

Lewis & Clark Circus (Robert Childress)

P.O. Box 829, Easley, SC 29641

Lewis & Clark Circus (aka Hendricks Bros. Circus) 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 repeatedly cited Lewis & Clark for failing to provide adequate enclosures to prevent the potential escape of animals, failing to provide animals with adequate space and shelter, failing to provide adequate ventilation during transport of animals, and failing to maintain the structural integrity of transport enclosures to ensure the safety and well-being of animals in its care. Contact PETA for documentation.

September 2015: The USDA issued an official warning to Lewis & Clark for the July 28, 2014; March 30, 2015; and June 4, 2015, citations.

June 4, 2015: The USDA cited Lewis & Clark for failing to have acquisition records available for seven animals traveling with the circus.

March 30, 2015: The USDA cited Lewis & Clark for failing to provide two goats, who were limping because of a dog attack the previous week, with adequate veterinary care. It was also cited for failing to maintain proper acquisition records and itineraries while traveling, failing to have proper barriers and supervision during public contact with the goats, failing to contain the goats in proper enclosures to protect them from predators and unsupervised public contact, transporting a camel in a trailer that was too small to allow the animal to hold his or her head up normally, and failing to provide a camel, who was tied up to a trailer, with enough space to turn around or lie down.

July 28, 2014: The USDA cited Lewis & Clark for failing to have its written program of veterinary care available at the time of the inspection. It was also cited for failing to have acquisition records present for a camel and five goats and failing to provide a camel with a safe primary transport enclosure. The transport trailer had exposed electrical wires and a cord running

along both upper sides, an uncovered light fixture, an electrical outlet without a safety cover, and a piece of chewed black plywood on the side.

December 19, 2013: The USDA cited Lewis & Clark for failing to provide a camel with adequate pasture fencing.

May 18, 2011: The USDA cited Lewis & Clark for failing to provide animals with shelter during inclement weather. A camel, four goats, one horse, and a miniature horse were tied up in the lawn grazing when a thunderstorm began. No shelter was available, and the animals weren't moved into the transport shelter.

March 30, 2010: The USDA cited Lewis & Clark for failing to provide a camel, who had matted feces in and around his tail, and a llama, who needed his hooves trimmed, with adequate veterinary care. It was also cited for not maintaining a tiger enclosure—his perch contained a rotted and tattered board. There were also gaps in the bottom of the enclosure that were large enough to allow a tiger's paw to fit through. Lewis & Clark was also cited for improper sanitation, as the inspector saw an employee hose out a tiger cage, getting the tiger wet in the process.

August 24, 2009: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to provide safe goat and llama transport—the primary enclosure had a hole and torn metal edges as well as four bolts sticking into the trailer, risking injury to the llama. This “converted travel trailer” also didn't provide sufficient ventilation.

June 3, 2009: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for a repeat violation for failing to follow a written program of veterinary care for the tigers, failing to remove accumulated feces and other waste from a goat enclosure, failing to maintain enclosures for the llama and seven goats in good repair to prevent possible injuries to the animals, and failing to maintain the travel trailer used for the tigers.

January 29, 2009: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for a repeat violation for failing to provide a thin camel with adequate veterinary care and failing to follow a written program of veterinary care for the tigers and the camel. The USDA also cited the circus for a repeat violation for failing to maintain housing facilities for the goats and failing to clean the barn housing the camel, ponies, and a donkey. It was contaminated with an excess accumulation of feces and was a possible disease hazard.

August 27, 2008: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for providing a camel, who appeared thin “as evidence[d] by easily visible and palpable ribs,” with inadequate veterinary care; feeding a diet to the tigers

that was not approved by the veterinarian; improper handling of a llama who was wearing a halter with an attached floor-length rope that could get tangled and injure the animal; improper recordkeeping; failing to maintain housing facilities for the goats; failing to store food for the camel in a manner that protects it against pest infestation; failing to provide a zebu and llama with adequate shade; failing to provide 13 goats with adequate shelter; failing to provide a camel and horses with clean drinking water; and failing to clean a filthy barn housing a camel and two horses (the barn was contaminated with an excess accumulation of feces).

August 26, 2008: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to maintain a trailer used to transport a camel and ponies. The trailer had a hole in the roof, where rain could enter.

July 21, 2008: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for a repeat violation for failing to handle four goats and three tigers safely. The goats were tied to various areas without shade or protection from the public, and the tigers were left unattended. The circus was also cited for failing to maintain the goats' housing facilities in good repair to protect them from injury.

July 10, 2008: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for leaving unattended a young goat who was being roughly handled by the public, leaving tigers unsupervised, failing to provide the animals with shade, and failing to provide adequate safety barriers around enclosures housing tigers and goats.

July 2, 2008: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to have a responsible party present so that an animal welfare inspection could be conducted.

