

August 7, 2014

Robert M. Gibbens, D.V.M.
Western Regional Director
USDA-APHIS-Animal Care

Via e-mail: robert.m.gibbens@usda.gov

Re: Report of Prolonged Confinement of Elephants Used by Ringling
Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus (Lic. No. 52-C-0137)

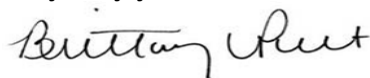
Dear Dr. Gibbens:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture investigate Feld Entertainment Inc., dba "Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus," for reportedly confining elephants to boxcars for more than 32 hours. As set forth in the attached declaration, [REDACTED]—who closely follows Ringling Bros. in the San Diego area—states that her close friend [REDACTED] observed Ringling load the elephants into the boxcars in Anaheim, Calif., on Sunday, August 3, at approximately 11:15 p.m. [REDACTED] further states that on Tuesday, August 5, at approximately 8:00 a.m.—*nearly 33 hours later*—she observed that police officers were still waiting for the train to arrive at its unload location in San Diego so that the officers could escort the animals to the Valley View Casino Center.

It thus appears that Ringling kept the elephants confined to the boxcars for *at least* 32 hours and 45 minutes, in apparent violation of 9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1) ("[h]andling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort"), 9 C.F.R. § 3.128 (enclosures "shall be . . . maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal and postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement"), and 9 C.F.R. § 3.142(a) (live animals shall be moved from conveyances "as expeditiously as possible"). Note that Ringling keeps the elephants chained while in the boxcars and that the vast majority of this confinement likely occurred not during transit but before and/or after transit: According to Ringling's transportation records, the route from Anaheim to San Diego is 103 miles and takes from three to seven hours—a mere fraction of the time that the elephants were apparently kept confined.

Please promptly investigate this matter and take all appropriate enforcement action. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Brittany Peet
Counsel, Captive Animal Law Enforcement
202-540-2191 | BrittanyP@petaf.org

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS
FOUNDATION

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

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