

**Queensland  
code of practice  
for the welfare of  
animals in circuses  
2003**

QI03022  
ISSN 0727-6273  
Agdex 488/658

Reprinted with minor alterations 2003.

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Manager, DPI Publications  
Department of Primary Industries  
GPO Box 46  
Brisbane Qld 4001

# Queensland code of practice for the welfare of animals in circuses 2003

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## Introduction

This document reflects the NCCAW's recommended national standard for the management and control of circuses in Australia. All States and Territories have been encouraged to adopt the contents of this document when developing standards for circuses that exhibit animals. In this way, Australia will eventually have national standards for the care and housing of all circus animals in Australia.

These standards encompass all areas of circus animal care, including transportation, housing, exhibition, and husbandry and training, and are endorsed by the Circus Federation of Australasia.

## Definitions

**Animal:** any member of the phylum vertebrata

**Beast wagon:** any wagon, truck, float or van intended for the transport and/or holding, and/or static display, of an animal or animals

**Behaviour:** any pattern of action and attitude assumed by an animal

**Big cat:** a large member of the cat family that has the ability to roar

**Bridging signal:** any signal discernible by an animal and originating from a handler or trainer that informs the animal that a desired behaviour has been completed satisfactorily

**Box:** any confinement facility that has a roof, four solid sides and a solid floor

**Cage:** any facility that enables close confinement of any animal and has at least one vertical side consisting of material that enables direct viewing of the contents of the facility

**Camelid:** any member of the camel family (e.g. Arabian Camel, Llama, Alpaca)

**Carnivore:** any canid, felid or ursid

**Cetacean:** any whale (toothed or baleen)

**Circus:** any mobile establishment in which animals are held and exhibited to perform behaviours at the behest of human handler/trainers for the entertainment and/or education of the public

**Command signal:** any signal discernible by an animal and originating from a handler or trainer that informs the animal that a given behaviour should be performed

**Disease:** any condition suffered by an animal such that normally accepted parameters of health are not met

**Distress:** occurs when the animal's mechanisms for coping with stressors are being utilised but not over-extended. Signs of distress may include anxiety, elevated heart and respiration rates, aggression, aversion, frustration, boredom and displacement behaviours. A number of these signs are evident when an animal is experiencing a 'fight or flight' response.

**Domestic animal:** any of the various animals which have been domesticated by man, so as to live and breed in a tame condition

**Enclosure:** any facility which, by use of physical barriers, enables loose confinement of any animal within a given area

**Fence:** any structure that comprises a vertical physical barrier used either to prevent passage or to direct passage or any person or animal

**Float:** any towed wagon intended for the transport of animals while they are standing normally

**Flooring:** the solid component on the bottom of any cage, stall, float or enclosure

**Handler:** any individual engaged to attend to the physical placement, translocation or restraint of any animal, or who controls animals in an exhibition situation without modifying any hitherto existing behaviours

**Harness:** the combination of straps, bands and other parts forming the working gear of a horse or other animal

**Holding park:** a site containing permanent non-mobile facilities for the holding of circus animals that are not currently touring with the circus

**Layover site:** a site where animals on tour with a circus are held while the circus temporarily ceases performances

**Negative reinforcement:** punishment for failure to perform as required by the trainer

**Pinniped:** any seal, sea lion or walrus

**Restraint:** any method (be it physical, chemical or behavioural) of preventing an animal from performing an act or movement deemed undesirable at the time

**Site:** the area where the circus is to be situated

**Stall:** any enclosure that does not permit a standing animal to turn around

**Stress:** occurs when the animal's mechanisms for coping with stressors have been over-extended. This frequently results in increases in the animal's susceptibility to disease and reduces its capacity to grow and reproduce. Signs of stress may include hair loss, dermatitis, weight loss, stereotypic behaviour, abnormal ingestion, scouring, increased incidence of disease, self-mutilation, abnormal activity levels, catatonia, depression, elevated aggression levels, inhibited digestion, suppressed immune system and elevated corticosteroid levels.

**Stressor:** any factor that produces stress when experienced in excess, for example heat, cold, overcrowding, inadequate husbandry, social deprivation, pain and the inability to exhibit characteristic behaviours

**Substrate:** any bedding or litter placed on the flooring of a cage, box, stall or enclosure

**Tethering:** the tying of an animal to an anchorage

**Trainer:** any person who interacts with an animal with the purpose of inducing that animal to perform a desired behaviour, or to modify an existing behaviour, or to modify an existing behaviour in a desired fashion

**Ungulate:** any hoofed animal

**Welfare:** a state of wellbeing

## **Suitability and safety**

### **1. Suitability of animal species**

- 1.1. Only circus animals that are being trained to perform and/or are performing on a regular basis are permitted to be held in circuses. Existing non-performing animals must not be replaced and, where possible, shall be relocated to a suitable new environment. New

circuses will not be permitted to hold non-performing animals.<sup>1</sup> Existing circuses will not be permitted to acquire new animals, except for the purposes of training and performance.<sup>2</sup>

- 1.2.** Circuses may hold animals for breeding purposes *only* where these animals are retired performing animals, and where they are housed in accordance with the standards for display that are set out in this document.
- 1.3.** Travelling circuses may hold some retired performing animals for breeding purposes *only* where they are housed in accordance with the standards for display that are set out in this document. Breeding must only occur as set out in the 'Permit to Introduce and Keep Declared Animals' (see section 1.5). The following criteria are mandatory:
- The animals involved must be compatible.
  - The animals must be of an age and a state of health at which breeding can reasonably be expected to occur.
  - The animals must be held in facilities in which breeding and parental care of offspring can be reasonably expected to occur. Where the males of the species concerned have a reputation for killing offspring, facilities for holding males separately from females and offspring must be provided.
  - In the case of mammals, regular records of the female's oestrus must be kept.
  - Prior to the commencement of breeding, written evidence of the placement of the progeny in a circus or zoo must be provided.
  - To minimise any problems associated with in-breeding, the animals involved must be sufficiently genetically distant.
  - Only one retired pair of each species authorised for exhibit may continue to travel with the circus for the purposes of breeding (with the exception of lions and primates, where one male and two females may be kept). If more than one pair is required for breeding purposes, the additional animals must be held in holding parks.
  - Breeding should not occur if it can be reasonably expected that welfare of the progeny would be adversely affected, because of budgetary or space constraints.
  - Breeding shall not conflict with the Australasian Species Management Program of the Species Management Coordinating Council.
  - Breeding should not occur if it would not be in the best interests of the species or an individual animal.
- 1.4.** Circus personnel may hold personal pets where the animal is a recognised domestic species. Self-regulation must be exercised by circus management in the care and housing of such domestic pets.
- 1.5.** Any animal imported into Australia will not be permitted to be displayed or kept for display by circuses, unless it can be proved that the following items were complied with prior to the animal's entry into Queensland:

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<sup>1</sup> Circuses may retain retired animals, if it is not practical to rehouse them in an appropriate zoo. Such animals must be maintained in accordance with these standards. Animals must not be obtained unless it is intended that they will be trained and will perform.

<sup>2</sup> Only circus animals that are being trained to perform and/or performing on a regular basis are permitted to be held by touring circuses. Existing non-performing animals must not be replaced and, where possible, shall be relocated to a suitable new environment that meets recognised standards for the housing of animals in zoos. See clause 1.2. for exceptions to this clause.

- A permit allowing entry of the animals into Queensland has been issued by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- The animals were transported to Australia in accordance with accepted international standards governing the health, welfare and safety of animals.
- The manager responsible for each act has ensured that each trainer understands the level of animal care expected under these standards. This may involve questioning of a manager by an RSPCA or Government inspector, in order to demonstrate the manager's knowledge of this document.
- Upon entry to Australia, the animals were examined by a registered veterinarian experienced with the family of animals involved, and each individual animal was certified as being in good health prior to training and performance recommencing.

Any imported circus animals in breach of the above requirements will not be authorised to be exhibited and must be held off display or returned to their home base.

