



PETA Factsheet

Franzen Bros. Circus

USDA License #58-C-0447 7725 CR 48 W., Bushnell, FL 33513

Franzen Bros. Circus has failed to meet minimal federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Franzen Bros. Circus for failure to provide veterinary care, failure to meet animals' nutritional requirements, failure to provide sanitary conditions, and repeated failure to maintain transport trailers. A tiger attacked and killed Wayne Franzen during a performance. Brian Franzen was convicted of cruelty to animals when several emaciated ponies were confiscated from a filthy trailer. Franzen Bros. Circus leases animal acts to other circuses, including Shrine Circus, Sterling & Reid Circus, and Royal Hanneford Circus. Contact PETA for documentation.

January 11, 2010: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to provide records regarding the euthanasia of a tiger named Nona and for storing potentially toxic materials adjacent to thawing meat.

November 19, 2009: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to provide a travel itinerary for the entire year as well as failure to be available to allow the USDA to conduct an animal welfare inspection.

December 9, 2008: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to maintain a tiger cage in good repair. The cage had splintered plywood flooring that posed a risk of injury to the animals and that could not be properly cleaned.

January 4, 2006: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to provide veterinary care to an elephant who had overgrown soles and for failure to provide documentation of compliance with the program of veterinary care.

January 8, 2003: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to maintain structures in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury.

February 4, 2002: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to allow a USDA official access to animals, records, and property for the purpose of conducting an animal welfare inspection.

August 1, 2001: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to provide two tigers with minimum space. The cages were too small to allow them to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement.

May 9, 2001: A USDA inspector noted that tuberculosis test results for trunk-wash cultures from elephants had not been received for the 2001 season.

October 5, 2000: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to maintain a transport trailer.

February 22, 1999: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to maintain transport trailers, including one that was used for lions and tigers and that had been severely damaged after being hit by a truck.

January 25, 1999: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to maintain transport trailers in a manner that protects the elephants from injury.

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October 16, 1998: According to *The Press-Enterprise* (Riverside, California), “In a plea bargain agreement, [Brian] Franzen, 23, was ordered to pay \$1,287 in restitution and was placed on probation for three years ... after pleading guilty to two counts of keeping his animals in filthy trailers. He also agreed to allow any law enforcement officer to inspect his animals without a warrant. ... [On April 3] Officials from the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley claimed the ponies were severely dehydrated, malnourished and living in filth. One animal subsequently died.”

October 3, 1998: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. The inspector noted that the toenails on the Asian elephant were overgrown and misshapen, with chips and cracks.

April 28, 1998: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for a second time for failure to have a veterinary care program, meet the nutritional requirements of exotic cats, and properly maintain a transport trailer for an elephant.

April 17, 1998: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to have a veterinary care program, meet the nutritional requirements of exotic cats, and properly maintain a transport trailer for an elephant.

April 3, 1998: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for inadequate cleaning of trailers and cages, failure to submit the required itinerary, inadequate exercise and space, and poorly maintained transport trailers. The trailer that was being used to transport the lions and tigers was placed “out of service” and towed by authorities when it was found to be without trailer brakes. Brian Franzen was charged with cruelty to animals by the San Bernardino Humane Society in California after humane investigators found several emaciated ponies in a filthy trailer while Franzen was touring with Sterling & Reid Circus.

May 8, 1997: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to have a veterinary care program, maintain transport trailers, and keep records of acquisition and disposition.

May 7, 1997: Wayne Franzen, the founder and owner of Franzen Bros. Circus, was killed by one of the tigers whom he was exhibiting in front of 200 schoolchildren and their families in Carrolltown, Pennsylvania.

November 19, 1996: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to maintain transport trailers and for unsanitary conditions in the tiger enclosures.

September 30, 1996: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to supply the required itinerary.

September 20, 1996: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to supply the required itinerary.

December 30, 1994: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for failure to keep records of veterinary care, for unsanitary cages (with feces, food waste, and hair buildup), and for using unsafe enclosures for animals.

February 17, 1994: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for unsanitary cages and unsafe enclosures for animals.

February 1993: The USDA cited Franzen Bros. for cages that were in need of repair and for having no record of veterinary care.

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