

Circo Hermanos Vazquez

700 Vazquez Ln., Donna, TX 78537

Circo Hermanos Vazquez (aka “Circus Hermanos Vazquez,” “Circo Vazquez,” and “Circus Vazquez”) has failed to meet minimum 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 Circo Hermanos Vazquez numerous times for failing to provide adequate veterinary care, failing to produce complete documented programs of veterinary care, and failing to meet minimum space requirements, which, in one incident, resulted in the death of a tiger. An inspection performed in 2003 revealed that Circo Hermanos Vazquez had not updated a program of veterinary care since 1999. Contact PETA for documentation.

February 13, 2014: The USDA cited Vazquez for failing to submit current itineraries. The inspector arrived at the home facilities and discovered that the circus was traveling and that there were now two units, neither of which had submitted an itinerary.

September 11, 2013: The USDA cited Vazquez again for having pages missing from the written plan of veterinary care. There was no documentation stating that any of the animals were receiving regular veterinary care.

June 10, 2013: The USDA cited Vazquez for failing to provide documentation of any visit from the attending veterinarian in a year and a half. The written plan of veterinary care “has pages missing and the plan has not been signed or updated since 2011. There must be documentation that regular scheduled visits are occurring.”

February 15, 2011: The USDA cited Vazquez for holes found throughout the sides of the truck used to transport tigers.

April 17, 2008: The Los Angeles Animal Services Department pulled Vazquez’s conditional use permit for the tigers it was using and evicted the tigers after learning that they had nearly ripped off the head of another tiger in March. The female tiger had been left overnight with five other tigers (see March 31, 2008). Vazquez was cited for incompatibility issues on April 9, 2008.

April 10, 2008: Will Davenport, the exhibitor who

provided Vazquez with elephants, was ordered to leave Los Angeles after his permit was revoked. It was learned through the USDA that Davenport had numerous AWA violations involving the animals he was traveling with. (In 2009, the USDA confiscated two elephants from Davenport, and in 2010, his license was revoked in an agreement reached with the USDA, which also required him to give up the last elephant in his care.)

April 9, 2008: The USDA cited Vazquez for failing to meet adequate security measures with regard to animal access. “I was able to access the animal area through an open gate,” the inspector wrote. “I was able to approach the tiger cages directly, while calling for anyone present to announce myself.” The USDA also cited Vazquez for its incomplete program of veterinary care. Vazquez was also cited for breaching animal-compatibility regulations, housing five tigers ages 18 months to 8 years in half the space of a big-rig trailer. The inspector wrote, “Compatibility issues have become evident.”

March 31, 2008: According to a necropsy report from Serrano Animal and Bird Hospital in Lake Forest, California, a female tiger was found dead in a cage with five other tigers. The necropsy found the cause of death to be “[l]oss of blood and integrity at the neck” leading to shock and damage to the brain and other organs as well as a possible spinal cord injury. The report concluded that this trauma was a direct result of an attack by one or more of the tigers sharing the cage.

November 15, 2007: The USDA cited Vazquez for failing to describe its method of euthanasia clearly in its program of veterinary care. Vazquez was also cited for failing to protect hay and straw adequately from deterioration and mold.

July 8, 2005: The USDA cited Vazquez for failing to keep Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service officials informed of its location and travel itinerary.

November 4, 2004: Vazquez was cited for keeping three tigers in cages that didn’t meet space requirements for the species. There was no documentation that the tigers were provided with exercise time in addition to time spent performing during the show.

August 26, 2004: A USDA inspector cited Vazquez for failing to provide the tigers, zebras, and camels with adequate nourishment. No feeding plan from the attending veterinarian was available.

August 17, 2004: A USDA inspector cited Vazquez for housing tigers in confined quarters. “Arrangements must be made to provide these animals with more space,” the inspector wrote.

February 13, 2004: A USDA inspector noted that one of the horses had “severely overgrown” hooves. Horses in this venue are not covered by the AWA—these observations were pursuant to a telephone complaint received from a circus visitor.

April 17, 2003: The USDA cited Vazquez for failing to produce a current, updated itinerary of its traveling show. Vazquez was also cited for failing to update its program of veterinary care since 1999. Regulations require that the plan be updated and that the attending veterinarian make visits at least annually. The inspector observed that two young zebras appeared to have internal parasite problems and that a “regular schedule of parasite control needs to be addressed.”

May 20, 2002: The USDA cited Vazquez for showing no indication that a veterinary site visit or veterinary-program review had occurred since September 18, 1999. Vazquez was also cited for failing to maintain a program of adequate veterinary care for a resident kangaroo.

August 8, 2001: The USDA cited Vazquez for failing to provide adequate ventilation in the crate used to transport one red kangaroo. Vazquez was also cited for not providing sufficient cool air in the transport truck housing that crate.

February 2, 2001: The USDA cited Vazquez for failing to provide a written veterinary program for inspection and failing to submit current itineraries for animal care.