



March 13, 2017

James and Christine Plunkett
Owners and Producers
James Cristy Cole Circus

Via e-mail: jamescristy@embarqmail.com

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Plunkett,

I'm writing again on behalf of PETA regarding your upcoming performance at the Lancaster Event Center under the Sesostri Shrine Circus banner. As you know, recent [video footage](#) covered in the [Daily Mail](#) shows bears with Castle's Bears urinating in distress as they were tethered, muzzled, prodded, and forced to perform cruel and confusing tricks at the Tangier Shrine Circus last month. I urge you to part ways immediately with Castle's Bears and refrain from using bears in future performances.

Bears are complex, far-ranging animals who require opportunities to climb, dig, forage, and build nests. Because their instinctual needs are thwarted, the animals used by Castle's Bears endure intolerable lives. Dressed in ridiculous costumes, muzzled, and tethered, they're forced to perform confusing and likely painful tricks in crowded arenas day in and day out. According to bear expert Jay Pratte—who has more than 25 years of experience in captive-bear husbandry and viewed footage of a performance last month—it's clear that these bears are being coerced or forced to participate. He also notes that their training "was very clearly accomplished by aversive means," as evidenced when one bear urinated after his or her leash was pulled and again when the animal was forced to stand and walk on front legs. Pratte went on to state that "[u]nnatural behaviors (human chairs, bipedal and front leg walking) cause distress [and] potential long term physiological issues as they are counter to animal's natural body and abilities" and that the noise and crowd are clearly affecting the bears, who are undoubtedly stressed by the audience.

Because you didn't respond to my earlier correspondence, I'm left with no option but to alert our members and supporters that the James Cristy Cole Circus does not share their concerns regarding animal welfare and is not interested in addressing the cruelty inflicted on bears used and abused for entertainment.

Please prioritize animal welfare by canceling the bear show and refraining from using bears in future performances. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

John Di Leonardo, M.S.
Senior Campaigner, Animals in Entertainment
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)