



Inspection Report

GEORGE CARDEN CIRCUS INTL

Customer ID: **4532**

Certificate: **43-C-0025**

Site: TRA

GEORGE CARDEN CIRCUS INTL

3901 WEST STATE HIGHWAY O

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

SPRINGFIELD, MO 65803

Date: Mar-16-2012

2.131 (c) (1)

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

(c)(1) During public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public so as to assure the safety of animals and the public.

*** During the circus performance at the Shrine Circus in Springfield, MO, the three elephants were required to walk from a trailer parked on the curb outside to the entrance of the Shrine Auditorium. The two females made this walk six times per show, and the male twice. On the day of inspection there were two shows. The elephants walked mostly on the sidewalk, but it was observed by our inspectors that when they turn the corner the elephants must step into the street to get around a traffic light pole on the sidewalk at the corner. The traffic was not controlled, and vehicles passed within a few feet of the elephants. Additionally, crowd control as the elephants entered and exited the building was variable, and sometimes not assertively enforced, as circus-goers were entering and exiting the building through the same door as the elephants.

*** During the elephant performance there were spectators in special "ring-side seats" who were separated from the elephants by less than five feet. They was seating offered either on a sofa which had a two foot high partition between it and the ring, or on chairs next to the sofa where there was no barrier other than the "ring" structure on the ground, which measures less than one foot high and one foot wide.

*** During the show there was a motorcycle performance that was set up within 20 feet of the tigers, which were in individual cages on the same stage. During this performance the motorcycles generated very loud noises and exhaust fumes, and the tigers became very agitated, rising to their feet and pacing rapidly back and forth in their cages.

The animals must be exhibited in a manner that ensures the safety of the animals and the public. Exposing the animals to traffic, close or uncontrolled contact with the public, or stimuli which cause distress could result in harm to the animals or the public.

To be corrected immediately.

Prepared By:

PAMELA L SMITH, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 6036

Mar-22-2012

Received By:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

Date:

Title:

Mar-27-2012



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This inspection was focused on the elephants and tigers. The elephants present at this performance were Bo, Cindy, and Jenny. There were ten tigers, and the tiger performance was observed. The nutritional status of the tigers is currently under review.

This inspection was completed by Pamela L Smith, Animal Care Veterinary Medical Officer, Konnie Plumlee, Animal Care Veterinary Medical Officer, and Jan Feldman, Animal Care Compliance Specialist.

An exit briefing was conducted with the elephant handler and the inspectors listed here.

END OF REPORT.

Prepared By:

PAMELA L SMITH, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 6036

Mar-22-2012

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