

Tarzan Zerbini Circus

2317 S. Hall St., Webb City, MO 64870

Tarzan Zerbini 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 cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to maintain a veterinary-care program and medical records, failing to provide animals with minimum space, and failing to maintain transport vehicles properly. Animals used by Tarzan Zerbini have seriously injured children. Contact PETA for documentation.

April 21, 2016: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) suspended Tarzan Zerbini's permits to export two elephants to Canada for the 2016 Royal Canadian Circus season and then re-import them. The move followed PETA's lawsuit against the USFWS challenging its unlawful "pay-to-play" scheme, which allows exhibitors such as Tarzan Zerbini to pledge money to conservation groups in exchange for an endangered species permit. While PETA's lawsuit was pending, the agency noticed that Tarzan Zerbini had failed to make good on its financial pledge and suspended the permits.

December 12, 2012: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to have an adequate perimeter fence.

February 16, 2011: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to prevent elephants from being exposed to tuberculosis (TB). Three elephants were housed in the same building with a plastic partition to separate airflow between Luke, a tuberculosis-positive male, and two female elephants. The partition had holes in it that allowed contaminated air to flow between the two sections, exposing the females to TB. Tarzan Zerbini was also cited for failing to maintain the perimeter fence around an elephant's exercise area, which put the elephant at risk of intrusion by unwanted visitors, both human and animal.

March 13, 2009: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to dispose of expired medications and for having insufficient perimeter fencing around the elephant enclosure.

May 21, 2008: The USDA confirmed that two elephants, Luke and Roxy, were under a tuberculosis-

related quarantine at Tarzan Zerbini's Williston, Florida, facility.

February 20, 2008: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to maintain the structural strength of an elephant barn, which had excessive rust and corroded metal along the base of one wall as well as rusty nails protruding through the wall and into the barn. Two elephants who were tethered inside the barn every night had access to this area. In addition, the inspector noted that an elephant named Jan was thin and undergoing treatment for a medical condition.

December 21, 2005: The USDA issued Tarzan Zerbini a \$250 civil penalty for importing tuberculosis samples obtained from three elephants into the U.S. from Canada without a USDA permit, despite having been made aware that such a permit was required. USDA correspondence notes, "This seems to be a case where everyone involved has ignored all of our instructions."

January 31, 2005: An elephant trainer with Tarzan Zerbini was trampled to death by one of the elephants as they were being loaded into a trailer following performances at the Mizpah Shrine Circus in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

August 16, 2004: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to maintain an adequate barrier between the public and elephants, failing to provide elephants with a wholesome and healthy diet, failing to dispose of waste in a sanitary manner, having improper drainage in an area that had an electrical supply, having cluttered areas that could cause injury to the elephants, failing to maintain animal records, and failing to have a perimeter fence.

August 2, 2002: According to *The Chronicle Herald* of Halifax, three elephants traveling with Tarzan Zerbini were quarantined in Ontario and removed from Canada on July 13, 2002, after the USDA alerted Canadian authorities that the elephants had been in prolonged contact with a tuberculosis-positive elephant. The elephants had been performing for Shrine circuses and giving rides to children.

December 3, 2001: The USDA issued Tarzan Zerbini a \$2,250 civil penalty for failing to give veterinary care to an elephant with a swollen foot, failing to provide elephants with shade, failing to include elephants in the program of veterinary care, repeatedly failing to maintain travel trailers in good repair, failing to maintain clean premises, and not storing food properly.

July 23, 2000: According to *The Daily News*, Tarzan Zerbini was forced to buy bigger overnight cages for the animals in order to meet minimum size

requirements established by Nova Scotia provincial laws.

November 23, 1999: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to provide an elephant named Roxy, who was kept chained inside a barn, with adequate space.

November 3, 1999: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for the third time in a year for an improperly maintained transport trailer. The floor that supports the elephants was sagging and rusted through in spots.

November 1999: Two elephants used by Tarzan Zerbini who had been exposed to tuberculosis-positive elephants were quarantined for testing.

May 4, 1999: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to give veterinary care to an elephant named Roxy, who had a swollen left front foot. The circus was also cited for failing to provide the elephants with shade and not storing food properly. The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for the second time for an improperly maintained transport trailer that could injure the elephants' feet.

April 24, 1999: A 27-year-old Tarzan Zerbini circus worker was hospitalized in serious condition after he was injured by an elephant who had broken free of her shackles in Duluth, Minnesota, where the circus was performing for Shriners. The ambulance crew at the scene observed that the injured worker smelled of alcohol. Another elephant trainer admitted that the elephants had been beaten badly by drunken trainers and were wary of people with alcohol on their breath. The trainer also commented, "There are probably more people killed and injured by elephants than by any other exotic animal."

November 18, 1998: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for having an improperly maintained elephant transport trailer.

April 13, 1997: A spooked Tarzan Zerbini elephant performing at a Shrine circus in Calgary in Alberta, Canada, slapped a handler with her trunk and bit him on the head and back, causing injuries serious enough to require hospitalization.

March 17, 1997: A bear traveling with Tarzan Zerbini bit off the tip of a 2-year-old child's finger in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She had to undergo surgery to repair her finger.

January 4, 1997: According to an internal USDA document, animals owned by Tarzan Zerbini may have been exposed to elephants from Hawthorn Corporation who had tested positive for tuberculosis.

February 6, 1995: A Tarzan Zerbini employee was critically injured when an elephant stepped on him and crushed his pelvis in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

December 8, 1994: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for not having a program of veterinary care and for having animal transport vehicles in need of repair.

November 5, 1994: The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to have a program of veterinary care and medical records. The circus also didn't have records of acquisition and disposition.

April 25, 1994: Three children were injured during elephant rides at a Tarzan Zerbini performance in Michigan.

July 16, 1992: Nine people were injured in Lafayette, Indiana, when elephants traveling with Tarzan Zerbini collided with a barricade, causing it to come toppling down. The spectators were treated for cuts and bruises, and one woman was hospitalized.

September 14, 1990: The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Victoria, British Columbia, inspected Tarzan Zerbini and noted the following: The majority of the horses had lacerations, abrasions, or scars from old injuries. No food or water was available for the tigers. The cages for the monkeys were extraordinarily small and didn't allow them to stand on their hind legs. The circus told an inspector that the monkeys and dogs are kept in the cages at all times except for show performances. No water was provided for the monkeys and dogs. In her report, the inspector stated, "This circus, where the animals did not have food or water available, where the animals were kept entirely in cages too small to allow the least bit of movement or comfort, and where it was impossible to find anyone to accept basic responsibility for the care of the animals, was a prime example of everything that should not be allowed to occur in a circus."

June 21, 1988: According to a Canadian law-enforcement document, while an elephant named Tyke was performing with Tarzan Zerbini, the "elephant handler was observed beating the single tusk African elephant in public to the point the elephant was screaming and bending down on 3 legs to avoid being hit." The document continued, "Even when the handler walked by the elephant after this[,] the elephant screamed and veered away demonstrating fear from his presence." According to a USDA document, the handler was John Caudill (aka "John Walker" of Walker Bros. Circus), who admitted to "disciplin[ing]" Tyke after she hit Caudill's brother and put a hole in his back with her tusk.