- 1.6.** Hybrid animals (excluding the donkey–horse cross, i.e. mule) are not considered appropriate for circuses. Existing hybrid animals must not be replaced and, where possible, every effort must be made to place the animals in a suitable new environment that meets existing standards for the housing of animals in zoos in Queensland.
- 1.7.** Different species capable of cross-mating must not be housed together. This clause does not apply while animals are performing or being trained together in the circus ring. Any progeny from accidental matings must not be exhibited.
- 1.8.** Social species shall not be exhibited as single specimens, unless compelling reasons can be shown.

#### **1.A. Big cats**

**Lions:** In the wild, lions are basically sedentary individuals. They only become active during hunting, feeding, fighting, territorial marking or mating.

These active periods have been shown to occupy only a very small part of the normal waking hours of lions, making lions more suitable to be kept in a circus than other species of big cats. In captivity, the urge to hunt must be sublimated, otherwise boredom and the associated behavioural problems may set in. Training lions to perform behaviours on command may offset boredom. The natural instincts being utilised during training include:

- to work as a team
- to expend physical energy
- to perform certain physical movements (such as leaping, rearing, running)
- to anticipate reward.

Lions form prides with a hierarchy. The trainer can exploit this, so that the animals look to them for guidance. Stimuli emanating from the trainer, via training to perform tricks, helps to cater for the natural behavioural tendencies of the lions.

**Other big cats:** Most other big cats are solitary and do not seek prolonged close physical contact with other individuals of their species. For this reason they are less suitable than lions, which are the only social cat species.

## 1.B. Dogs

Dogs are hierarchical pack animals that respond very well to being controlled by a human. Because of their long-standing association with humans, and the bonds they form with them, they are no longer considered to be held in captivity.

## 1.C. Ungulates and camelids

These animals are considered 'domesticated' by society at large, and their prolonged contact and co-existence with humans has rendered them tractable. Humans have also developed a good body of knowledge about these animals and a high level of stockmanship.

Male camels periodically undergo a condition known as 'musth', during which they are potentially dangerous. In this instance, castration of individual male camels, if deemed necessary, remains the responsibility of the circus proprietor.

For the purposes of this document, comments concerning ungulates cover the commonly held circus ungulates (horses, donkeys, ponies, sheep, cattle and goats). Comments concerning camelids include camels, llamas and alpacas.

## 1.D. Elephants

Elephants are a herd animal that can be well-trained to respond to commands, as a result of their natural tendency to follow a leader. Because they are social animals, they appear able to relate to humans in terms of their own social structures. In time, they come to associate humans with food and social stimuli. This association can be used by humans on a rewards basis for training. Humans in charge of elephants should never prove themselves to be a source of stressful stimuli, otherwise the animals will no longer tend to 'trust' that human or allow themselves to be led by that human.

Male elephants periodically undergo a condition known as 'musth', during which they are more aggressive and sexually active. A musth bull elephant will attack anything that it perceives to be a rival and is, therefore, potentially very dangerous, especially in captivity. Because of this, it is recommended that Australian circuses do not hold bull elephants except where a documented, manageable, safe history can be demonstrated.

Elephants are intelligent, inquisitive and social creatures and, therefore, unless compelling reasons can be shown, circuses must not attempt to maintain single elephants. Existing circuses that hold elephants may acquire single animals to add to their existing group. However, new circuses wishing to obtain elephants for the first time must acquire two or more animals. Elephants kept in circuses must be supplied with mental stimulation, avenues of play and social contact with other elephants. Constant training will provide some of the necessary stimulation, so long as the training is based *only* on positive reinforcement. This training should involve the introduction of new behaviours and the modification of existing routines.

## 1.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees

Monkeys and apes are intensely hierarchical, very intelligent, social animals. Their association with humans is based on their perception of humans as a source of food and other types of rewards, as well as being at the top of their social order. Given proper care and facilities, most individuals adapt to existence in a circus. This care includes constant sources of mental stimuli. Ongoing training must be pursued, so that a regular source of mental stimulus is provided.

Their amenability to training is due to their high intelligence and inquisitive nature. Both these tendencies are well-catered for if the animals are being trained. They need constant stimulation when not training or performing, otherwise they become bored and frustrated.

Large apes (orang-outangs and gorillas) and arboreal apes (gibbons) are unsuitable animals for the circus environment, due to their large living space requirements. For this reason, they must not be held by Australian circuses.

#### **1.F. Birds**

The need for birds to have large display cages to allow natural flight, in addition to their nervous nature around humans, generally renders them unsuitable animals for circuses. The exceptions to this are domesticated pigeons and doves, domestic poultry, and parrots.

Parrots can be suitable circus animals, as they are intelligent enough to associate the performance of desired behaviours with obtaining a reward. This is the primary driving force behind their trainability. In a display situation, these birds may amuse themselves by performing for passers-by, and thus avoid boredom.

In the case of domesticated pigeons and doves, their long association with man has rendered them less stressed by handling, which makes them suitable birds for the circus environment.

Some birds learn to form a social attachment with their handlers or trainers. This attachment appears to be rewarding for the birds, in that it appears to cater for their social tendencies, and is to be encouraged.

#### **1.G. Bears**

Circuses may hold bears if their performance is:

- in an arena cage, such as that used for the performance of big cats (in which case muzzles are not mandatory); and
- entry to the arena cage is via an enclosed raceway or some other means, by which the animal is enclosed.

When not performing, bears may not be muzzled, unless such muzzling is required for short periods only.

Muzzling may be necessary for medical access or in circumstances when handlers must temporarily enter an enclosure containing bears. It is not permissible to declaw or detooth a bear, unless such surgery is required for the animal's health.

Because bears spend the majority of their time roaming in the wild, the size of their display cages will have to be maximised. Cage sizes for the display and transportation of bears in circuses shall be developed as an appendix to this Code.

#### **1.H. Pinnipeds**

Circuses may hold pinnipeds *only* where the cage sizes for their display and transportation meet the relevant standards for static displays of pinnipeds in zoos in Queensland.

### **1.I. Reptiles**

The only reptile species permitted to be held by circuses are pythons, as they are considered to be traditional circus animals.

Where pythons are held by circuses, the cage sizes for their display and transportation must meet the relevant standards for static reptile displays in zoos in Queensland. Circuses must hold more than a single python to allow for the rotational use of each animal.

### **1.J. Amphibians**

Due to the untrainable nature of amphibians, circuses may not hold amphibian species.

### **1.K. Fish**

Due to the untrainable nature of fish, circuses may not hold fish species.

### **1.L. Cetacea**

Due to the inability of circuses to provide proper facilities large enough to maintain the health and wellbeing of cetacea, circuses may not hold cetacea species.

## **2. Responsibilities of the circus proprietor/manager**

### **Display sites**

- 2.1** The circus proprietor/manager shall only choose display sites that maximise the size available to the animals. At all times, the display dimensions available to the animals must not fall below the minimum sizes that are set out in this document.
- 2.2** Animals must not be housed on a sealed surface (e.g. bitumen, concrete, etc.). The only instance where this is allowable is where the sealed surface is first covered by a suitable material that will absorb the heat and cold effects of the sealed surface.
- 2.3.** It is permissible for animals to be housed off site in alternative, suitable and adequately spaced areas, when animal husbandry demands or when staging performances at indoor venues.

### **Animal care**

- 2.4.** During all stages of animal performance, the audience must be encouraged to treat the animals with respect.
- 2.5.** Animals must be provided with shelter from climatic extremes and, when the circus is not in motion, access to drinking water must be available to all animals.
- 2.6.** To prevent them becoming 'imprinted' exclusively on humans, young animals must not be removed from the company of their own species. Every effort should be made to imprint the animal on members of its own species, prior to the animal becoming 'humanised'.
- 2.7.** Trainers/handlers should be encouraged to have a long tenure with their animals, in order to develop a solid relationship with their charges.

