



July 13, 2017

Ed Ware  
Club Secretary and Circus Chair  
Heath Moundbuilders Kiwanis Club

Dear Mr. Ware,

On behalf of PETA and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide, I'm writing to thank you for canceling plans to host Carson & Barnes Circus and to offer you a \$2,000 donation to help with fundraising efforts if the Heath Moundbuilders Kiwanis Club agrees to pass a policy against the future use of fundraisers that exploit animals for entertainment.

While all animal circuses are cruel and abusive, Carson & Barnes has an egregious record of animal abuse and has been cited for more than [100 violations](#) of the federal Animal Welfare Act—including failing to meet even basic animal-care requirements, such as providing animals with shelter and veterinary care. During a training session, the exhibitor's head trainer was caught on [video](#) viciously attacking elephants with a bullhook—a sharp weapon resembling a fireplace poker used to jab, strike, and intimidate elephants—and shocking them with electric prods, causing them to scream in pain.

Animal circuses also put the public's safety at risk. Just over two weeks ago, an elephant owned by Carson & Barnes escaped in Wisconsin and rambled through yards in the surrounding neighborhood. This wasn't the first time that Carson & Barnes put people in danger: Last year, the infamous circus paid a \$16,000 fine to settle a lawsuit regarding an incident in which three elephants became frightened, escaped from a performance, and ran amok, causing damage to the venue and its guests' cars. In both cases, people could have easily been injured or killed.

The innate cruelty of circuses and other events that harm animals conflicts with Kiwanis' important mission to create positive change in the world and sends the message to children that it's acceptable to hurt and humiliate others for entertainment. Luckily, there are many [human-only circuses](#) that tour the country, so your club can offer quality entertainment without the cruelty or public-safety risks inherent in circuses that use animals.

By canceling a Carson & Barnes performance, your organization has already taken the first step in saying "no" to the abuse of animals for profit. Won't you please take your compassion a step further by adopting a policy against using any animal-based entertainment to raise funds in the future?

May we please hear from you regarding our offer of a \$2,000 donation? Thank you for the good work that you do, and thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

John Di Leonardo, M.S.  
Assistant Manager, Animals in Entertainment

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

**Washington, D.C.**

1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

**Los Angeles**

2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

**Norfolk**

501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

**Oakland**

554 Grand Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94610  
510-763-PETA

Info@peta.org  
PETA.org

**Affiliates:**

- PETA Asia
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