



ANIMAL CONCERN

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3rd May 2006

To all MSPs,
The Scottish Parliament,
Holyrood,
Edinburgh

Dear Member of the Scottish Parliament,

This is just a brief note to ask you, if you have not already done so, to sign motion S2M-4237 which calls for the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill to be amended to ban all animal acts from circuses.

You can read more about how circus animals suffer on our website at <http://www.animalconcern.com/circus.pdf>

I must stress we are not opposed to dog shows, gymkhanas and the like. After these events the animals return to their homes where they should have plenty of space and proper facilities and are protected by welfare legislation.

However after their appearance in the Big Top I have watched a troop of large performing dogs being put into small cages in a windowless box van where they were kept between performances and training sessions. When not in the circus ring horses are kept on short tethers in cramped stalls for as long as 23 hours a day. Animal Concern has hard evidence that circus animals have been kept for many weeks inside derelict farms buildings and old city factory units during periods between circus engagements.

We need to do more than simply ban large wild animals from circuses. Circuses cannot provide even the most basic acceptable conditions for any animals, including horses and dogs.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
For Animal Concern