### **3. Safety**

- 3.1. All circuses must have mobile phones to enable fast access to police, ambulance and veterinarians.
- 3.2. All circuses must have a trained First Aid Officer who holds a current First Aid Certificate.
- 3.3. All applications to hold animals by circuses must be accompanied by an escape/recapture plan for each animal species held. These plans should be reviewed on a regular basis and a drill held once a month, so all employed circus staff are aware of the plans and how to put them into action if it becomes necessary.
- 3.4. Entrances to the circus ring, exercise yards and animal transportation trailers containing non-domestic animals must be installed, so that the gate or door swings inwards.
- 3.5. A keyed lock must be used for all doors, gates and slides that give access to enclosures used to hold non-domestic animals.
- 3.6. The circus ring must be adequately illuminated during any period that the circus animals are housed within. When this occurs outside of performance times, warning signs must be placed on entrance doors into the ring to advise that there are animals in the ring.
- 3.7. When non-domestic species are on public display, stand-off barriers of a minimum distance of two metres from the display cage must be used.
- 3.8. The escape of a non-domestic animal must be communicated immediately to the Animal and Plant Health Service, the local (NR&M) Land Protection Officer, and/or the local government Stock Inspector.

## **Housing**

### **4. Transportation housing**

- 4.1. If the distance to be covered entails more than two hours travelling, vehicles must stop for at least 10 minutes every two hours in order to properly inspect the animals and their facilities, and to provide food and water as required. (Water should be removed from the facilities prior to resuming motion if it poses any risk of spilling, or places the animals at risk of drowning.)
- 4.2. There must be a stationary period of no less than 12 hours in any 24-hour period, when the circus moves between venues and/or layover sites.
- 4.3. Each vehicle carrying animals should be fitted with a radio transceiver, and all vehicles should use the same operating frequency to allow for ready communication. If no radio transceivers are available, a vehicle not engaged in the transport of animals must follow at the rear, to ensure that assistance can be rendered in the event of an emergency.
- 4.4. If animal transportation vehicles stop for longer than a 15-minute period during the day in an area away from a built-up township, beast wagons must have their sides opened (when weather permits) to allow fresh air and sunlight to enter the animals quarters.
- 4.5. All circuses in Australia must provide facilities with adequate ventilation, to enable appropriate transport of their animals from venue to venue.

- 4.6. There must be at least two layover periods each year, one of which must be for at least two weeks. During this time, transportation equipment can be overhauled and the animals rested from training/performance.<sup>3</sup>
- 4.7. When circuses are at layover sites, they must ensure that the animal housing provided complies with the standards for display that are outlined in this document.
- 4.8. When circus animals are held in holding parks (rather than layover sites), animal housing that satisfies the requirements for each species must be provided.
- 4.9. By 1 September 2001, existing substandard equipment will be replaced or modified. Each circus will develop a phasing-in program in conjunction with the Animal Welfare Unit, to allow for the workable purchasing of new equipment. The circus proprietor must always have the compliance documentation in his/her possession. Facilities without compliance documentation after September 2001 will be deemed illegal.
- 4.10. Circuses must comply with all other relevant animal transport requirements not specific to circus transportation in Queensland.
- 4.11. An itinerary, including performance sites, holding parks and layover sites, must be supplied to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NR&M) prior to entry into Queensland or as soon as practicable afterwards.
- 4.12. All relevant permission must be accessible at all times during travel within Queensland, for the purposes of inspection by Queensland NR&M offices.

#### 4.A. Big cats

- 4.A.1. Since big cats tend to defecate in one given area of the cage, the food presentation and sleeping areas should be set as far away as possible from these areas to prevent faecal contamination of food and bedding. Where cats are seen not to practise this sort of 'cage discipline', containers and bedding must be raised above cage floor level.
- 4.A.2. Flooring in the cages must be waterproof and graded, to enable quick drainage and drying after cleaning. Hardwood planking is the minimum acceptable flooring material, but this material is very hard to keep hygienically clean. A new material that has been used with success recently is steel plating covered in a waterproof plastic coating. Straw bedding that is changed regularly will provide adequate insulation and padding.
- 4.A.3. All facilities that house carnivores must *only* allow access through a double locked door that allows clear vision into the enclosure. The animals must be excluded from the area before the keeper/handler enters.
- 4.A.4. Transport facilities that hold carnivores must provide adequate insulation from the heat of the sun, while still maintaining adequate ventilation into the wagon.
- 4.A.5. The transport compartment for each big cat must provide enough space to allow the animal to assume a normal standing posture, lie down fully stretched and turn around without physical contact with neighbouring animals.

#### 4.B. Dogs

- 4.B.1. Dogs must not be transported unrestrained on the backs of open vehicles.

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<sup>3</sup> The animals must have a total of at least one month's rest in any twelve-month period. One of these layover periods must be for an uninterrupted period of at least two weeks, the other days can be in the form of rest days at regular intervals.

#### **4.C. Ungulates and camelids**

- 4.C.1.** Ungulates and camelids must be transported in floats that have internal partitioning (stalls) to safely restrain each individual animal. The float must have a roof to provide shade and shelter from rain or other inclement weather. The float must have solid sides with apertures to admit light and ventilation, and to allow adequate visual inspection of all animals contained within.
- 4.C.2.** When housed together for transportation, ungulates and camelids of the same size are not required to be provided with separate stalls. Where animals differ in size and weight, separate stalls must be provided to eliminate the risk of smaller animals being crushed. Loose or potentially loose items must be secured. Under both methods of transportation—stalling and group housing—each animal must be sufficiently contained, so that it cannot turn around. A padded breast bar may be used in each stall, as added protection for horses and ponies.
- 4.C.3.** Feed cribs must be designed and used in a manner which minimises the risk of injury.
- 4.C.4.** Ungulates must not be held solely in their transportation floats while the circus is at a performance site. The exceptions to this are when the float is the best form of shelter for a sick animal, or in inclement weather, in which case proper bedding and hygienic conditions must be maintained.
- 4.C.5.** For transportation of camels, the floor of the transportation vehicle must not be constructed in a manner which will injure the pedicle and the pads on their rear legs. The base of the transportation vehicle should be free of any protrusions that would discourage the camels from sitting down during transportation. Camels normally sit during transportation, therefore, if they are to be tethered, the tether must be of sufficient length to allow their free movement up and down.

#### **4.D. Elephants**

- 4.D.1.** Except in short-term exceptional circumstances, elephants must be transported in enclosed floats. The float must be strong enough to withstand the weight of an elephant either leaning or being thrown against the sidewalls. The float must be well-ventilated to prevent build-up of heat and waste gases.
- 4.D.2.** During transportation, each elephant must be sufficiently contained so that it can stand up normally but is unable to turn around (and thereby unable to cause itself any possible injury). This can be achieved by stalling each individual elephant or housing each elephant side-by-side widthways across their transportation vehicle. There must not be anything inside the transportation vehicle that could cause injury to an elephant. The vehicle must allow adequate and safe inspection of all elephants being transported.
- 4.D.3.** During transportation, dry fodder may be offered to elephants provided it is contained in a feed crib that is within easy reach of the animals and cannot cause the elephants injury in any way.

#### **4.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees**

- 4.E.1.** Since the transport wagon for primates also often acts as their display facility, the transport facilities must be designed to cater for the total needs of the housed primates. Where primates do not defecate in a particular area of their wagon, the food presentation and sleeping areas should be raised above cage floor level, to prevent faecal contamination of these areas.

- 4.E.2. Compartments for transporting primates must provide sufficient space to allow each animal to assume a normal standing posture, lie down fully stretched, and turn around. Where individuals are known to display aggression towards each other, or in the case of nursing mothers, these individuals must be physically (but not visually) separated from others of their species during transport. In other instances, primate species may travel in group situations.
- 4.E.3. Hardwood flooring is an acceptable material for the transport wagons of primates. Bedding of a suitable material must be provided.
- 4.E.4. All facilities that house primates must *only* provide access to the animals through a double locked door that allows clear vision into the enclosure. The animals must be excluded from this area before the keeper enters.
- 4.E.5. Transport facilities that hold primates must provide insulation from the heat of the sun, while maintaining adequate ventilation.

