

organisation			
Member of the general public			

Other (please specify)

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### Respect for Animals

**Consultation Question 1** Do you believe that the exhibitions and performances required of wild animals in travelling circuses compromise respect for the animals concerned? Why?

Yes No Don't know

BVA considers that the welfare of these animals is emblematic of the way we treat all animals under the care of humans. The welfare needs of non-domesticated, wild animals cannot be met within a travelling circus; especially in terms of housing and being able to express normal behaviour.

**Consultation question 2** Do you believe that the exhibitions and performances required of wild animals in travelling circuses have an adverse impact on the development of respectful and responsible attitudes towards animals in children and young people? Why?

Yes No Don't know

Comments

**Consultation Question 3** Do you consider that concerns relating to respect for animals could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. If so, how?

Yes No Don't know

We consider that it should not be possible to allow the use of wild animals to continue in travelling circuses and only a ban would address our concerns. The welfare of these animals is emblematic of the way we treat all animals under the care of humans.

Together with the Born Free Foundation, Captive Animals' Protection Society and the RSPCA, we have called for the introduction of a complete ban as quickly as possible, to end the use of wild animals to entertain people.

### Travelling environment

**Consultation Question 4** Do you believe that the ability of none, some, or all wild animals to undertake natural behaviours are compromised within the travelling circus environment? Which species? Which needs? Why?

None   Some   **All**   Don't know

The welfare needs of non-domesticated, wild animals cannot be met within a travelling circus; especially in terms of housing and being able to express normal behaviour. This applies to all species of non-domesticated wild animals.

We support the points raised in the consultation document, that it is recognised that

*'unlike domesticated animals, captive wild animals have much the same genetic makeup as counterparts in the wild and retain their wild nature and natural instinctive behaviours...It could be argued that wild animals in travelling circuses are, given the environment in which they are placed, obstructed in the pursuit of those activities natural to them... For example indoor facilities may simply be the waggon in which they are transported, outdoor paddocks may be limited in size by the site available to the circus and security concerns, environmental enrichment may be limited by time constraints and space factors. In addition, by their nature, travelling circuses and their wild animals spend much of their time travelling from one site to another, which further significantly curtails the ability of wild animals to undertake their natural and instinctive activities. While regulation could improve conditions to some extent, the practical challenges faced when keeping wild animals in temporary accommodation and frequently transporting them could arguably mean that many behaviours natural to wild animals can never be catered for and the time available to indulge in those activities that can be provided for will always be significantly curtailed. ...the requirement for training and performance could be viewed as further curtailing the time available to wild animals to undertake their natural activities'*

From an ethical perspective, we consider that a modern Scottish society should not accept the welfare of wild animals being compromised in the environment of a travelling circus.

**Consultation Question 5** Do you consider that it is possible to facilitate the natural behaviour of none, some or all wild animals within the travelling circus environment? Which species? How?

None   Some   **All**   Don't know

The welfare needs of non-domesticated, wild animals cannot be met within a travelling circus; especially in terms of housing and being able to express normal behaviour.

Therefore we consider the use of all wild animals in circuses should be banned, with no exceptions for particular species.

**Consultation 6** Do you consider that the concerns raised surrounding the travelling environment could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses? How?

Yes   **No**   Don't know

The welfare needs of non-domesticated, wild animals cannot be met within a travelling circus; especially in terms of housing and being able to express normal behaviour. Changes to the travelling environment would not address these concerns, due to the difficulties in meeting the complex welfare needs of wild animals during transport and at different locations.

#### **Ethical costs and benefits**

**Consultation Question 7** Do you consider that there are any benefits to be gained from having wild animals in travelling circuses? What are they?

Yes **No** Don't know

From an ethical perspective, BVA considers that the welfare of these animals is emblematic of the way we treat all animals under the care of humans. We can see no benefits for humans or wild animals from the use of wild animals in travelling circuses, which compromises the welfare of wild animals. Using wild animals in circuses does not justify the possible welfare risks. We are therefore calling for the use of wild animals in circuses to be banned.

**Consultation Question 8** Do you believe that there are sufficient benefits to justify the potential compromise to the wider well-being of wild animals kept in a travelling circus? Why?

Yes **No** Don't know

Please see answer to question 7 above.

Wild animals in travelling circuses have the same five welfare needs as any other animal does:

- a suitable environment
- a suitable diet
- to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- to be housed with, or apart, from other animals
- to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

**Consultation Question 9** Do you consider that the potential conflict between compromising the well-being of wild animals and obtaining any benefit could be resolved without banning the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. If so, how?

Yes **No** Don't know

Please see answer to question 7 above.

### Financial impacts of a ban

**Consultation Question 10** As far as you are aware, how often have travelling circuses that use wild animals in performances or for exhibition visited Scotland in the last 5 years and in the last 12 months?

