

ZIPPOS CIRCUS ANIMALS IN 2014

1. What animals does Zippos Circus work with?

7 Horses, 2 Ponies, 16 Budgerigars.

2. When did Zippos Circus first introduce animals into its show?

1996

3. Why?

For 25yrs Zippos Circus was a non-animal circus. Domestic animals were introduced in response to public demand, and we believe the vast majority of our visitors agree that they add greatly to the show.

4. Who owns the animals on the Zippo`s Circus?

“Summer”, our Equestrian Director, owns the horses.
Norman Barrett, our Ringmaster, owns the budgerigars.

5. Who is responsible for the care of the animals?

Summer, her partner and a full time groom look after the horses.
Norman Barrett and his wife look after his budgerigars.

6. What steps does Zippos Circus take to ensure the well being of its animals?

When the circus first introduced horses, it sought advice from independent experts – not only recognised circus practitioners but also those with knowledge of domestic animal welfare in other management systems. Our Equestrian Director Summer uses her own regular veterinary consultant for her animals and the circus also arranges regular inspections from other independent vets.

Additionally in 1995 (updated 1997) Zippos produced a voluntary Code of Conduct covering every aspect of animal welfare including standards of stabling, transport, exercise training and performance. This was developed in conjunction with the then International League for the Protection of Horses (now the World Horse Welfare) and DEFRA.

In the past advice was also sought from other welfare groups such as the Born Free Foundation, whose offered advice on stabling and animal feed.

7. How often are your animals inspected?

Because it is a touring circus, the animals at Zippos Circus are inspected many times a year by local authority Animal Welfare Officers, independent vets, the RSPCA and the SSPCA. This is a much higher rate than a riding stable which might only be inspected once a year. The circus has never failed an inspection but often won praise for the high standard of animal welfare.

Our Circus Headquarters was last inspected by Animal Welfare Officers 19 January 2009, although no circus animals are kept at our Circus Headquarters.

8. Where do your animals go out of the season?

The horses and ponies go to Summers headquarters near Peterborough.
The budgerigars go home to Blackpool with Norman Barrett

9. Have any of the animals been injured as a result of their performance?

No

10. How are the animals exercised and stabled at the circus?

The horses and ponies have 3-4 hrs exercise daily. In addition to performances they have morning exercise practicing new routines. This stimulation is important for their welfare and for their ongoing relationship with their human partners. In addition the animals have free time in outside exercise paddocks. At other times they are housed in state of the art loose boxes and at all times are under supervision. Access to water and grazing is freely available. The stabling and exercise facilities compare well with other horse management systems. The dog get regular walks and is treated and a domestic pet in every way.

The budgerigars have a spacious purpose built travelling aviary but come out for 2hrs practice every day.

11. Do customers know that your circus features animals before they buy a ticket?

Yes animals feature prominently on our publicity material, and our website. More importantly, unlike at most circuses, the stabling for the horses is at the front of the Big Top; therefore people can see the horses before they buy their tickets.

12. Are they allowed a refund if they object?

No one has ever asked for a refund because of the animals. However, if they did so after seeing the show and were unhappy, the circus would refund their money.

13. How would you say circus horsemanship differs from show-jumping etc. for example in terms of transportation?

Injury is much less likely in the circus than in racing where broken legs are common. Additionally, horses in our circus probably travel far less than horses on the show jumping, eventing, dressage or gymkhana circuits. Transportation of the circus horses is carefully managed to ensure journey times are kept to a minimum and the circus never exceeds the journey times recommended by law. The circus has a strict management system that ensures the prompt dismantling and erection of the horse stables when the circus travels.

14. What do you think Zippos Circus gains from the inclusion of animals? What would it lose without them?

Audience research and their reactions overwhelmingly proves that people want to see domestic animals in circus

Horses are the roots of circus because this is where circus began and why there is a circus ring at all. The circus began in London in the 1760's when an ex-Cavalryman called Philip Astley started equine performances with a horse cantering in a circle whilst a rider performed stunts on his back.

