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
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## Circus fined for animal cruelty

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. - A New Jersey-based circus will have to be a little more careful the next time it comes to Newfoundland.

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*Judge suggests people stay away from circus*

Today, two members of the George Cardin International Circus pled guilty to cruelty to animal charges in provincial court.

Ringmaster Charles Ameral and trainer Derek Ross were sentenced to fines of \$200 each. That's the maximum for the offence.

Neither defendant was in court today, but in the past both men have maintained that their animals were well treated.

Circus bears were kept in cages that were dirty and too small. In most cases, the bears were caged for 23 hours a day, brought out only to perform.

In his remarks, the judge said the maximum sentence needs to be looked at. He added that the best sentence, may be for people to simply stay away the next time this circus comes to town.

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