



PETA Factsheet

Royal Hanneford Circus

USDA # (None; formerly 58-C-0035), 2250 Gulf Gate Dr., Sarasota, FL 34231

Royal Hanneford 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 Royal Hanneford numerous times for failure to provide veterinary care and meet minimum space requirements. An elephant with Royal Hanneford rampaged during a performance, causing spectators to run for safety. Royal Hanneford's elephants have been treated for a human strain of tuberculosis. As of October 2005, Royal Hanneford Circus no longer has its own USDA license and leases animal acts from other circuses, including Carson & Barnes Circus*. Contact PETA for documentation.

April 12-13, 2008: The Royal Hanneford Circus appearance in East Lansing, Michigan, featured elephants from Carson & Barnes Circus and its trainer Tim Frisco who, in his capacity as animal care director, was videotaped viciously attacking terrified elephants with sharp metal bullhooks and electric prods. Frisco instructed other trainers to hurt the elephants until they screamed and sink the bullhook into their flesh and twist it, and he cautioned that the beatings must be concealed from the public.

March 1, 2005: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance requiring a written protocol for elephant foot care and arthritis management. Royal Hanneford was also cited for failure to provide both Asian elephants with adequate foot care. The inspector wrote, "Most of Tina and Ina's nails are overgrown and there is excessive tissue over their cuticles. One of Tina's nails has a crack from the outside of her nail to the cuticle." Royal Hanneford was also cited for failure to provide a record of tuberculosis tests.

May 21, 2004: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance requiring a written protocol for elephant foot care and arthritis management and for failure to provide an adequate written program of veterinary care.

June 24, 2002: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to provide all three of its elephants with adequate veterinary and foot care.

December 18, 2001: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to three elephants.

October 9, 2001: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to have a complete program of veterinary care.

July 9, 2001: A USDA inspector noted that Royal Hanneford Circus had no documentation to show that the elephant handler or the three elephants had had tuberculosis testing since May 2001.

April 19, 2001: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to all three of its elephants. Two elephants were suffering from nail infections, a potentially life-threatening illness in captive elephants.

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February 16, 2001: Royal Hanneford exhibitor Mitchel Kalmanson was cited by the USDA for failure to provide environment enhancement to primates. The inspector wrote, “[H]ousing does not fully meet the needs for considerable and complex social interactions of chimpanzees.” The trainer stated that he keeps the chimpanzees in solitary confinement for the majority of the time so that they will be more motivated to perform. The inspector noted that the chimpanzees had sparse haircoats with bare patches and that the two adult chimpanzees did not have canine teeth. Kalmanson was also cited for poor lighting in the trailer where the chimpanzees were stored in cages.

December 20, 2000: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. The inspector wrote, “All three elephants are in need of foot care. The cuticles and pads of the elephants are overgrown and must be trimmed.”

April 13, 2000: The USDA confirmed that a Royal Hanneford elephant named Tina had tested positive for tuberculosis and that its other two elephants, Ina and Chandra, had been exposed. The three elephants were returned to Royal Hanneford’s winter quarters for several months of tuberculosis treatment. A USDA inspector noted that “Tina is lean, with some slight loss of body condition,” and suffers from ventral edema and a chronically infected nail. Chandra has chronic intermittent arthritis. The inspector noted that for a third time in the last four months, three people with exposure to the elephants failed to have tuberculosis tests. The inspector also wrote, “Other issues discussed with the licensee: adequate protection from sun and heat this summer, obtaining good-quality hay during the summer, reducing stress, providing as much free access to the outdoors and free unchained movement as possible, mental enrichment, skin care, and bathing.”

March 18, 2000: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to have five elephant handlers tested for tuberculosis.

December 27, 1999: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to provide a veterinarian’s diagnosis and prescribed treatment for an elephant with infected nails and an elephant with an arthritic hip. Royal Hanneford was also cited for failure to have five elephant handlers tested for tuberculosis.

February 21, 1999: An elephant with Royal Hanneford rampaged during a performance in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. According to eyewitnesses, the elephant left the ring and ran into the bleachers. In a panic, spectators tripped and fell trying to get away from the elephant.

February 11, 1999: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to elephants who were in need of foot care. Royal Hanneford was cited for failure to provide adequate space for the elephants. The inspector noted that the chains used on the elephants were too short, which prevented them from lying down, grooming themselves, and moving their feet. Royal Hanneford was cited for feeding elephants poor-quality hay.

October 14, 1998: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for insufficient veterinary care. The inspector noted, “The elephant Tina’s front feet are in need of foot care.”

September 14, 1998: A zebra with Royal Hanneford escaped and was found by police wandering along a busy roadway in Charlotte, N.C.

June 4, 1998: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for insufficient veterinary care. The inspector noted, “Chandra, the largest female elephant, is in need of foot care.”

October 7, 1997: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for using inappropriate flooring in the dog and cat enclosures. The circus was cited a second time for not providing sufficient space for the dogs. The inspector noted that “a large dog is housed in an enclosure that is 29”x25”x22” high; the dog is 23” long and 20” tall at the top of its head. The enclosure does not meet required floor space.” The circus was also cited for failure to have an exercise plan, identification, and records for the dogs.

July 11, 1997: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failing to provide sufficient space for the dogs. The inspector noted that the dogs had less than 6 inches of headroom.

March 22, 1996: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for not having records of medical treatment for the elephants’ feet.

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December 6, 1995: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for drainage problems in the elephant barn. The inspector noted, "Urine was pooled at the back corner of elephant barn. The elephants' pads and cuticles were overgrown." This could cause serious problems with elephants. Elephants' feet are prone to foot rot, which eventually can cripple the animal. The inspector also cited Royal Hanneford for failure to keep records of veterinary care.

January 13, 1994: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for insufficient caging for a leopard, a member of an endangered species. The cage did not provide the simple comfort of a board on which the big cat could rest.

June 23, 1993: The USDA cited Royal Hanneford for failure to provide a program of veterinary care.

January 5, 1993: During an attempted inspection, a USDA official noted that there was a "failure to make premises, animals, and records available for inspection."

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