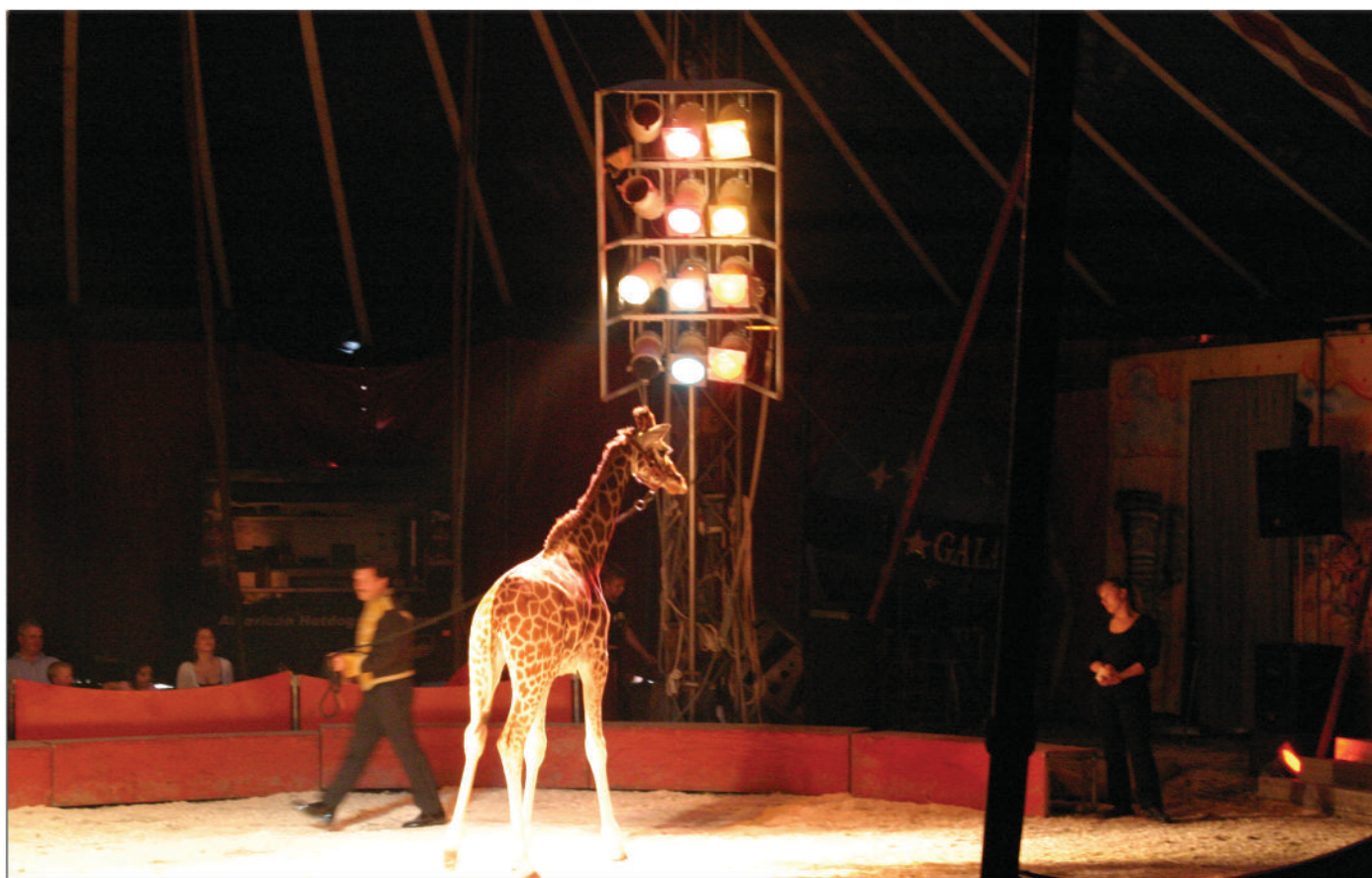
- ❖ All imports of animals from outside Ireland for use in circuses to be stopped immediately,
- ❖ Local authorities stop animal circuses from using council-owned land,
- ❖ Public funding, through the Arts Council, of circuses that use animals to be stopped.



Founded in 1957, the Captive Animals' Protection Society campaigns for an end to the use of animals in entertainment and the captivity of wildlife. Our key areas of work cover animal circuses, zoos and the exotic pet trade. For further information on our work see our website [www.captiveanimals.org](http://www.captiveanimals.org) or contact us for a free information pack.







The Captive Animals' Protection Society  
PO Box 4186  
Manchester  
M60 3ZA  
England

Phone/Fax: +44 (0)845 330 3911  
E-mail: [info@captiveanimals.org](mailto:info@captiveanimals.org)  
Website: [www.captiveanimals.org](http://www.captiveanimals.org)