#### 4.F. Birds

- 4.F.1. During transportation, birds must be confined in small cages to provide physical protection.
- 4.F.2. A perch must be provided and be positioned high enough so the bird's extremities (including its feathers) are at least six centimetres above the cage floor, regardless of the bird's posture.
- 4.F.3. The cage must be large enough so that the bird contained can extend its head, feet, wingtips and its feathers, and turn around, without touching any cage walls, the ceiling, or solid cage furniture. This is regardless of its posture or whether it is on its perch or not.

#### 5. Display housing

- 5.1. Exercise facilities for animals are mandatory and must be provided at each venue. Wherever possible, these display dimensions should be maximised, as **the dimensions outlined in this document are minimum sizes only**. Animals must not be maintained in transportation wagons for greater than two days without exercise.
- 5.2. Where animal trailers form the basis for the display facilities, the trailers must contain platforms that are raised off floor level and kept dry, so as to provide the animals with an area they can retreat to when the floor is cleaned and while it dries.

#### 5.A. Big cats

- 5.A.1. When at a performance site, big cats must have access to exercise areas in the form of large demountable enclosures annexed to the beast wagons. Such annexes must be available to the cats for a minimum of six hours during the day. Annexes should be constructed from steel-tube, framed, interlocking mesh panels or other acceptable materials of sufficient strength to contain big cats. These annexes must provide the cats with access to the ground (i.e. natural earth substrate).

**5.A.2. Minimum display dimensions for big cats**

Minimum floor space for one animal	20 m <sup>2</sup>
Floor space for each additional animal	10 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum height	2 m
Minimum width	2.4 m

**5.A.3.** Any display housing facility for big cats must have the capacity to mount a suitable cage to enable physical restraint for safe veterinary examination or administration of drugs—either within the wagon itself or outside the wagon.

**5.A.4.** Big cat display enclosures must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the cats housed within.

**5.A.5.** Access to the animals must be through a double locked door that allows clear vision into the enclosure. The animals must be excluded from the area into which the handler/keeper is entering.

**5.B. Dogs****5.B.1. Minimum display dimensions for dogs**

Enclosure	Small/medium dogs up to 15 kg	Large dogs 15 kg or above 0.5 m at rump
Minimum floor space for one pair	4.5 m <sup>2</sup>	6 m <sup>2</sup>
Floor space for each additional animal	2.25 m <sup>2</sup>	3 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum width	3 m	3 m

**5.B.2.** The enclosure material must be of sufficient strength to contain the dogs.

**5.B.3.** Where dogs are confined via the use of wire running leashes, the minimum acceptable length of the wire is four metres.

**5.B.4.** The area in which the dogs are kept while not performing must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the dogs.

**5.C. Ungulates and camelids**

**5.C.1.** Ungulates and camelids must be confined in a compound by ordinary or electric fencing when at the performance site.

### 5.C.2. Minimum display enclosure sizes for the common circus ungulates

Enclosure	Horse / donkey / camel / pony	Sheep / goat / cattle
Area for one animal	100 m <sup>2</sup>	50 m <sup>2</sup>
Area additional animal	50 m <sup>2</sup>	25 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum width	6 m	2.5 m

- 5.C.3.** The compound must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the ungulates held within the compound. Where possible, the ground underfoot must be clean, well-drained, non-abrasive and not stony.
- 5.C.4.** The display compound *must not* contain any known harmful ingestibles within the animals' reach.<sup>4 4</sup>
- 5.C.5.** Under some circumstances the tethering of ungulates for short periods of time is acceptable. These circumstances are during storms, at night, or to isolate an aggressive male during the animal's breeding season. Under these circumstances, the tether length must be a minimum of six metres for horses, donkeys, camels and ponies, and a minimum of four metres for sheep, goats and cattle.
- 5.C.6.** Horses and ponies may be contained via the use of stabling, where the use of outdoor compounds is not available. In these instances stables must be at least 2.5 metres high, with a minimum floor area of 12 m<sup>2</sup> for one horse, and 9 m<sup>2</sup> for one pony. Within the stables, the animals must not be tethered and must have visual contact with others of their species. Appropriate bedding and drainage must be provided, the stables must be adequately ventilated, and the lighting should be as natural as possible.

### 5.D. Elephants

**5.D.1.** Except under special circumstances, it is unacceptable to tether elephants during daylight hours using metal leg bands and chains or any equivalent form of restraint. Therefore, any circus considering holding elephants must be competent in containing elephants via the use of electric fencing. The special circumstances when elephants may be tethered for short periods during daylight hours are during storms, when the elephant trainer/handler is temporarily absent from the circus, in an emergency situation, or for immediate human safety. For safety reasons tethers are allowed at night. When elephants are tethered, only a metal leg band may be used and this must be placed around *only* one leg and with a minimum tether length of four metres.

### 5.D.2. Minimum display dimensions for Asiatic elephants

Enclosure	Area
Single or pair elephants	600 m <sup>2</sup>
Each extra elephant	200 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum width	10 m

<sup>4</sup> Camels and goats in particular tend to be indiscriminate browsers and, as a consequence, any access to poisonous plants or harmful materials (such as plastic bags) may have adverse affects.

**5.D.3.** The compound must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the elephants held within the compound. Where possible, the ground underfoot must be clean, well-drained, non-abrasive and not stony.

## **5.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees**

**5.E.1.** When at a performance site, all primates must be given access to display areas in accordance with the size dimensions outlined in 5.E.2. If this area requirement is not provided within the travelling wagon itself, demountable enclosures annexed to the primates' beast wagon must be provided. Annexes should be constructed from steel-tube, framed, interlocking mesh panels or other materials of sufficient strength to contain primates. These exercise areas must be available at all times during daylight hours.

### **5.E.2. Minimum display dimensions for primates**

Enclosure	Small primates / macaque-sized	Large primates, chimps and baboons
Minimum floor space for one animal	5 m <sup>2</sup>	20 m <sup>2</sup>
Increased floor space for each additional animal	2.5 m <sup>2</sup>	10 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum height	2.5 m	2.5 m
Minimum width	2.4 m	2.4 m

**5.E.3.** Due to their extreme activity levels, primates have one of the highest living space requirements and cage sizes must be maximised. The utilisation of cage volume as well as the dimension of height must be maximised by fixing climbing elements within the cage (such as solid branches, mezzanine floors, etc.).

**5.E.4.** Primates of different species may mix in the display areas, provided that there is no evidence of interspecies aggression.

**5.E.5.** Primates must be kept occupied as much as possible when not performing or training. This can be achieved through the use of durable toys, swings, climbing elements, grips and perches. These playthings must be changed regularly, to provide a periodic change in stimuli.

**5.E.6.** Access to the primates must be through a double locked door that allows clear vision into the enclosure. Primates must be excluded from the area before the handler/keeper enters.

**5.E.7.** The enclosure must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the primates within the enclosure.

## **5.F. Birds**

**5.F.1.** Once the circus has arrived at the performance venue, birds must be released as soon as possible from their travelling cages into their display cages.

- 5.F.2. Perches must consist of uneven-diameter, natural tree branches that do not have an abrasive surface. At least one perch per bird in the cage shall be of a sufficient height above the floor of the cage, so that all tail feathers of the bird are at least six centimetres above the floor of the cage, regardless of the bird's posture.
- 5.F.3. If the species in the cage is capable of flight, and is resident as a single bird, the dimensions of the cage must be sufficient for a bird of that species to be able to attain active flight within the cage by taking five unhurried wing beats along the length of the cage.
- 5.F.4. If the species in the cage is capable of flight, and if more than one bird is to be held in the cage, then the total volume of the cage is to increase by 50% of the size of a cage for a single bird, for each extra bird.
- 5.F.5. Individuals that fight must be assigned separate, appropriately dimensioned facilities.
- 5.F.6. The cage must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the birds within the cage.
- 5.F.7. If impervious flooring is to be used, then a cage substrate must be used which is plentiful and absorbent. The substrate must be changed weekly.
- 5.F.8. Display cages holding birds must be placed well away from any animals that may cause the birds to injure themselves through cage panic.

