



Animal Defenders International

Millbank Tower, Millbank, LONDON, SW1P 4QP, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 7630 3340 Fax: +44 (0)20 7828 2179
www.ad-international.org info@ad-international.org

Answer guide for the online questionnaire on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses public consultation

The **online questionnaire** for the public consultation on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses is available on Defra's website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/circus-wild-animals> (click on *online questionnaire*).

The questionnaire has **6 parts** with **20 questions** in total. Most of the questions require a simple **yes** or **no** response. **All questions must be answered** to allow you to progress to the next section. This answer guide will show you through parts 1 to 6 in turn, giving explanations where appropriate.

In order to have a significant impact on the conclusions of the public consultation, ADI urges supporters to put your comments in the fields provided. We have provided some bullet points to help you comment into your own words.

Please pass this information on to your friends and family, we need high numbers of responses to demonstrate to Defra that the British public supports a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses and that it is an issue of high importance.

Continue to next page for Part 1

Part 1

- Yes, I am happy for my response, including my name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available
- No, I do not want my name, contact details and any other personal information to be publicly available (please specify your reasons below)

After the public consultation closes, Defra will summarise all responses and place a summary on its website. This will include a list of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details. Personal details will be recorded for Defra's purposes only. If you need to keep your details confidential, please give your reasons in the space provided. You must give a reason why you do not wish to submit your details, in order to continue filling in the online questionnaire.

Title:

- Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr
- Other (please specify)

Name:

Email address:

Please add your title, full name and email address. All fields must be completed. If you need help with setting up an email account please call the ADI consultation hotline on 020 7630 3340 and our team will be happy to assist you.

Are you representing an organisation?

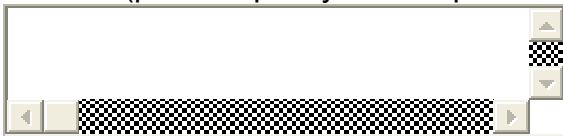
- Are you representing an organisation? No
- Yes - please let us know which organisation, and what is your role (please specify)?

The conclusions of the public consultation will be based on statistical data showing the number of respondents. Respondents will then be categorized into: organisations and individuals, including a percentage of people affiliated with animal welfare organisations and those that provided standard responses. For statistical purposes, it is best if all ADI supporters participate as **individuals**.

Part 2

1. Do you think that there are any species of wild animal which it is acceptable to use in travelling circuses? If so, which and why?

- Don't know
- No
- Yes (please specify which species and why)?



The answer to this question is “no”.

ADI's investigations have consistently shown that all animals in circuses endure:

- Close confinement, often severe and for extended periods
- Deprived environments
- Physical abuse used for day-to-day animal control and during training

For examples of video evidence please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/animaldefenders>

2. Do you think that a ban on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses is the best option to achieve consistently better welfare standards for such animals?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The answer to this question is “yes”.

- A ban is the best and only option to achieve better welfare for animals used in circuses.
- The ‘five freedoms’ define good animal welfare. These are freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury or disease, freedom to express normal behaviour and freedom from fear and distress.
- All animals in circuses endure restrictions on most and sometimes all of these basic freedoms.
- Given the circumstances of constant travel with most of the year spent in temporary, collapsible accommodation, welfare will always be compromised.

For further information please visit:

http://www.ad-international.org/animals_in_entertainment/go.php?id=249&ssi=10

3. If a complete ban were introduced, how much time do you think travelling circuses should be given to stop using their wild animals?

- None
- 1 month
- 3 months
- 6 months
- 1 year
- Until animal is unfit to be used
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

Please add a comment using your words based on the bullet points below

The answer to this question should be “1 month”, “3 months” or “6 months”. Please leave a comment using your own words based on the bullet points below.

