

# Incidents Involving Hanneford Family Circus

USDA License #58-C-0666, 4550 Verna Bethany Rd., Myakka City, FL 34251

**Hanneford Family 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 Hanneford Family Circus numerous times for failure to provide a veterinary-care program and veterinary-care records as well as failure to provide proper food and secure enclosures. A Hanneford Family Circus elephant caused the death of a handler. For 16 years, animals with Hanneford Family Circus were forced to perform up to three times per day, seven days per week, year-round at the Fort Lauderdale Swap Shop in Florida. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**February 12, 2011:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to establish and maintain an adequate program of veterinary care. Asian elephant Liz, who is 36 years old, appeared to be thin and underweight. She also had an angular limb deformity of her front left leg and a congenital deformity of her right hind leg. Both conditions affected her gait, so she needed more frequent veterinary evaluations as she aged. Hanneford was also cited for failure to provide an adequate barrier between the public and an elephant giving rides—children were able to get

inside the rope barrier. The circus was also cited for not properly maintaining the trailer used to transport the elephants. In numerous areas, the metal lining had sharp, jagged edges, which could injure an elephant.

**December 16, 2010:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to provide the agency with an updated itinerary. As a result, the circus was also cited for failure to provide access to the property for an inspection.

**January 7, 2008:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to provide adequate perimeter fencing around the facility that housed the elephants.

**August 21, 2007:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to provide veterinary records documenting a birth deformity in an elephant named Liz, who was observed stiffly moving her right knee.

**January 9, 2007:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to have its program of veterinary care reviewed, updated, and approved by the circus's new veterinarian.

**September 13, 2005:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to be present so that an animal welfare inspection could be conducted, failure to submit a travel itinerary, and failure to notify the USDA that the circus had permanently relocated.

**July 30, 2003:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to maintain facilities in good repair. The circus was directed to repair or replace a resting shelf for the tiger in order to protect the animal from a possible injury.

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**August 21, 2002:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to allow access to an inspector to conduct an animal welfare inspection.

**September 27, 2001:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to provide adequate drainage around the tiger enclosure. The inspector wrote, “[T]he water has a foul odor and is not being rapidly drained.” The inspector also noted that the tiger named Jumanji “appear[ed] thin.”

**November 23, 1999:** The circus failed to renew its USDA exhibitor license and had to reapply for a new license.

**December 1, 1998:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to feed a balanced diet to its tiger. The inspector wrote, “The diet for the young tiger is significantly out of the accepted calcium/phosphorus ratio.” The circus was also cited for storing toxic substances near the animals’ hay, failure to have a veterinary-care program, and incomplete acquisition records. The inspector recommended that all personnel in contact with the elephants be tested for tuberculosis yearly.

**February 6, 1998:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for inadequate recordkeeping.

**January 13, 1998:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. There were no current records of vaccinations, deworming, foot care, or treatment for an elephant named Liz with an elbow problem.

**July 1, 1997:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not having a program of veterinary care. The circus was also cited for a tiger cage in disrepair, inadequate recordkeeping, and failure to provide health certificates for animals moved from Florida to Iowa.

**December 11, 1996:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to correct a previously identified noncompliance of not having a program of veterinary care.

**September 30, 1996:** The USDA found that Hanneford’s perimeter fence was not secure and strong enough to prevent animals from escaping, endangering both the animals and the general public. The circus was also cited for not having records of veterinary care and insufficient recordkeeping.

**June 13, 1996:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to have a veterinary-care program.

**February 28, 1995:** Hanneford Family Circus was cited for improper food storage and waste disposal.

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**April 29, 1993:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for failure to maintain veterinary-care records. There were no current records of deworming, vaccinations, or visits from a veterinarian. The circus was also cited for incomplete disposition records and improper feeding.

**December 1, 1992:** The USDA cited Hanneford Family Circus for insufficient watering, improper waste disposal, poor housekeeping, and inadequate pest control.

**September 13, 1991:** The USDA issued an official warning to Hanneford Family Circus for repeated failure to provide access to records and property, failure to provide required itinerary, and failure to maintain adequate records.

**June 20, 1990:** An elephant named Carol knocked down a handler, knelt down on his chest, and stepped on his head and leg. The handler died as a result of the trauma and the crushing injuries. The incident occurred as the elephants were being prepared for a performance at the Thunderbird Swap Shop.