## **6. Night quarters**

- 6.1. Since most caged animals tend to defecate in one given area of the cage, the food presentation and sleeping areas must be set as far away as possible from these areas to prevent faecal contamination of food and bedding.

Where animals are seen not to practise this sort of 'cage discipline', containers and bedding areas must be raised above cage floor level. Water and food containers should never be placed under perches in the case of birds.

### **6.A. Big cats**

- 6.A.1. The night quarters of big cats may consist of their transportation wagons. Big cats must have access to dry overnight shelter that provides protection from climatic extremes.
- 6.A.2. Bedding in the form of dry straw or other suitable material changed daily will provide adequate insulation for the cats.

### **6.B. Dogs**

- 6.B.1. Dogs must have access to dry shelter overnight that provides protection from climatic extremes.
- 6.B.2. Suitable bedding material must be provided for insulation. An area free of bedding must also be available for each dog at night.

### **6.C. Ungulates and camelids**

- 6.C.1. Ungulates and camelids must have access to overnight shelter that will protect them from climatic extremes.

## **6.D. Elephants**

**6.D.1.** Elephants must have access to overnight shelter that will protect them from climatic extremes.

## **6.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees**

**6.E.1.** The night quarters of primates may consist of their transportation wagons. Primates must have access to dry overnight shelter that provides protection from climatic extremes.

**6.E.2.** A form of bedding material must be provided for insulation. Suitable materials include dry straw and shredded newspaper.

## **6.F. Birds**

**6.F.1.** Within their exhibition cages, birds must have high perches and/or night boxes to provide shelter when they roost for the night. These should be set well away from the sides of the cages, to prevent cage panic.

**6.F.2.** The exhibition cages must be adequate to protect the birds from predators.

## **Behavioural training**

### **7. General requirements**

**7.1.** Animals shall receive at least 45 minutes exercise per day, on four days of every week, in the form of training sessions and/or public performance. On the remaining days, the animals must have access to exercise yards.<sup>5</sup> All animals must have access to a display cage with the size dimensions as outlined in this document, for a minimum of six hours each day during daylight hours.

**7.2.** The training methods used must not be capable of causing distress, pain or injury to any animal involved, in the long or short-term. For this reason, the use of fire in animal acts is prohibited.

**7.3.** When the animals are being trained, care must be exercised in ensuring that the skeletal musculature of the animals is developing or has developed sufficiently to meet the demands placed on it by the training.

**7.4.** If a worsening musculoskeletal condition manifests itself, all training must be discontinued until this condition and its cause are properly diagnosed and treated by a veterinary surgeon experienced with the species of animal involved.

**7.5.** Special care must be exercised with young, growing animals and old animals, and training regimes should be modified accordingly.

**7.6.** Animals that are clinically ill must not be trained until a veterinary surgeon experienced with the species of animals concerned states that the animals have sufficiently recovered or are capable of training or performing.

**7.7.** All training methods must be based on a positive reinforcement approach (i.e. the anticipation of a reward for successfully completing a desired behaviour). Negative reinforcement must never be used.

**7.8.** The reward for the successful completion of a desired behaviour must be immediate and tangible for the animal.

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<sup>5</sup> This does not apply when the circus is travelling or the animals are in a layover period as described by this Code.

- 7.9. Physical punishment of any animal is not permissible.
- 7.10. Any stools, ladders, planks or steps used as props must either be fixed to the ringsides or have a wide enough base to be sufficiently stable. If there are any wood elements within these items, this wood must not be splintery or split. Any props must be well-designed and as simple as possible.<sup>6</sup>

## 8. Command and bridging signals

- 8.1. No training or command implement must be used in such a manner that pain, injury or distress will be inflicted on the animal.
- 8.2. Any device capable of administering an electric shock must not be used for training animals for performance.
- 8.3. Elephant hooks must have a probe (blunt) point on the hook, and must never be applied in a painful manner. Gentle pressure applied with the hook to the ears or to the elbows is acceptable. All other guiding pressures should be applied with the butt or the side of the stick.
- 8.4. Collars, head collars or leads should not be jerked or pulled forcefully in order to guide an animal.
- 8.5. Rattans (canes) and other types of rods may be used to push or guide an animal, and may be struck against each other or against apparatus to provide a noise stimulus. They *must not* be used to strike an animal. The ends of these devices must always be blunt.
- 8.6. The use of sharp spurs or spurs with fixed rowels is banned.
- 8.7. All training implements must be non-toxic to animals, by virtue of their composition and construction.
- 8.8. Animals must not be struck with any training device, unless the safety of humans or other animals is under direct threat.

## 9. Types of behaviours

- 9.1. Trained behaviours must incorporate bodily movements that are within the enhanced normal physical capability of the animal. Animals must not perform movements that carry a high risk of injury.
- 9.2. The apparatus that animals may make use of in the course of their trained behaviours must be easy for them to use and have minimal foreseeable potential to cause them injury.
- 9.3. Animals that are unwilling to perform a desired behaviour, for whatever reason, must not be forced to continue.

If any animal is unwilling to perform a desired behaviour, it may:

- initially refuse, or balk at performing the behaviour;
- attempt to please the trainer by performing an alternative behaviour;

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<sup>6</sup> When deciding on a colour for a prop that the animal must be able to see in order to use properly, it should be remembered that most animals are colour blind. Therefore, the colour of the prop should contrast clearly with that of its background. As animals' eyes are sensitive to shape and motion, the shape of the prop should also contrast with that of its background. This will enhance the prop's visibility to the animal. Swirling designs that break up the outline of the prop should not be used, as they make the prop it harder for an animal to see. The same should apply to the inside of the circus ring.

- perform a displacement activity (such as a grooming manoeuvre) which may be stereotypical in nature;
- attempt to escape the proximity of the trainer.

**9.4.** It is considered essential that animals be constantly provided with minor changes in their behavioural repertoire.<sup>7</sup>

**9.5.** Trainers must halt a training session if a decreased attention span and an increasing level of unwillingness to perform a behaviour by the animal becomes apparent.<sup>8 8</sup>

### **9.A. Big cats**

Lions and other big cats may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Stationing (each animal to its own perch); assemblage (animals arranged together in various groups and postures); rearing, leaping (over obstacles, through hoops—but *not* hoops of fire—onto narrow perches, etc.); vocalising; rolling; close contact with handler (trainer lying against or sitting on animal, 'shaking hands', manual opening of jaws, etc.); balancing acts (running along narrow plank, etc.).

### **9.B. Dogs**

Dogs may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Stationing; assemblage; bipedal walking and dancing; vocalising; leaping on, or over, or through, various objects; rolling; retrieving objects.

### **9.C. Ungulates and camelids**

Ungulates and camelids may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Assemblage; stationing; gait changes on command; 'dancing'; rearing; bipedal walking (not camelids); foot tapping; vocalising; prehension of objects (e.g. retrieving a scarf); wheeling; synchronised movement.

### **9.D. Elephants**

Elephants may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Stationing; assemblage; rearing; vocalising; prehension (with the trunk); wheeling; balancing acts (restricted to cylinders not balls); weight lifting; dancing.<sup>9 9</sup>

### **9.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees**

Primates may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

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<sup>7</sup> This will provide a constant level of mental stimulation for the animals. The level of variation instigated will always remain the prerogative of the trainer. This variation is intended for the benefit of the animals. If it becomes apparent that variation is causing distress in the animals, then variation should either be decreased or ceased altogether.