15. Have any members of the public ever complained about the circus having Animals?

Very few - in fact only members of animal rights organisations.

16. Do you co-operate with animal welfare organisations?

(See Q 6)

17. Have you ever had a dialogue with the animal welfare organisations?

Yes we co operated with Born Free previously and would welcome a productive dialogue with any animal welfare organization. In Scotland the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been particularly helpful.

Zippos Circus worked alongside the RSPCA and others in consultation during the preparation for the new Animal Welfare Bill 2006.

More recently Zippos has co – operated with and received praise from the Scottish Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and received praise from the SSPCA in their STV programme broadcast 11 May 2012 which can be seen at:-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sjl7omRxnek>

18. What studies have there been in the inclusion of animals in circuses?

Our Government through DEFRA recently spent 18 months working to formulate a scientific study of the effects on animals of a travelling circus environment. World-respected academic specialists reviewed the evidence on both sides of this debate; they concluded that animals are as well looked after in circuses as in other similar environments (eg Zoos). The academics also stated that there are no scientific grounds for banning any animal from travelling circuses. The academics' conclusions included the following:

“Whilst it was accepted that animals kept in circuses were more confined than in the wild the opinion of most of the Panel was that this did not, necessarily, lead to adverse welfare.” Para. 5.3.4.

“Although circus animals are transported regularly, there is no evidence that this, of its own nature, causes the animals’ welfare to be adversely affected.” Para. 5.4.3.

“There is little evidence that the health of circus animals is any better or worse than animals in other captive environments.” Para. 5.6.2

The full Report of the CWG Chairman is available via the DEFRA website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/pdf/circus-report.pdf>

19 .Do circus animals suffer from travelling around the country?

In its report on circuses DEFRA also agreed that transporting circus animals - often the subject of accusations by activists - causes the circus animals no problem at all; they are accustomed to it in the same way as humans are accustomed to car journeys.

20. Is the transportation of circus animals regulated?

Since 5 January 2007, anyone transporting any type of live vertebrate animal inside the European Union must hold a valid authorisation to do so. EC Regulation 1/2005 which came into force in the UK in April 2008, and is applicable across the European Union. A copy of the Regulation may be found on the following link:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_003/l_00320050105en00010044.pdf

Zippos comply with all animal transportation regulations, both national and European.

21. What is the difference between animal *welfare* organisations and animal *rights* organisations?

Animal *rights* organisations are not at all concerned with the welfare of animals. Instead they are seeking the emancipation of animals from what they see as the “slavery” of ownership by humans; this includes being owned as pets. Dr Gary Francione, current guru of animals rights, says “the first step towards animal rights is to go vegan” Animal *welfare* organisations seek to improve the living conditions and welfare of the animals in our care. Zippos supports genuine animal welfare organisations.

22. Have you ever failed an inspection?

No, but our standards of excellence have often won praise.

23. Are any animal welfare organisations free to enter the circus at any time?

Yes. Some may do so without an appointment such as the World Horse Welfare and the British Horse Society.

24. Have any local Authorities refused you a license because you have animals?

Yes as a few Local Authorities have a blanket ban on any performing animals.

However it is questionable whether such bans are legal. The majority of Local Authorities allow circuses with domestic animals onto council land.

25. Which Parliamentary legislation affects you?

The Protection of Animals Act 1911; the Performing Animals Act 1925; and most recently the Animal Welfare Act 2006; and all current legislation and guidelines issued by the Government and/or the EU on animal welfare -- this includes, for example, recent regulation concerning the transportation of animals.

26. Does Zippos Circus use performing wild animals?

Zippos Circus advocates the use of domestic species in our circus. We have never wanted to use wild or exotic animals in the circus.

27. Do you think performing animals will eventually be banned from all circuses, and that circuses will become more like Cirque du Soleil? .

