



PETA

# SHRINE CIRCUS CIRCUS CRUELTY TO ANIMALS WITH EVERY TICKET

Circuses and animal exhibitors leased by Shrine temples have deplorable records of animal mistreatment and neglect. Shrine-sponsored circuses have been cited and fined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for failing to provide veterinary care, shelter, exercise, nutritious food, and clean drinking water and for endangering animals and the public.

Animals in circuses don't perform because they want to, they perform because they're afraid not to. Bullhooks, whips, and other cruel devices are used to force animals to perform confusing and difficult "tricks." When the animals aren't performing, they are kept chained or in cages.

And people should know that Shrine Circuses raise funds for the temples' administrative costs, **not** for the Shriners' children's hospitals.

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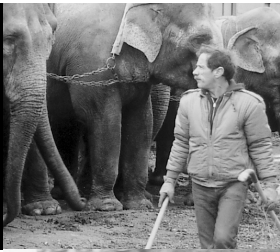
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"We watched in horror as he swung a stick with all his force and struck the elephant in the back of the leg. This must have hurt because the elephant let out a scream that could be heard throughout the pavilion."

—Parent who chaperoned schoolchildren to a Shrine Circus



Shrine Circuses put people at serious risk by exposing them to dangerous and diseased animals. Some of the many Shrine Circus-related tragedies include the following:

- A circusgoer was bitten on the face by a chimpanzee.
- Numerous elephants used in Shrine Circuses have rampaged, causing injuries to circusgoers and killing handlers.
- Elephants used in Shrine Circuses have become sick and even died from a strain of tuberculosis contagious to humans.
- A tiger who had been walked on a leash near children during Shrine Circuses attacked and killed two handlers.
- A bear bit off the tip of a child's finger.

Circuses attract unsavory characters, too. A Shrine Circus clown was arrested on charges of molesting three girls, ages 6, 7, and 10, he met at the circus, and a transient traveling with the Shrine Circus was convicted of second-degree murder for beating a woman to death.



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## You Can Help

- Never buy a ticket to a Shrine Circus or any other circus that uses animal acts.
- Urge the Shriners to switch to animal-free circuses or alternative fundraisers that do not harm animals:

Charles Cumpstone, Executive Vice President  
Shrine International Headquarters  
2900 Rocky Point Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33607-1460  
813-281-0300

757-622-7382 • Circuses.com

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