- Although it is desirable to see an immediate halt on the use of wild animals in circuses, ADI's worldwide experience shows that in order for a ban to be effective the law should provide a set period of time for its implementation.
- A set period of time will allow the government and stakeholders to make the necessary arrangements to re-home the animals and secure their welfare.
- For example, the Bolivian law banning the use of animals in circuses deferred its implementation for 1 year. During this time, ADI has worked together with the government drafting an animal census, has made re-location offers and is currently in the process of re-homing circus animals.
- There are currently less than 50 wild animals being used in 4 travelling circuses in England. Since this is a relatively low number, the law could be implemented in 6 months.

For more information on the Bolivian animal rescue please see:

http://www.ad-international.org/animal_rescues/go.php?id=1699&ssi=24

4. If a complete ban were introduced, what do you think should happen to the animals at the time the ban becomes effective?

- Animals should stay with circuses at their private premises
- Animals should be re-homed (for example, to a zoo or sanctuary)
- Animals should be euthanased
- Other (please specify)

Please add a comment using your own words based on the bullet point list below.

This answer to this question should be “animals should be re-homed” or “other” along with a comment. Please add a comment using your own words based on one of the bullet points below.

- Animal protection groups are committed to doing what is necessary to protect the animals.
- ADI is committed to relocating animals if required – it has made offers to several UK circuses to re-home animals should they be prepared to give them up.
- We recommend sanctuaries over zoos. Although there are ongoing efforts to improve zoo facilities and create more stimulating and enriched environments for the animals because of the confinement and sometimes the physical abuse that circus animals may have endured, we recommend they go to a specialised sanctuary to alleviate the impact of other problems such as stereotypic behaviour. Former circus animals should be re-homed in priority to sanctuaries. Zoos which have the highest welfare standards should be considered only when no sanctuary is available for re-homing. These standards should be assessed beforehand by animal protection organisations.

5. Do you think that travelling circuses should be prevented from obtaining any further wild animals?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The answer to this question is “yes”.

- All circuses should be prevented from obtaining more animals since their welfare is seriously compromised in this industry, for reasons explained earlier in the questionnaire. Regardless of the time circuses would have to stop using their animals in the event of a ban, there should be a prohibition on acquiring new animals, which should be immediate.

Part 3

6. If a complete ban were introduced, how often do you think travelling circuses should be inspected to ensure compliance?

- Every location
- Every month
- Every 3 months
- Every 6 months
- Every year
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

Please add a comment using your own words.

The answer to this question should be "every location". Please leave a comment using your own words based on the bullet points below.

- In order to ensure effective compliance with the ban, circuses should be inspected frequently, by each local authority when it enters their jurisdiction.

7. How do you think a complete ban on wild animals might affect the revenue of the travelling circuses affected?

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

The answer to this question should be "no change" or "increase".

- Currently, in UK circuses that feature animals, these acts represent less than a fifth of the whole performance, therefore a ban will not have a substantial affect on their income.
- The consistency of opinion polls and data from audience numbers shows that there is no significant public appetite for wild animals.
- Circuses will shift from using acts with wild animals to domestic animal acts or non animal acts that are more popular amongst the public. Therefore, the circus revenue

should remain the same or even increase due to the popularity of human acts amongst the public.

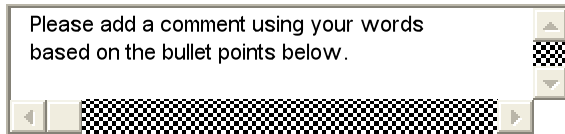
- There need be no loss of jobs, because circus workers can be redeployed to other work, and many (those not working with animals) can simply carry on with what they are doing.
- ADI has found that as animal circuses close, the trend is that animal-free circuses replace them. –between 1996 and 2000, the number of UK animal circuses plunged from 22 to 11, whilst the number of animal-free circuses rose from 9 to 23. The circus industry can still thrive and even increase overall attendance, without the stigma of animal suffering.

8. Do you think that wild animals from travelling circuses have skills which make them more suitable than other animals for work in the audiovisual industry? Why?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Why (please specify)?

Please add a comment using your words based on the bullet points below.



The answer to this question should be “no”. Please leave a comment using your own words based on the bullet points below.

