2.131(b)(1)

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

During the circus performance a llama was brought into the ring on a lead line. The handler could not get the llama to do the intended behavior, and he began to repeatedly hit the llama with a whip. The llama was very distressed, pulling back on the lead line, ears flat back, and spitting at the handler.

Animals should be handled in a manner that does not cause unnecessary stress or discomfort. The licensee had taken corrective action - reprimanding the handler, and removing the llama from the next performance - prior to being approached by the inspectors. The licensee must ensure that all animals are handled in an appropriate manner in order to protect their well-being.

To be corrected from this time forward.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the licensee.

This inspection occurred at the Garden Bros Circus performance in Murray, KY.

Additional Inspectors
Nanney Rebecca, Veterinary Medical Officer