No. in last 5 yrs.	Number	No. in last 12 mths	Number	Don't know	
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Comments

**Consultation question 11** What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals would have on the revenue of such circuses? Why?

Increase   Decrease   No change   **Don't know**

Comments

**Consultation Question 12** If a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals was imposed, do you think that such circuses would still visit Scotland without the wild animals? Why?

Yes   No   **Don't know**

Comments

**Consultation question 13** What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals in travelling circuses would have on the revenue of other types of circus (e.g. static or those travelling without wild animals)? Why?

Increase   Decrease   No change   **Don't know**

Comments

**Consultation question 14** What effect do you think a ban on the use and exhibition of wild animals in travelling circuses would have on the revenue of circus venues? Why?

Increase   Decrease   No change   **Don't know**

Comments

### Wider film and television industry

**Consultation Question 15** Do you consider that a ban on wild animals in travelling circuses could have an impact on other industries? If so, which industries, what

would be the effect and why?

	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	Don't know
Film				x
TV - drama				x
TV - documentary				x
TV - childrens				x
Advertising – TV				x
Advertising - other				x
Other				x
Other				
Other				

Comments

**Should Scotland ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses?**

**Consultation Question 16** Do you agree that the use of wild animals for performance in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland? Why?

Yes No Don't know

We have consistently supported a ban on wild animals in travelling circuses in the UK and campaigned for a number of years on this issue. Together with the Born Free Foundation, Captive Animals' Protection Society and the RSPCA, BVA has called for a complete ban as quickly as possible, to end the use of wild animals to entertain people and we support the proposed ban in England.

We consider that the welfare of these animals is emblematic of the way we treat all animals under the care of humans. The welfare needs of non-domesticated, wild animals cannot be met within a travelling circus; especially in terms of housing and being able to express normal behaviour.

We note from the consultation document that there are wider ethical considerations that go beyond the question of whether an animal is suffering. Since *'unlike domesticated animals, captive wild animals have much the same genetic makeup as counterparts in the wild and retain their wild nature and natural instinctive behaviours. It could be argued that wild animals in travelling circuses are, given the environment in which they are placed, obstructed in the pursuit of activities natural to them'*.

We would agree that the *'use of wild animals in travelling circuses reflects a traditional, but perhaps outdated, view of wild animals'*.

Therefore, from an ethical perspective, it is extremely difficult to justify keeping wild animals in travelling circuses and requiring them to perform unnatural tricks.

**Consultation Question 17** Do you agree that the use of wild animals for exhibition in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland? Why?

Yes No Don't know

We have consistently supported a ban on wild animals in travelling circuses in the UK and campaigned for a number of years on this issue. Together with the Born Free Foundation, Captive Animals' Protection Society and the RSPCA, BVA has called for a complete ban as quickly as possible, to end the use of wild animals to entertain people (whether performing or as part of a travelling exhibition) and we support the proposed ban in England.

We consider that the welfare of these animals is emblematic of the way we treat all animals under the care of humans. The welfare needs of non-domesticated, wild animals cannot be met within a travelling circus; especially in terms of housing and being able to express normal behaviour.

**Consultation Question 18** Do you consider that any ban should be a blanket ban on all wild animals in travelling circuses? Why?

Yes No Don't know

Any ban should cover all wild animal species without exception. This is because the complex welfare needs of non-domesticated, wild animals cannot be met within a travelling circus; especially in terms of housing and being able to express normal behaviour. No exceptions or welfare compromises should be made for particular species of wild animal.

**Consultation Question 19** Do you consider that any specific species of animal not commonly domesticated in the British Islands should be permitted to be used in travelling circuses in Scotland? If so, which species and why?

Yes No Don't know

Any ban should be consistent and not allow for any loopholes or grey areas. The ban should also be based on what is not commonly domesticated in the British Isles.

**Consultation Question 20** Do you consider that there are key species that should be covered by a ban in the event that a blanket ban could not be achieved? If so, which species and why?

Yes No Don't know

Comments

**Any other Comments**

**Consultation Question 21.** Do you have any other comments on whether/how the use of wild animals in travelling circuses should be banned in Scotland?

**Yes No**

It would be beneficial if a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses in Scotland reflected any equivalent legislation in England, to avoid any confusion in terms of cross-border implementation and enforcement.

**Consultation Question 22.** Do you consider that the consultation paper explained the key issues sufficiently for you to properly consider your responses?

**Yes No Don't know**

Comments

**Consultation Question 23.** Do you consider that you had sufficient time to respond to the consultation?

**Yes No Don't know**

Comments

**Consultation Question 24.** Do you have any other comments on the way this consultation has been conducted?

**Yes No**

Comments