<sup>8</sup> This should be taken as a signal that the animal has 'had enough'. The exposure level that animals are able to cope with is very much dependent on the individual animal. It is important that the trainers develop sufficient rapport with their charges to detect signs that the training session should be terminated for the moment.

<sup>9</sup> Elephants are usually trained using the 'mahout' principle, which involves contact with only one trainer. Elephants need to be accustomed to taking orders from humans, so that everyday handling is not a trauma for either the animals or the handler. Because they are social animals, they also appear to benefit psychologically from the stimuli provided by their mahouts and from the training and performance of desired behaviours.

Stationing; assemblage; balancing and climbing acts (may include the use of apparatus); object retrieval; vocalisation; 'dancing'; riding (on the back of other animal species).

## 9.F. Birds

Birds may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Stationing; assemblage; vocalising; 'dancing'; balancing acts (may involve the use of apparatus); object prehension and retrieval.

## 10. Animal dignity

10.1. For performance purposes, it is acceptable to ceremonially dress animals as traditionally practised (both historically and culturally).

10.2. No costume shall be used that belittles the animal.

## Medical

### 11. Disease/distress

11.1. Regular inspection and evaluations of animal housing by circus staff must take place when feeding and cleaning, to monitor hygiene levels and potential problems.

11.2. Recognising signs of distress and ascertaining the causes of such distress is vital. The cause of the distress must then be removed or alleviated as much as is possible. Veterinary advice should be obtained where the cause cannot be identified.<sup>10</sup>

11.3. Animal excrement must be removed from the animal's environment as soon as possible. The methods used for removal must not be a source of stress to the animal concerned.

11.4. All tools, utensils and working surfaces associated with the preparation of food for animal consumption must be kept clean and in good repair.

11.5. All food offered to animals must be clean, fresh, appropriate and wholesome.

### 12. Veterinarian attention

12.1. Circus management must establish a regular arrangement with veterinary surgeons who have specialised knowledge of the families of animals found in that circus. These veterinarians must check all circus animals on a six-monthly basis, regardless of the state of health of the animals. Where regular veterinarians are unavailable, sick or injured animals should be examined by a local veterinarian, who should be provided with the regular veterinarian's contact address and phone number.

12.2. Copies of all medical records pertaining to each circus animal must be maintained by the circus and must travel with the animal in a central accessible location. Copies of medical records must travel with the animals to ensure any consulting veterinarian can immediately view the medical record of a particular animal.

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<sup>10</sup> Signs of psychological distress include:

- self mutilation of no dermatological cause;
- excessive self grooming;
- repetitive stereotypical behaviour;
- changes in eating, defecating and urinating habits;
- abnormal aggression or withdrawal, either toward keepers or toward the animal's cage mates.

- 12.3. Circuses must maintain an up-to-date list and locality guide of suitably qualified veterinarians and make themselves familiar with the name and location of the nearest veterinarian upon arriving at a given venue.
- 12.4. If any treatment commenced involves the use of a prescription-scheduled drug, the advice and attendance of a registered veterinarian must be sought. Should a suitably qualified veterinarian not be available, the advice of a veterinarian must be gained verbally over the phone and confirmed by fax or letter for the animal's medical record.
- 12.5. If a veterinarian diagnoses a disease condition that requires hospitalisation, the animal should be removed for treatment or, if the space is available, hospital facilities can be set up within the circus. This would consist of a separate area within the existing facilities, where the animal can be contained, isolated, monitored and nursed if necessary.
- 12.6. If a diagnosed disease involves an infectious agent that renders it communicable to other animals, or to humans, a hospital area within the circus must be quarantined. Only selected staff shall have access to the area, and disinfection measures should be devised under the guidance of the attending veterinarian to prevent the spread of the disease.
- 12.7. Any act of veterinary science must *only* be performed by a registered veterinarian. The detoothing or declawing of a big cat is not an acceptable surgical procedure, unless the surgery is likely to improve the animal's health.
- 12.8. Veterinary opinion must be sought before moving animals in late stages of pregnancy.

### **13. Drug administration**

- 13.1. S4 and S8 drugs administered to animals in a circus must be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon. Circus staff with previous experience in the procedures may administer drugs, but only at the direction of a veterinarian. Circus staff should be aware of the limitations that the *Veterinary Surgeons Act* place on what procedures may be performed by lay people.
- 13.2. In the use of non-prescription drugs, labelled directions must be followed.
- 13.3. All animals must be properly restrained for injections. Sterile disposable needles and syringes must be used for all injections. Darts may be used if necessary.

### **14. Euthanasia**

- 14.1. The decision to perform euthanasia is ultimately the responsibility of the circus proprietor or his/her delegate. Euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian, except in an emergency when a veterinarian is not available. In emergencies, the advice of a veterinarian should be obtained verbally.
- 14.2. The only method of non-veterinary euthanasia that is permissible is gunshot to the brain. The individual performing the euthanasia must meet the relevant legislative requirements regarding the use of firearms. The person should have knowledge or prior experience in the methods of successfully euthanasing that particular species of animal. The animal to be euthanased must be properly restrained, to avoid the likelihood of the shooter missing and not killing the animal with the first shot. Suitable calibre firearms and ammunition must be available for all circus animals held.

## **Interaction**

### **15. Public/animal interaction**

#### **15.A. Big cats**

- 15.A.1.** Only circus workers with whom the big cats are familiar are permitted to have unsupervised and unrestricted close access to the cats' facilities.
- 15.A.2.** Members of the public must be restrained behind a safety barrier that is two metres from the cats' cage. Access beyond the safety barrier by members of the public is not allowed.
- 15.A.3.** While on display, big cats must always have access to an area away from public view.
- 15.A.4.** It should always be remembered that these animals are potentially dangerous to members of the public, and pictorial signs must be used on safety barriers to alert the public to this fact.

#### **15.B. Dogs**

- 15.B.1.** Supervising staff must ensure that no circus dog is teased or otherwise abused by members of the public.
- 15.B.2.** If one of the circus dogs is unwell or frightened, it must be kept away from the public to minimise the risk of further stress on the animal.
- 15.B.3.** Dogs must not be confined in such a manner that it is impossible for them to retreat from members of the public. They must always be provided with an area where they can remove themselves from public attention, while still receiving socialisation from other dogs.

#### **15.C. Ungulates and camelids**

- 15.C.1.** Ungulates and camelids must be confined so that they can avoid the attentions of members of the public if they wish to do so.
- 15.C.2.** Under the supervision of authorised circus personnel, members of the public may pet and feed ungulates and camelids. The supervisor must ensure that the food is appropriate, that the animals are not stressed or mistreated, and that the public are not put at risk.

#### **15.D. Elephants**

- 15.D.1.** Members of the public must never be allowed to approach an elephant unsupervised. It should always be remembered that elephants are potentially dangerous to members of the public, and pictorial signs must be used on safety barriers to alert the public to this fact.
- 15.D.2.** Elephants must be confined so that they can avoid the attentions of members of the public if they wish to do so.

#### **15.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees**

- 15.E.1.** No member of the public should ever be allowed to approach a primate unsupervised. It should always be remembered that primates are potentially dangerous to members of the

public, and pictorial signs must be used on safety barriers to alert the public to this fact. Safety barriers must be placed at a sufficient distance from the primates' exhibit, to ensure that the primates and viewing public cannot come into physical contact.

**15.E.2.** Primates must always have access to alcoves to which they can retire, away from public view.

## **15.F. Birds**

**15.F.1.** Display cages for birds must include some form of solid partition or small box into which they can retreat, to remove themselves from public view if they wish.

## **16. Interaction between animals**

### **16.A. Big cats**

#### **16.A.1. Lions**

Lions are social animals with a well-defined hierarchy within their colonies (prides); therefore, direct interaction between colony members is considered essential. Due to this fact, it is vital that lions normally be housed together and that they have frequent contact with personnel ordinarily engaged to manage them. Lions requiring temporary separation from the rest of the group must be provided with the display space requirements for an individual animal as outlined in 5.A.2. This requirement excludes periods when the animal is separated from the rest of the group for the purposes of veterinary treatment. In such a case, the veterinarian will advise on the confinement space necessary.