- Animals do not possess natural performing skills and retain their natural instincts. It is not surprising that the most commonly observed violence towards animals in circuses is inflicted on those that might be the least likely to cooperate, such as wild animals.
- The fact that an animal has been trained and used for several years in the circus industry does not make it anymore suitable to carry on similar work in the broader entertainment industry. In 2009, a spokesperson of the Great British Circus said: “*circus tigers are trained and handled differently*” when commenting on a tiger used in films, but not used as part of the circus show.
- If circus animals are shifted to the broader entertainment industry they will continue to endure confinement, close control and subjugation. As a result, the welfare of the animals will remain compromised.

9. Do you think that a complete ban on wild animals in travelling circuses could have an impact on other industries?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Please specify

Please add a comment using your words based on the bullet points below.

The answer to this question should be “no”. Please leave a comment using your own words based on the bullet points below.

- A complete ban will not affect the broader entertainment industry. Performing animals are a minor and dispensable part of the film and television industry. Circuses are a minor source of animals and the major suppliers would therefore remain unaffected. Technology has largely replaced animals and in other cases, changed performance requirements.

10. Do you think that travelling circus employees undergoing training would be an appropriate measure to help raise the standard of welfare of wild animals in circuses?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The answer to this question should be “no”.

- Providing training to circus employees will not be sufficient to achieve optimum welfare standards. Confinement and deprivation are inherent to the travelling circus environment and will not be resolved with personnel training.
- Even with the best will in the world, the environment of the travelling circus cannot provide standards of welfare and husbandry that will enable animals to adequately express their natural behaviour to a level where optimum physical and psychological health is maintained.

Part 4

11. Do you think that travelling circus owners should have to produce, on demand, veterinary records for the wild animals performing in their circus?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The answer to this question should be "yes".

- If circuses with animals were regulated, not banned, circus owners must be required to keep detailed veterinary records of all of their animals, available to authorities on demand.
- However, the production of these records is not an accurate measure of animal welfare as it only indicates the physical state of an animal at the moment of the examination.

12. Do you think that visits from an appropriately trained inspector would safeguard the welfare for wild animals in travelling circuses?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The answer to this question should be "no".

- ADI's investigations have shown that even trained inspectors (such as RSPCA) cannot necessarily detect long term husbandry problems or physical abuse. These incidences often occur behind the scenes so are not picked up in routine inspections. Unannounced spot checks could also be introduced to ensure welfare standards are maintained, but are unlikely to detect hidden animals.
- If inspections are carried out at local level there will be a different inspector for each location which would be impractical and lack consistency of assessment.

13. If visits were required, what should be the minimum circus inspection frequency per year? Why?

- Every location
- Every month
- Every 3 months

- Every 6 months
- Every year
- Don't know

Why (please specify)?

Please add a comment using your words based on the bullet points below.

The answer to this question should be “every location”. Please add a comment on your own words using the following information:

- In an environment where space and enrichment might drop considerably from one week to the next, depending on the site available to the circus, then every location should be inspected.

14. Do you think that inspectors should undertake unannounced inspections of travelling circuses?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The answer to this question should be “yes”.

- Nevertheless, spot checks are not substitute for long term observations, which are expensive and require passive recording of data over time.

15. Do you think that a code of practice for keeping wild animals in travelling circuses could effectively safeguard their welfare? If yes, who do you think should write such a code?

- No one
- Defra
- Circuses
- Welfare organisations
- Other (please specify)

Please add a comment using your words based on the bullet points below.

Please note that you can select more than one answer for this question. The suggested answer is “no one” and “other”.

- A code of practice for keeping wild animals in travelling circuses **will not** be effective to safeguard their welfare. There are no mechanisms to set and enforce standards. Only a ban can effectively safeguard circus animals' welfare.

Part 5

16. Do you think that the hours and the environment in which animals travel should be restricted? If yes, what should these restrictions be?

- Don't know
- No
- Yes (please specify)

Please add a comment using your words based on the bullet points below.