June 20, 2008: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to correct a previously identified noncompliance of failing to maintain a transport trailer in which wires, bits of ceiling, and a metal strip were protruding into a compartment used to transport goats.

June 10, 2008: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to provide animals with adequate shelter from sunlight—two goats and one camel were tethered in a field with no shade in temperatures that ranged from 93°F to 107°F. Hendricks Bros. was also cited for failing to maintain a transport trailer in which wires, bits of the roof, and a metal strip were protruding into a compartment used to transport baby goats.

April 24, 2008: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for a repeat violation for failing to provide an exercise pen of adequate height to prevent animals' escape. The circus was also cited for incorrectly reporting animal inventories for several years.

January 9, 2008: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for repeat violations, including failing to modify a tiger enclosure appropriately (an inspector determined that it was "not secure enough ... and ... potentially not high enough to contain the tigers"); failing to provide barriers to prevent people—including children who lived in trailers in the immediate area—from approaching the tiger enclosure and having contact with the tigers; failing to provide a perimeter fence around the tiger enclosure and training pen, which the inspector determined was "a potentially very dangerous situation as the tiger pen is only a few hundred yards from a major road"; and failing to provide three adult tigers, who were still housed in a travel enclosure that measured 16 feet long by 7 feet wide by 5 feet tall, with adequate space. The tigers were allowed out only for training. Hendricks Bros. was also cited for failing to clean a tiger enclosure properly. The inspector wrote, "[The tigers] paced the small enclosure while [the floor was washed down] and walked continuously through the area being sprayed, exposing them to aerosolized feces. There are no platforms in the enclosure for them to use to stay out of the way, and the area is too small to keep from wetting them."

November 7, 2007: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to have a written program of veterinary care available for review. Hendricks Bros. was also cited for improper food storage. An "[e]xamination of the feed bin revealed an electrical surge protector outlet, diaper wipes, wire coat hanger, etc. being stored in the food bin on top of the sweet feed for the animals."

August 29, 2007: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to include three adult tigers on the program of veterinary care, failing to attain written veterinary approval of the large cats' diet, and failing to construct an adequate tiger enclosure for exercise, training, and circus shows. The pen was only 9 feet high and had an open top, and the inspector determined that it was "not tall enough or contained enough to prevent the tigers from potentially escaping." The facility was also cited for failing to have proper ventilation in an enclosure used to transport three tigers. The transport enclosure had a solid metal front and back, solid wooden sides, and only "two small ... holes" in the roof. The inspector determined that this was "inadequate ventilation for travel to prevent potential overheating of the animals." Hendricks Bros. was also cited for failing to have adequate space for three adult tigers who were housed for at least three months in a travel trailer measuring 16 feet long by 7 feet wide by approximately 5 feet high, failing to have a perimeter fence around the trailer, and failing to handle food properly to prevent contamination. The inspector observed that frozen bags of chicken parts were being thawed on the ground in the sun and ants were

on the bags.

June 13, 2007: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for a repeat violation for failing to provide acquisition records, this time for three adult tigers, new goats, and a miniature zebu; failing to provide a goat, whose hooves were overgrown, with adequate veterinary care; and failing clean a small trailer that housed three goats and had “an excessive accumulation of feces and dirty bedding.”

February 24, 2007: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to have the written program of veterinary care available for review and failing to have acquisition records for the animals who were being exhibited.

August 28, 2006: A USDA inspector noted that Hendricks Bros. had not been inspected during travel this year because the circus had failed to submit a travel itinerary.

August 29, 2005: A monkey with Hendricks Bros. was frightened by a train whistle and fled into a nearby wooded area in Springdale, Ohio. He was found the next day, damp and hungry, huddled in the roof area of a picnic pavilion at a park.

October 14, 2003: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to review and update its program of veterinary care annually. It hadn't been updated for more than a year and didn't include information detailing drug dosages and the method of administering euthanasia. The facility was also cited for failing to maintain accurate and complete records of the animals it currently owned and failing to maintain the structural strength of a fence in the llama and pony pasture. It had rusted through and had broken and protruding wires and a gate in need of replacement.

September 9, 2002: The USDA cited Hendricks Bros. for failing to maintain the structural strength and safety of enclosures used to transport animals. The elephant transport enclosure had a damaged vent with sharp metal protrusions that could injure the animal, and the floor had an approximately 8-inch-diameter hole, which could allow waste material to leak to the outside. The inspector reported that the wood in the floor was “decayed and crumbling” and “could give way” under the animal's weight. The inspector also noted that the elephant Tanya “was observed exhibiting stereotypical behavior for some time prior to the inspection.”

March 13, 2002: An African elephant named Tanya, who belonged to Robert Childress, escaped the control of her handlers while she was being loaded

into a truck in Easley, South Carolina. She ran into nearby woods and was recaptured with the assistance of police.