



DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL SERVICES

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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ANIMAL CARE SERVICES DIVISION

September 9, 2010

Thomas Albert
Feld Entertainment
8607 Westwood Center Drive
Vienna VA 22182

Re: Notice of Permit

Dear Mr. Albert,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to inspect Ringling Brothers Circus. The staff was cooperative and complied with each of our requests. We appreciate your willingness to work with Animal Care Services through this process.

In inspecting the four elephants known as Bonnie, Karen, Minyak and Nicole the following concerns were noted:

1. Short stepping
2. Lameness
3. Walking on the outside of their feet
4. Shuffling and
5. Instability in their stifles
6. In speaking with the head trainer, he acknowledged arthritis in the elephants and the veterinarian stated that they are not receiving any form of pain relief medication for their arthritis.

City of Sacramento Rules and Regulations for the Humane Treatment of Animals in Traveling Commercial Animal Exhibitions item 7 prohibits the permittee from maintaining or permitting a condition to exist that is or could be injurious to the animal. In addition, item 9 states that the animals shall not be handled so as to cause unnecessary discomfort, behavioral stress or physical harm to the animals.

Pursuant to these provisions, these elephants shall not perform in any acts that would require them to lift more than one leg at a time, (three legs shall remain on the ground at all times). These same four elephants shall also be exempt from any acts that would require them to sit up as this movement would place extra stress on their joints. These four elephants already show evidence of osteo-arthritis as exemplified by gait deficits and lameness.

Through our inspection it was observed that there has been long term neglect of their foot care. There is evidence of excessive pad growth and cracks in need of trimming and beveling. These conditions should be addressed as well.

We are placing these requirements in lieu of suspending these four elephants from performing pursuant to item number 16 of the City of Sacramento Rules and Regulations for the Humane Treatment of Animals in Traveling Commercial Animal Exhibitions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Penny E. Cistaro
Animal Care Services Manager