No Cirque Du Soleil is a unique, one off experience, which we don't believe can be replicated; nor do we see it as the way of the future. People have a basic desire to watch animals work – whether that's dogs or horses. We believe that horses will always be an integral part of the circus experience. Zippos Circus has a following because of the high standards of both its human and animal acts.

28. What percentage of circuses have animals?

Around 90% worldwide.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
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25 APR 2014

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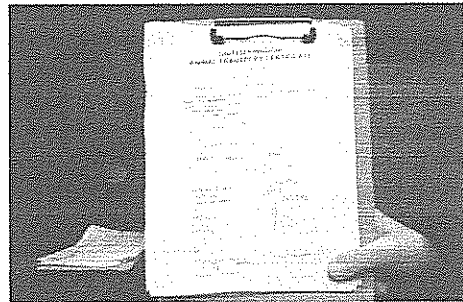
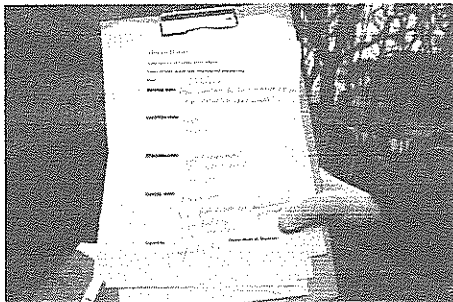
To whom it may concern

**Report of a visit to Zippo's Circus, South Park, Oxford
on Thursday 21 March 2013 at approx. 14:30**

1. At the request of Zippo's Circus I visited the temporary site of the circus at South Parks, Oxford on Thursday 21 March 2013 between approximately 14:30 and 15:30 for the purpose of inspecting the health and welfare of the animals travelling and performing with the circus.
2. Weather conditions were overcast and cold but dry. The circus occupied a grassy area at the highest point in the park and the ground conditions were generally 'soft to firm'.

Horses

3. I was greeted by circus staff and invited to inspect the horses and their stabling and exercise areas.
4. Five horses were in evidence, a Friesian, Arab, Spanish, Irish Sports Horse, and a Welsh Mountain Pony.
5. I checked the horses on site against their horse passports.
6. I inspected performing animal documentation and I was provided with details of such matters as their housing, feeding, transport, and arrangements for veterinary care in the form of daily checklists.



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7. The horses are stabled under cover (see below) in a total of five individual loose boxes, four of which measured 10ft square and a fifth which measured 20ft by 10ft, with solid and barred sides and straw ground covering. All the accommodation was situated in a single marquee partially open to the exterior and with excellent external ventilation.
8. A separate large skip lorry is used for carrying waste material for appropriate disposal.
9. Ad lib quantities of hay, salt licks and clean water were in evidence in each box. The horses are also two feeds of a commercial conditioning mix daily. Fresh water was delivered to the site by hose from adjacent premises.
10. I observed an outside paddock area (see above), measuring approximately 5000ft², and surrounded by Herras fencing. All the horses exercised freely in the paddock throughout the day which included an approximately 20 minute training session daily. Additionally, the horses undertook up to three 3 or 4 minute sessions in performance. The performances are scheduled for mainly two, occasionally three, per day, six days per week.



11. I inspected the horses and all the horses and the pony were in very good condition. All were clipped but heavily rugged against the prevailing weather conditions.

