



May 25, 2017

Brian Schuman, President, Fair Productions  
John Caracciolo, President and CEO, JVC Broadcasting

Via e-mail: [BrianSchuman@gmail.com](mailto:BrianSchuman@gmail.com); [BSchuman@optonline.net](mailto:BSchuman@optonline.net);  
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Dear Messrs. Schuman and Caracciolo,

We're writing again on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and its more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide and Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION)—the leading animal advocacy organization on Long Island—regarding the upcoming Lion and Tiger Show and Banana Derby at the Brookhaven Fair, for which lions and tigers may be threatened with whips and capuchin monkeys will be forced into costumes, chained by their necks to dogs, and made to "race" around a track. We're shocked that Fair Productions and JVC Broadcasting plan to exploit animals during a time when public support for animal performances is eroding—less than one week after even Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus shut down because of public outrage and falling ticket sales.

Monkeys used in "rodeos" suffer from severe psychological distress and risk serious physical injuries. Typically, they're taken from their mothers shortly after birth—a practice that's deeply cruel to both the babies and their mothers and that denies the infants necessary maternal care and nurturing. In most cases, living conditions for these animals are deplorable. In fact, Banana Derby exhibitor Philip Hendricks has been cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for failure to provide animals with adequate space, environmental enrichment, and clean and wholesome food.

Capuchin monkeys are sensitive, highly social animals who naturally live in colonies, enjoy rich lives in the dense forests of Central and South America, and spend most of their time more than 100 feet off the ground. However, those used in traveling exhibits are systematically denied adequate psychological and social stimulation, proper exercise, and the opportunity to engage in natural behavior. As a result, they often develop neurotic and self-destructive forms of behavior, such as pacing, rocking, swaying, cage-biting, and self-mutilation.

PETA asked several primatologists and veterinarians to review videos of monkeys "performing" during these rodeo-style stunts. They reported that the animals exhibited signs of fear and anxiety and—saddest of all—showed blank expressions of resignation, indicating a condition that psychologists refer to as "learned helplessness."

Similarly, there is no kind way to whip a lion or cage a wide-ranging tiger. Georgina Donoho—under whose license exhibitor Vincent Von Duke, who we

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believe is slated for the Brookhaven Fair, operates—has been cited for failing to provide animals with a veterinarian-approved diet and for keeping lions and tigers inside enclosures so small that they could not even make "normal postural movements" or comfortably turn around.

Last summer, the Long Island Ducks banned monkey rodeos from their stadium after hearing from PETA, and in 2015, the Levittown Chamber of Commerce banned exotic-animal acts—starting with Von Duke's—from its annual fair after speaking with LION.

Because you didn't respond to our earlier correspondence, we're left with no option but to alert our members and supporters that Fair Productions and JVC Broadcasting don't share their concerns regarding animal welfare and aren't interested in addressing the cruelty inflicted on animals used and abused for entertainment.

Please prioritize animal welfare by canceling the upcoming Banana Derby and Lion and Tiger Show and informing us of your commitment to hosting only animal-free entertainment in the future. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Julia Gallucci, M.S.  
Primatologist

The logo for PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is displayed in a stylized, blue, italicized font.

John Di Leonardo, M.S.  
President and Anthrozoologist

The logo for LION is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' contains a small, stylized silhouette of a lion's head.