

# Incidents Involving Bentley Bros. Circus

USDA License #58-C-0338, 7455 279th St. E., Myakka City, FL 34251

**Bentley Bros. Circus (aka “Wambold’s Circus Menagerie”), owned by Robert Moyer, 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 Bentley Bros. Circus for failure to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, nutritious and wholesome diets, minimum space and exercise, and shelter from the elements and to properly maintain enclosures. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**June 16, 2011:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for unsafe primary enclosures. Paint, which could harm the dogs if ingested, was chipping inside two of the dog enclosures.

**April 12, 2011:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for inadequate structural strength of the tiger enclosures. Four of the enclosures had large spaces on the top and sides—an adult tiger could fit a body part into these spaces and become injured. The USDA also stated that the spaces would need to be reduced if any younger tigers are housed, as they could fit through the spaces.

**June 15, 2010:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for incomplete identification records for six dogs. It was also cited for traveling across state lines without required health certificates for 12 dogs and for inadequate primary enclosures for

two dogs that didn’t even provide 6 inches of clearance above their heads.

**December 15, 2009:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for unsafe primary enclosures. The chain-link fence on two of the dog enclosures had a rusted, broken bottom support pipe, leaving a sharp metal edge exposed that placed the dogs at risk of injury.

**January 24, 2006:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to maintain dog enclosures in good repair to protect the animals from injury and allow for proper cleaning and sanitizing.

**August 31, 2005:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to give adequate veterinary care to dogs whose vaccinations were overdue and for failure to provide big cats (two tigers and three ligers) with a proper diet.

**September 10, 2004:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not giving adequate veterinary care to two elephants whose feet had not been trimmed in a month. The inspector wrote, “The elephants’ feet need to be trimmed on a regular basis to prevent foot problems and maintain the health and well-being of the elephants.” According to *The Elephant’s Foot*, foot-related conditions and arthritis are the leading causes of euthanasia in captive elephants. The circus was also cited for failure to provide big cats (two tigers and three ligers) with adequate exercise space, failure to have records and identification for dogs, failure to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to provide acceptable animal care, and failure to provide big cats with a proper diet (there was improperly thawed meat).

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**March 2, 2004:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to have a responsible person available so that an inspection could be performed and failure to submit a travel itinerary.

**December 30, 2003:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to correct numerous previously identified noncompliances, including lack of veterinary care for elephants whose feet were overgrown at the soles, nails, and cuticles and were “very much in need of trimming, to prevent foot problems”; lack of veterinary care for two camels who had been visibly thin for at least two months, presumably because of poor-quality feed and lack of shelter around the animals’ feeding stations; failure to comply with tuberculosis testing requirements for elephant handlers; failure to include camels, goats, and sheep in the program of veterinary care; and failure to provide an adequate perimeter fence.

**January 9, 2003:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to have a responsible person available so that an inspection could be performed.

**April 24, 2002:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to give veterinary care to two elephants in need of foot care in order to prevent potentially deadly foot problems.

**March 6, 2002:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not complying with tuberculosis testing requirements and not erecting a secondary perimeter fence around the camels’ enclosure.

**January 29, 2002:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to give adequate veterinary care to two camels and a goat who were thin, failure to test elephant handlers for tuberculosis on a yearly basis, and failure to provide adequate perimeter fencing.

**December 24, 2001:** In response to a Freedom of Information Act request for Bentley Bros. animal welfare inspection reports, the USDA wrote, “This file/licensee is terminated. No inspection reports after April 4, 1998.”

**April 22, 2001:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to give adequate veterinary care to an elephant in need of foot care in order to prevent potentially deadly foot problems. Bentley was also cited for failure to provide health certificates and the required itinerary.

**March 1, 2001:** A district magistrate in Pennsylvania found Bentley Bros. Circus owner Robert Moyer guilty of harassment after charges were filed against him on August 5, 2000. Moyer was fined \$150 plus court costs.

**September 7, 2000:** According to a notarized statement by a witness, Bentley Bros. Circus employees spit at and threatened two women protesting the circus in Philadelphia.

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**August 6, 2000:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to maintain the elephants' transport trailer and failure to provide records.

**August 5, 2000:** According to a police report and notarized statements by witnesses, a criminal complaint was filed against Bentley Bros. Circus owner Robert Moyer for harassment and disorderly conduct in Alton Park, Pa. Moyer reportedly approached four women standing on a sidewalk with signs at a circus demonstration, used vulgar and threatening language, spit in the face of a woman who was half his size, slapped her in the face, and knocked her to the ground, causing a red mark and a swollen jaw.

**July 25, 2000:** According to a police report and notarized statements by witnesses, a criminal complaint was filed against Bentley Bros. Circus owner Robert Moyer for harassment in Scranton, Pa. Moyer reportedly made vulgar and insulting remarks and physically threatened women and children holding signs during a peaceful demonstration at the circus.

**January 11, 2000:** A USDA inspector noted that Bentley Bros. was using transport enclosures to house ligers at night and in inclement weather and that the enclosures did not provide the felines with sufficient space to stretch out fully.

**April 3, 1998:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. The inspector noted that both elephants' feet were overgrown and at risk for bacterial and fungal infections. Nails on the Asian female elephant named Birdie Mae were "curling under, indicating [that] they had not been trimmed for some time." The inspector also noted improper skin care for an elephant.

**September 2, 1997:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to dispose of expired medications.

**January 17, 1995:** The USDA cited Bentley Bros. for failure to provide the elephants with adequate shelter, excessive buildup of manure in the elephant pen, and a broken fence in the tiger enclosure.