It is vital that any wagon used to transport lions can be subdivided into separate compartments for each lion if required.<sup>11</sup>

#### **16.A.2. Tigers**

It is acceptable to house tigers together, provided that there is no antagonism between cage mates.

It is vital that any wagon used to hold tigers can be subdivided into separate compartments for each tiger if required.<sup>12</sup>

#### **16.A.3. Leopards**

Facilities to hold leopards must have provision to transport, display and feed all leopards separately.<sup>13</sup>

### **16.B. Dogs**

**16.B.1.** Dogs have a strong hierarchical tendency, which tends to make colony situations self-regulating. Protective measures to intervene should only be taken if one individual is

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<sup>11</sup> It may be necessary to separate lions if hierarchy is enforced to the detriment of one or some individuals. This occurs most commonly during feeding time, but will also occur if a lioness is in oestrus, or if a frustrated male displays sexual aggression to a lesser male. Fights regarding dominance are often unavoidable, but separation may sometimes be counterproductive in that it prevents the issue at hand from being properly sorted out, and sometimes can prolong the aggression and resentment

<sup>12</sup> Tigers are social cats, but less so than lions. A hierarchy will always form, and this should be observed, evaluated and taken into account when handling or housing these animals. Tigers must be fed separately as, in the wild, they are accustomed to feeding solitarily on their kills

<sup>13</sup> Of all the big cats, this group tends to behave in a manner most similar to that of the domestic cat. Animals in this group tend to be solitary creatures, although some individuals will tolerate the sharing of their cage with another if they are 'old friends'. However, this is the exception rather than the rule. Therefore, there must be provision to transport, display and feed all leopards separately.

being constantly attacked, or if an attack is likely to lead to serious injury or the death of the losing dog. A retreat area must always be provided for individuals to separate themselves from the group.

### **16.C. Ungulates and camelids**

**16.C.1.** As ungulates and camelids are social herd animals, they must always have visual access to others of their species.<sup>14</sup>

### **6.D. Elephants**

**16.D.1.** As elephants are social herd animals, unless compelling reasons can be shown, they must always be able to see and touch other elephants.

### **16.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees**

**16.E.1.** An awareness of the hierarchy within a primate colony is essential in helping to minimise incompatible individuals being in contact with each other, as this contact can result in physical and mental injury from fighting and bullying. The fact that primates can become 'bonded' to individual humans (and can certainly recognise different humans), and the fact that they display jealousy, must also be considered when determining the composition of primate groups who share the same cage.

**16.E.2.** Primates must have the opportunity to have visual contact with other primates, even where incompatibility necessitates physical separation. Where two animals are incompatible, visual barriers must be provided within their enclosure. This is because stress can result from two incompatible individuals not being able to remove themselves from each other's sight. Wherever possible, primates must be housed in a group situation.

**16.E.3.** Primates must be able to retire to places that provide privacy from other members of the group. Such places must be available to all inhabitants of a shared cage, regardless of their social status within the colony.

### **16.F. Birds**

**16.F.1.** Compatible birds may be housed together, as long as the display cage is large enough to prevent harassment by cage mates. The personal space required by each bird is entirely dependent on the species and temperament of the individual.

## **17. Trainer/handler and animal interaction**

**17.1.** If a trained act is to change hands, a transfer period must be undertaken in the presence of the old trainer, until such time as the new trainer can satisfactorily work the act and gain the confidence of the animals.

**17.2.** Trainer/handler requirements:

- a commitment to the welfare of the animals under that person's care<sup>15</sup>;

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<sup>14</sup> Most ungulates will only assert dominance over other members of their colony if there is something that cannot be shared equally between all members. This may be feed, an oestrus female, or a choice spot in the enclosure. Therefore, feed should be made equally available as should 'good' areas of the enclosure. During the mating season, rival males may have to be separated, and males and females may have to be separated if breeding is not desired.

- a thorough familiarity with the behavioural tendencies of the species for which they are engaged to be responsible;
- a thorough familiarity with the potential physical capabilities of the species for which they are engaged to be responsible;
- a thorough familiarity with the accepted methods of handling, physical restraint and training of the species for which they are engaged to be responsible;
- a basic sense of hygiene, cleanliness and neatness in regard to facilities, equipment and feed;
- basic skills in visually assessing animal demeanour, physical condition, faecal output, feed intake, etc.;
- the ability to maintain coherent, comprehensive and relevant records in relation to the animals under their care;
- the ability to liaise with the circus management;
- the ability to delegate responsibility appropriately where circumstances warrant this;
- the ability to recognise and carry out safe work practices;
- the ability to liaise with the visiting public<sup>16</sup>;
- ability and willingness to consult and communicate with veterinary consultants.

**17.3.** Staff who are going to be involved in the care of animals in circuses should be encouraged to utilise the following avenues to enhance their skills and knowledge:

- Undertake one of a number of formal courses dealing specifically with specialised animal care (i.e. animal husbandry, zoo keeping, animal ethics). Many animal care courses can now be undertaken by correspondence.
- Obtain regular access to relevant new literature, in order to keep abreast of recent developments in the animal husbandry field.

**17.4.** Interested members of the public shall be encouraged to watch training sessions and to ask questions. All animal handlers must be prepared to answer reasonable public queries regarding the animals in their care<sup>17</sup>.

**17.5.** Staff involved in the care of animals in circuses must first undergo work experience on an apprenticeship basis. This shall be undertaken with a person who is recognised as having experience in animal care with the relevant species.

**17.6.** Staff involved in the care of circus animals should have regular opportunities to visit other circuses, conferences, or personnel in order to keep abreast of recent developments in the animal-keeping field.

**17.7.** Each animal act must have two handlers/trainers who are capable of working the act or exercising the animals. This is to ensure that an absence from the circus by one

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<sup>15</sup> This is the most important relationship between animal and human in the circus environment, as it often involves vital physical and social interaction for the animals. Trainers should aim to relate to their charges on an individual basis. In this way, trainers will be able to detect problems (physical, medical or psychological) and hidden talents in their animals before anybody else can.

<sup>16</sup> Because members of the public ultimately determine the viability of a circus, questions from the public must always be treated with respect, even if the person asking the questions is basically antagonistic towards the idea of animals in circuses. The circus must demonstrate its willingness to talk to any member of the public about any aspect of the presence of animals in circuses

<sup>17</sup> It should always be remembered that the public may not be aware of things that the circus staff take for granted. If an animal displays fear or anxiety while in the ring, the reasons for that fear should be explained to the audience. If a movement that the animal is performing looks awkward, the presenter should whenever possible point out the animal will not be hurt.

handler/trainer does not result in stress on the animals through separation from their familiar trainer/handler, coupled with lack of training/performance/exercise.

## **Husbandry**

### **18. Behavioural enrichment**

#### **18.A. Big cats**

**18.A.1.** Big cats must have access to wood in their display cages, to serve as scratching and marking posts. Round, untreated pine uprights are a suitable material.

**18.A.2.** Big cats utilise trees in their natural habitat; therefore, high perches and places to climb must be provided in display cages holding them. Perches should be constructed of round section wood and should provide at least one fork for an animal to rest in. Folding, raised shelving can be used within the transportation wagon to provide elevated areas for big cats.

#### **18.B. Dogs**

**18.B.1.** Because of their long-standing association with humans, dogs derive a large amount of stimulation from interacting with people. Training also gives dogs the stimulation of learning new performance behaviours.

**18.B.2.** As dogs are pack animals, they derive stimulation in interacting with other dogs. Therefore, they must be housed together wherever possible.

#### **18.C. Ungulates and Camelids**

**18.C.1.** As ungulates and camelids are herd animals, they derive stimulation in interacting with other members of their own species. Therefore, they must be housed with their own species wherever possible. Where two individuals sharing the same enclosure results in constant fighting or bullying, these individuals must be physically, but not visually, separated.