The answer to this question should be “yes”. Please add a comment in your own words based on the following information:

- A ban on the use of wild animals in circuses is the only way to ensure that animals do not suffer physical and psychologically in travelling circuses
- Restrictions or modifications of the “environment in which animals travel” will be a significant investment for animal circuses. The inherent nature of the travelling circus means that equipment needs to be small, lightweight and collapsible capable of fitting onto a flatbed lorry. Wild animals often share travelling facilities with circus equipment. Therefore, it is unrealistic to believe that animals of this size can adequately be cared for in such an environment.
- Inspectors will have difficulty ensuring that the records kept correspond to a specific animal and that they are accurate. Therefore there will be a lack of certainty on the number of working hours of a specific animal and the travel environment in which it has been kept.

17. Do you think that circuses themselves are best placed to regulate welfare standards for wild animals in travelling circuses?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

The answer to this question should be “no”.

- Circus personnel lack the knowledge and qualifications on animal welfare to maintain high standards.

- Animal circuses lack the facilities and infrastructure to implement the necessary measures to ensure the welfare of wild animals.
- During the beatings of elephants at the Great British Circus in 2009, the circus was operating under the PAWSI standards (Performing Animal Welfare Standards International). Circuses cannot self-regulate.

18. If self-regulation is supported, should a regulatory body be accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service or an equivalent body (please state)?

- United Kingdom Accreditation Service
- Don't know
- Equivalent - please specify which body you had in mind

Please add a comment using your words based on the bullet points below.

The answer to this question should be "Equivalent". Please add a comment in your own words based on the following information:

- Regulatory bodies accredited by UKAS have been criticised as the accreditation provides no guarantee that self-regulation will be effectively implemented and enforced. A UKAS accredited body does not guarantee that animal welfare is being safeguarded.
- Self regulation should not be considered as an option.

19. Do you think the use of no more than 50 wild animals in travelling circuses merits action? If yes, what action?

- Don't know
- No
- Yes (please specify)

Please add a comment using your words based on the bullet points below.

The answer to this question should be "Yes", please add a comment in your own words based on the following information:

- Although at present the number of wild animals in circuses in the UK is relatively small the numbers will increase if the government decides not to act forcefully. In 2009 the Great British Circus added 3 elephants to its act due to governmental inaction. ADI released shocking footage from behind the scenes at this PAWSI - accredited circus, showing violence and confinement of circus elephants.
- A low number of animals makes the ban easier to implement.

- A ban on the use of wild animals in circuses is the only option to ensure they no longer suffer confinement and deprivation and have the opportunity to attain optimum physical and psychological health.

For more information visit:

http://www.ad-international.org/animals_in_entertainment/go.php?id=1625&ssi=10

20. Do you think that there is an existing body that is appropriate to enforce any regulations on the use of wild animals in circuses? If so, which and why?

- Don't know
- No
- Yes (please specify which and why)

Please add a comment using your words based on the bullet points below.

The answer to this question should be “no”.

- Due to the travelling nature of the circus, it is difficult for a national authority or body to enforce regulations on a day to day basis. This task will have to be delegated to the local authorities.
- Local authorities do not employ qualified personnel to enforce regulations. The local councils would remain responsible for registering performing animals; so will continue to be unable to follow up compliance as the circus will be touring for most of the year. Conversely, the local authority inspectors which have the duty to inspect animal circuses entering their jurisdiction are often stretched with other law enforcement duties that might take priority in the area such as community safety. Inspectors also lack the necessary knowledge of wild animals to properly enforce the regulations and training will be very costly for the national government.
- The process of inspection, gathering of evidence and preparation of notices to enforce regulations will also face practical difficulties for local authorities, since a travelling circus is likely to have moved on by the time any legal process is under way

Continue to next page for Part 6

Part 6

Questionnaire completed and ready to be submitted.

We hope that you have found this guide helpful and please do not hesitate to contact our consultation hotline if you have any queries.

Thank you for taking the time to help. Together we can make a difference to the future of animal welfare.

**Animal Defenders International,
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Millbank,
London,
SW1P 4QP.**

020 7630 3340

ADI Answer Guide