

Ringling Bros. Circus Beats All Their Elephants Beginning When They're Babies & Throughout Their Lives

Ringling Owner Admits His Circus Beats Elephants

Ringling owner Ken Feld testified in court that all his elephant handlers strike the elephants with bullhooks, (weapons that resemble fireplace poker) and there is no other way to get elephants to perform. "The bullhook [has] one purpose: to inflict pain and punishment," testified former Ringling elephant trainer Sam Haddock. "I should know," he said, "I used to make them."



Bullhook

Ringling Caught On Video Beating Elephants

In Ringling's 2009 program guide, **Alex Vargas**, Ringling's "Animal Superintendent" stated that when the elephants hear the music the handlers have to practically hold them back from going on stage. However, undercover video reveals the truth - that handlers, including **Vargas**, repeatedly hit and beat the elephants with bullhooks and whip them in the face just before going on stage. Undercover video (available at CIRCUSES.com) and Ringling's sworn testimony reveal that Ringling trains elephants with beatings, whippings and electro-shocking, not "positive re-enforcement."



Alex Vargas

Mother & Baby Elephants Scream When Ringling Takes Them Away From Each Other



Gary Jacobsen, General Manager of Ringling's "Center for Elephant Conservation," says baby elephants are wild animals and to train them to do circus tricks they must be broken, by forcibly taking the babies from their mothers before they are weaned, chaining them for 23 hours a day and hitting them with bullhooks. The mother and baby scream when forcibly taken from each other, just as you and your child would.

All Animals Used By Circuses Suffer From Abuse, Fear, and Deprivation. Tigers are caged for life, horses never run free and all animals spend their entire lives in concrete parking lots, trucks and train cars.

Ringling Bros. Circus Beats All Their Elephants Beginning When They're Babies & Throughout Their Lives

Ringling Owner Admits His Circus Beats Elephants

Ringling owner Ken Feld testified in court that all his elephant handlers strike the elephants with bullhooks, (weapons that resemble fireplace poker) and there is no other way to get elephants to perform. "The bullhook [has] one purpose: to inflict pain and punishment," testified former Ringling elephant trainer Sam Haddock. "I should know," he said, "I used to make them."



Bullhook

Ringling Caught On Video Beating Elephants

In Ringling's 2009 program guide, **Alex Vargas**, Ringling's "Animal Superintendent" stated that when the elephants hear the music the handlers have to practically hold them back from going on stage. However, undercover video reveals the truth - that handlers, including **Vargas**, repeatedly hit and beat the elephants with bullhooks and whip them in the face just before going on stage. Undercover video (available at CIRCUSES.com) and Ringling's sworn testimony reveal that Ringling trains elephants with beatings, whippings and electro-shocking, not "positive re-enforcement."



Alex Vargas

Mother & Baby Elephants Scream When Ringling Takes Them Away From Each Other



Gary Jacobsen, General Manager of Ringling's "Center for Elephant Conservation," says baby elephants are wild animals and to train them to do circus tricks they must be broken, by forcibly taking the babies from their mothers before they are weaned, chaining them for 23 hours a day and hitting them with bullhooks. The mother and baby scream when forcibly taken from each other, just as you and your child would.

All Animals Used By Circuses Suffer From Abuse, Fear, and Deprivation. Tigers are caged for life, horses never run free and all animals spend their entire lives in concrete parking lots, trucks and train cars.

Elephants Forced To Perform “Circus Tricks”

Former Ringling elephant trainer, Sam Haddock, provided the photos below which were taken at Ringling’s breeding facility and testified that:

To Train A Baby Elephant To Lie Down, the baby is tied up with ropes, stretched out by all four legs, dropped down to his/her hind quarters and slammed down to the ground by trainers pulling on ropes and hooking the baby with bullhooks.



To Train A Baby Elephant To Do A Headstand, a rope is tied around the baby’s trunk and pulled down between their front legs forcing his/her head down. Trainers then (1) jab the tender spots on the baby’s back feet so the baby will keep their legs raised; and (2) hook the tender spot behind the baby’s head so the baby won’t raise their head.

To Train A Baby Elephant To Sit On A Pedestal, Ringling ties ropes around all four of the baby’s legs and forcibly pulls them back to sit on the pedestal. Then by pulling on the ropes and jabbing the baby with bullhooks Ringling trainers force the baby to sit up on the pedestal.



During “training” sessions the baby defecates from fear, struggles and screams – loud rock music is played to drown out the baby’s screams.

General Manager Gary Jacobsen testified that training sessions are not filmed because they are hard to defend in the modern world.

You Can Help:

**DO NOT ATTEND CIRCUSES THAT USE ANIMALS.
DO NOT PURCHASE CIRCUS PRODUCTS.**

Elephants Forced To Perform “Circus Tricks”

Former Ringling elephant trainer, Sam Haddock, provided the photos below which were taken at Ringling’s breeding facility and testified that:

To Train A Baby Elephant To Lie Down, the baby is tied up with ropes, stretched out by all four legs, dropped down to his/her hind quarters and slammed down to the ground by trainers pulling on ropes and hooking the baby with bullhooks.



To Train A Baby Elephant To Do A Headstand, a rope is tied around the baby’s trunk and pulled down between their front legs forcing his/her head down. Trainers then (1) jab the tender spots on the baby’s back feet so the baby will keep their legs raised; and (2) hook the tender spot behind the baby’s head so the baby won’t raise their head.

To Train A Baby Elephant To Sit On A Pedestal, Ringling ties ropes around all four of the baby’s legs and forcibly pulls them back to sit on the pedestal. Then by pulling on the ropes and jabbing the baby with bullhooks Ringling trainers force the baby to sit up on the pedestal.



During “training” sessions the baby defecates from fear, struggles and screams – loud rock music is played to drown out the baby’s screams.

General Manager Gary Jacobsen testified that training sessions are not filmed because they are hard to defend in the modern world.

You Can Help:

**DO NOT ATTEND CIRCUSES THAT USE ANIMALS.
DO NOT PURCHASE CIRCUS PRODUCTS.**