



## **PETA** Factsheet

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### Circus Gatti

USDA License # 93-C-0792 P.O. Box 127, DeLand, FL 32721

**Circus Gatti 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 Circus Gatti for repeatedly failing to provide structurally sound enclosures. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**May 11, 2008:** An inspection conducted by the Santa Cruz, California, Animal Services Agency during Circus Gatti's appearance at the Watsonville Fairgrounds revealed two dogs with injuries that required veterinary care. A cockapoo named Banjo had a fresh wound between two toes on one of his front paws that was causing him to limp. A terrier named Zorro was limping because of a toenail that had been torn off four days earlier. The dogs' handler was unaware of Banjo's injury and stated that she didn't feel that Zorro's injury required veterinary attention. Animal Services ordered the handler to seek veterinary care for both dogs.

**July 22, 2004:** A USDA inspector noted that photos of the hind feet of the elephant Tiki indicated that "the feet are a potential problem if the excess skin is not removed and the cracks and crevices on the bottoms of the feet are not beveled so as to prevent stones, dirt, and bacteria from becoming entrapped in the excess sole skin." The elephant Wanda's feet were also affected. According to *The Elephant's Foot*, foot-related conditions and arthritis are the leading causes of euthanasia in captive elephants.

**May 10, 2002:** According to a Sacramento, California, Police Department Incident Report, police were summoned to the Memorial Auditorium when a tiger with Circus Gatti refused to return to his cage from the performance ring. The building was evacuated and two SWAT officers stood by with guns while a veterinarian shot the tiger with tranquilizer darts.

**March 29, 2002:** Circus Gatti was cited for failure to provide a USDA official with access to animals, records, and property for the purpose of conducting an animal welfare inspection.

**January 31, 2002:** A USDA inspector noted that Circus Gatti was leasing its animal acts from other licensed exhibitors.

**September 18, 2001:** The USDA cited Circus Gatti for failure to supply the required itinerary that allows the agency to make unannounced inspections.

**July 1998:** Circus Gatti refused to pay a \$10,620 balance owed to the city of Richmond, California, for a May 1998 circus show.

**June 8, 1998:** A USDA inspector noted that the elephants, trainers, and handlers had not been tested for tuberculosis.

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**January 26, 1998:** The USDA cited Circus Gatti for noncompliance with the AWA for problems with the structure of its elephant barn. The inspector noted, "This is a notice that you have had the same violation(s) documented on the last two inspections. You are being given the opportunity to correct these violations. If similar violations are documented on subsequent inspections, all past and future violations may be used as evidence for formal legal action against you."

**June 25, 1997:** The USDA cited Circus Gatti for noncompliance with the AWA for problems with its primary enclosures for the animals.

**March 9, 1995:** The USDA cited Circus Gatti for failure to maintain the transport trailer.

**August 1994:** A tiger was caught in a flaming hoop while "performing" in the circus.

**May 1994:** According to a complaint filed with the USDA, Circus Gatti tied a pony up and then repeatedly beat the animal. The complaint stated, "The trainer was hitting this pony so violently with the whip that you could hear the cracking of the whip from the stands." Nothing was done by the USDA about this beating because horses have no protection under the AWA.

**December 21, 1993:** The USDA cited Circus Gatti for failure to maintain the elephant barn and travel trailer, failure to provide a safely constructed exercise pen for the elephants, and failure to provide records of veterinary care.

**October 9, 1992:** The USDA cited Circus Gatti for failure to maintain the elephant enclosure.

**March 1991:** A letter from the city of Palm Springs, California, states, "We also did a little investigating on our own and what we learned opened our eyes concerning this matter. Due to the overwhelming concern expressed regarding the inhumane treatment of circus animals, the Palm Springs Police Officers Association is looking for other avenues of fundraising and will not renew a contract with Circus Gatti."

**July 7, 1990:** While performing in Portland, Oregon, two chimps dragged the trainer into the audience and mauled a child.

**May 1990:** A report was filed with the Palm Springs, California, police department for mistreatment of elephants with electricity. When the police questioned circus representatives, the circus stated it only uses electricity to "clean up" the difficult animals. The trainer demonstrated to the officer that the threat of using electricity on the elephants causes the elephant to scream "as if in pain." The trainer also stated that it was illegal to use electricity in California and he has to wait until he gets back to Arizona.

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