

Press Release: 1 July 2000

An inspection of the George Cardan International Circus was conducted under the Animal Protection Act of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador on 26/27 June 2000. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) wishes to inform the general public and media outlets of its findings.

- 8 ponies were severely confined/restricted within a caged enclosure, inside a tractor-trailer. The SPCA investigator(s) found that ventilation within the trailer was nil or non-existent for the 8 ponies. It was also noted that there was no water available to the animals during confinement.
- 3 elephants were severely confined/restricted within this same tractor-trailer. The SPCA investigator(s) found all 3 elephants to be chained by the leg. Upon closer inspection by investigators, it was discovered that one of the chains around an elephant's leg was without sufficient padding as to prevent injury to the animal. Lack of space within this part of the enclosure forced one elephant to take an unnatural posture in order to obtain minimal comfort. The elephants, as well, had no access to water during confinement.
- While in a stationary position, SPCA investigator(s) observed the tractor-trailer containing the ponies and elephants to be without adequate ventilation. Investigator(s) recorded the length of time the animals were sealed in this compartment, with only six porthole-sized windows for minimal air-circulation, to be in excess of seven hours.
- Prior to being loaded into this compartment, investigator(s) observed the elephants to be exhibiting extreme signs of abnormal and stressed behaviour.
- SPCA investigators also observed 5 bears, confined in very small cages for 23 hours-a-day. Two bears were found in one cage. No water or bedding was present. Investigators noted that fecal contamination of foodstuffs had occurred. Two bears were found in another cage. No water or bedding was present. Investigators noted that fecal contamination of foodstuffs had also occurred in this second cage. The final cage contained 1 bear, which was found to be exhibiting signs of abnormal and stressed behaviour.

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