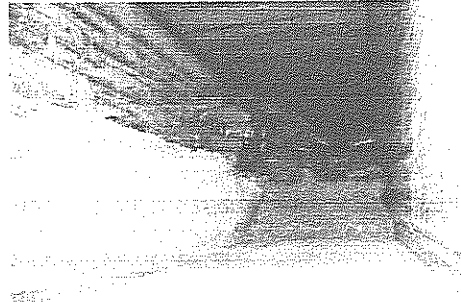
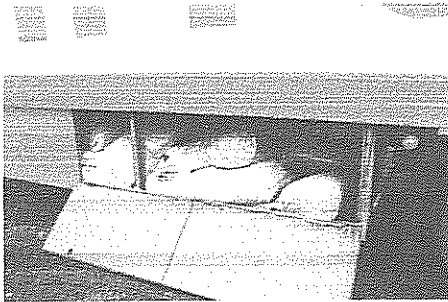
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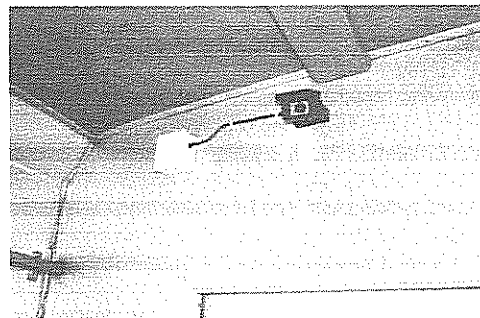
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12. I inspected a separate forage wagon used for the storage of bales of straw, wood chips, good quality hay, plus bagged concentrate feed in a separate store which were in all respects satisfactory.



13. The horses are travelled in a conventional horse wagon providing a maximum of six individual stalls, lights, CCTV, good ventilation facilities, a rear access ramp and an additional access doors. Tack was stored in peripheral compartments around the wagon. Reserves of fresh water are carried on board the wagon. In all respects the wagon was clean and appeared to be in good hygienic condition.



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14. Throughout my inspection I found conditions consistent with the information provided to me by the circus representatives. In my opinion, at the time of my inspection, the horses and ponies appeared in good health, free from external signs of infectious or contagious disease, and fit to be transported and to appear in performances in the circus.

Budgerigars

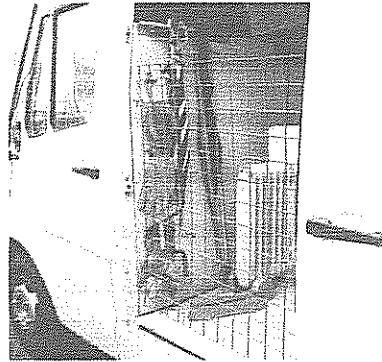
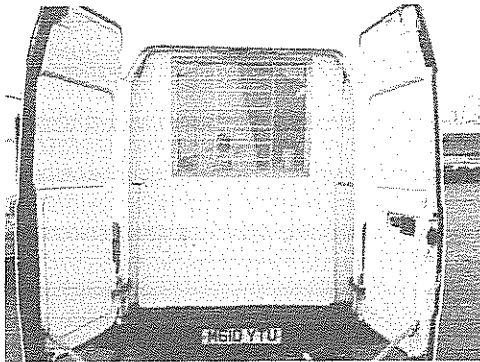
15. I was invited to inspect the budgerigars which are used in performances in the circus.
16. I had previously been provided with an in-house protocol for the housing, feeding, health and welfare of the birds. A copy of this report and protocol is available on request.
17. I inspected sixteen birds housed in an enclosed area within a campervan. The area was appropriately ventilated and heated and all the birds were able to fly freely within the communal area.

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18. The birds are transferred to smaller boxes and removed to the owner's residential mobile home at night.

19. The birds were lively, well-fleshed, bright eyed and with firm droppings.



20. Pre-boiled water is available to them ad lib and they are fed a 50/50 mix of proprietary canary and budgie seed.

21. Eight birds are used in performance on a rotational basis.

22. In my opinion, at the time of my inspection, the budgerigars appeared in good health, showed no external signs of infectious or contagious disease and were fit to be used in performance in the circus. I observed no circumstances which might compromise their welfare.

Dog

23. I observed a Collie dog which appears briefly in performance.

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24. Upon inspection the dog appeared in excellent health with no external evidence of infectious or contagious disease.

Performance

25. On this occasion I was not able to observe the animals in performance but, from past experience, I am satisfied that the animals are handled sympathetically at all times, are not asked to perform outside their natural capabilities, and previously have exhibited no mental or physical stress during the performances.

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22nd March 2013

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