#### **18.D. Elephants**

**18.D.1.** As elephants are herd animals, they derive stimulation in interacting with other members of their own species. Therefore, unless compelling reasons can be shown, they must be housed with their own species. Where two individuals sharing the same enclosure results in constant fighting or bullying, these individuals must be physically, but not visually, separated.

**18.D.2.** Because elephants are intelligent, inquisitive and social creatures, they must be supplied with mental stimulation, avenues of play, and social contact with humans and other elephants. In between shows, elephants must be given durable objects to play with, provided these objects are not capable of causing the elephants injury.

#### **18.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees**

**18.E.1.** As primates are highly social animals, it is very important that they derive stimulation from interacting with others of their own species. Primates must never be housed alone unless aggression between individuals causes a health threat to a particular individual, in which case the aggressor should be separated temporarily.

**18.E.2.** Every effort must be made to encourage foraging behaviour by hiding food such as nuts in different areas of the enclosure, including clean substrate.

## **18.F. Birds**

**18.F.1.** Parrots must be provided with natural perches and fresh leaved branches to chew, on a regular basis. Every effort must be made to encourage foraging behaviour by hiding food in different areas of the enclosure. Parrots may also benefit from the presence of play elements within their cages, such as swings and bells.

**18.F.2.** Domestic waterfowl must be provided with water to swim in when housed in display enclosures.

**18.F.3.** Domestic geese should be given access to a grassed area for at least four hours every day.

## **19. Tethering/harnessing**

### **19.A. Big cats**

**19.A.1.** Big cats may only be tethered during training sessions, while in the presence of the trainer.

### **19.B. Dogs**

**19.B.1.** Dogs may be tethered via a running lead. The minimum length of the running leash must be four metres.

**19.B.2.** Only non-chafing collars may be worn by dogs. They must be regularly checked to ensure that they have not become too tight or too loose. Non-chafing shoulder harnesses may be worn by dogs during performances and training sessions.

### **19.C. Ungulates and camelids**

**19.C.1.** Tethering of ungulates and camelids is only allowable at night, during storms, and to temporarily separate an aggressive animal from other animals. The minimum tether length for horses, donkeys, camelids and ponies is six metres. The minimum tether length for goats, sheep and cattle is four metres.

**19.C.2.** During performances the use of halters, bridles with bits, saddles, trap and carriage harnesses may be used on horses and ponies, as long as they have no components that may damage the animals skin. The equipment must be applied so that no galls, rubs, bruises or cuts result. Nose rings may be used to control cattle while they are being performed, as may nose pegs in camels.

**19.C.3.** When ungulates or camelids are not performing or are tethered, no harnesses of any sort (except a light headstall) shall be worn by the animals. The headstall must not rub around the animal's ears or cheeks.

**19.C.4.** Camels must not be tethered via their nose pegs. If tethered for transportation, camels must be restrained with a long tether tied from their headstall to floor level, so that the camel can completely sit down.

**19.C.5.** Cattle must not be tethered via their nose rings.

**19.C.6.** Tethers for ungulates and camelids must be constructed of light rope or another material that is strong enough to contain the animal, but does not weigh down the

animal's head. Metal chain may only be used on a tether when an animal is to be staked outdoors. Under these circumstances, the chain must form the extreme lower section of the tether (that nearest the ground) and must not exceed 30 centimetres in length.

## **19.D. Elephants**

- 19.D.1.** Except under special circumstances, it is unacceptable to tether elephants during daylight hours using metal leg bands and chains or any equivalent form of restraint (see 5.D.1).
- 19.D.2.** Harnessing of elephants during performances is allowed if the elephant is going to pull or carry something. A harness must be applied so that no rubs, cuts, galls or bruises result. Metal components of these harnesses must not come into direct contact with the animal's skin, especially under pressure. Decorative headpieces may be worn, but these must be removed when the elephant is not performing.

## **19.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees**

- 19.E.1.** Primates may be fitted with permanent non-chafing, leather, neck collars with a maximum of 10 centimetres of light metal chain. Permanent collars must be checked on a weekly basis for tightening around the animal's neck and adjusted accordingly. Shoulder harnesses may be used for the purposes of training and performance handling *only*. They must be removed after the animal has completed its performance or training session.
- 19.E.2.** Primates may only be tethered immediately prior to performance or training for a maximum of 15 minutes.

## **19.F. Birds**

- 19.F.1.** Birds may not be tethered.

## **20. Grooming**

### **20.A. Big cats**

- 20.A.1.** Tough, raw meat (including raw bones) in sizes that necessitate chewing shall be provided to maintain cats' tooth and gum health.
- 20.A.2.** Access to wood for scratching will maintain the health of the cats' claws and their sheaths.

### **20.B. Dogs**

- 20.B.1.** Teeth and gum health is to be maintained by feeding the animal tough, raw meat (including raw bones) at least twice a week, or substituting this with a chewable item, such as beef hide chew.
- 20.B.2.** Dogs' coats and toenails must be maintained in good condition<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>18</sup> Most dogs have self-grooming coats. The long-haired breeds should either be clipped or brushed and combed regularly to prevent the coats from building up and matting. Dogs should not be bathed more than once a week, and only mild human shampoos or special dog shampoos should be used, followed by conditioner. If a dog's toenails are long enough to touch the ground when the dog is standing square, these should be trimmed to the correct length, avoiding the quick.

## **20.C. Ungulates and camelids**

- 20.C.1.** Ungulates and camelids must have their coats groomed sufficiently often enough to maintain the desired level of cleanliness.
- 20.C.2.** Ungulates' hooves must be trimmed regularly so that they don't split, separate from the sole, or start to curl upwards.
- 20.C.3.** Teeth must be inspected once every three months to ensure that no sharp points are developing. Any sharp points should be rasped back.

## **20.D. Elephants**

- 20.D.1.** Elephants' feet must be inspected regularly, and the toenail length should be kept sufficiently short, so that the toenails do not splay or start to curl outwards.
- Regular nail trimming and rasping may be necessary. The feet must be inspected at least once a week to ensure that the soles and nails are in good order.
- 20.D.2.** Where grooming materials (water, loose dirt, large trees to rub against) are not accessible, and elephants are unable to self-groom, they should have their hides bathed and scrubbed once a day to remove loose skin flakes. The exception to this is where the ambient temperature falls below 15 degrees Celsius, in which case elephants should be brush cleaned.

## **20.E. Monkeys/chimpanzees**

- 20.E.1.** Teeth and gum health shall be maintained by providing a diet that includes firm foods, such as apples, to polish the teeth and massage the gums.

## **20.F. Birds**

- 20.F.1.** Birds will groom themselves. Access to cuttlebone and similar substances will aid beak and claw maintenance. Access to baths is compulsory.
- 20.F.2.** The correct perches (natural branches of varying widths) and floor substrate (natural material) will maintain the birds claws.

## **21. Record keeping**

- 21.1.** Regular, accurate and detailed records must be maintained for each individual animal. These records must show:
- species (common and scientific name);
  - given name of animal and its sex;
  - date of birth;
  - name of breeder, place of birth, sire and dam (if known);
  - date of acquisition by circus;
  - previous ownerships—names and dates;
  - breeding history—mating dates, mating partners, number and sex of any offspring, and the fate of those offspring;
  - medical history (including diagnoses of diseases, medical treatments, surgical procedures, vaccinations). Dates are essential;

- any scaring or distinguishing marks;
- any noteworthy incidents involving this animal;
- any comments or precautions (e.g. side effects of certain drugs);
- identification—e.g. leg band, ear tag, microchip, tattoo number or appropriate photograph;
- dietary preferences;
- routine husbandry procedures (nail trimming, hoof trimming, worming, etc.).

**21.2.** Circus establishments must continue to record the numbers of animals they hold and/or exhibit, and the species of animals they have had. Individual records must be retained in a safe place for the life of the animal plus three years.