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Dear ██████████

Inspection of the Great British Circus - Chelmsford site

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I am writing further to the inspection carried out by Animal Health Veterinary Officers on 1 October 2009 and would take this opportunity of thanking you for permitting this visit. ██████████ was present during the inspection and the visit was by prior arrangement.

At the time of inspection the Officers found the animals to be in good bodily condition and adequately housed within their temporary enclosures.

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Training sessions were observed involving tigers, Friesian stallions and the three elephants.

Two matters caused our inspectors some concern and these were fully discussed with you during the visit:

1 Indian elephant 'Delhi'

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This elephant is chronically and obviously lame (~~bilateral and or symmetrically?~~), displaying an abnormal gait involving both front limbs. ~~There has been a lot of diagnostic work with no conclusive result ██████████ so we were unable to offer further in the way of diagnosis except that ██████████ looked at her feet and they looked OK.~~ Despite considerable veterinary involvement at Cambridge Veterinary School ~~no definitive diagnosis has been reached to date. Please can we confirm who we think is providing this veterinary care~~ Delhi was being asked to perform 'tricks' during the training session which I understand you had not seen before. It was the opinion of ~~both our~~ officers that Delhi exhibited an unacceptable degree of awkwardness during the session which may indicate that pain was being experienced. We therefore advised you and that she should not be expected to do anything other than gentle daily exercise while her condition remains undiagnosed.

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Without a diagnosis of her condition it is not possible to rule out the possibility that she may be suffering a level of pain which would be exacerbated by the movements she was being expected to carry out. As a herd animal, however, she should be allowed to accompany the other two elephants at all times and you agreed that she would stay at the side of the ring whilst the other two perform. She should remain under the care of a veterinary surgeon with further examinations/diagnostic work as necessary. In the short term this should be ~~shuld b acceptable but in the longer term, particularly if her condition worsens, you may need to reassess the situation.~~

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We understand that unfortunately you did allow this animal to perform at a subsequent event. This is disappointing as it suggests we cannot rely on any verbal agreements in future. We may need to serve you with a notice to ensure that the welfare of this animal is protected.

In addition to the lameness she has a chronic abscess on her left flank which ~~may~~ requires further veterinary intervention. I understand that the abscess is being regularly drained by her handlers but you and the handlers were advised that she should be seen by a veterinary surgeon to reassess the condition as soon as possible.

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The potential risk of herniation as a result of requiring elephants to 'dog sit' was discussed with you. This is not a normal posture for an elephant and places huge pressure on the diaphragm and perineum. ~~The Our recommendation there therefore is~~ that the elephants are not asked to 'dogsit'. You agreed to this.

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I understand that all three elephants have now returned to Germany. We have concerns that this animal may suffer pain during transport in future and suggest that you now consider if transporting her is in her best interests.

You should be aware that it is an offence under UK welfare during transport legislation (Article 4 of The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) to transport animals in a way which causes, or is likely to cause, injury or undue suffering. Transporters and hauliers found at inspection to be carrying unfit animals could face prosecution under this legislation. It is possible that in future that one of our veterinary staff, a Local Authority inspector or another member state might prevent this animal from being transported because of concerns about its welfare.

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~~I understand that all three elephants will return to Germany within the next few weeks. We have concerns that this animal may suffer pain during transport and suggest that you now consider if transporting her is in her best interests. It is possible that in future that one of our veterinary staff, a Local Authority inspector or another member state might prevent this animal from being transported because of concerns about its welfare.~~

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## 2 White donkey.

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The donkey was in condition score 4 - 4.5 and therefore is considered by our officers to be overweight. We recommend that you consult your veterinary surgeon on this matter. Overweight donkeys are highly susceptible to hyperlipaemia - a condition which is difficult to treat and frequently results in death. Since the donkey does little in the way of work you were advised that a diet of predominately good quality feeding straw (approximately 75% of the diet) rather than hay, and limited access to grass would be suitable.-

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In this respect the diet is very different to that required for your horses and those employees responsible for feeding the equines should be made aware of the different requirements. Weight loss of no more than 2kg per month should be aimed for. If you do not have weighing facilities a useful measure of weight loss is the heart girth measurement and you should aim for a loss of 1-2cm per month until the donkey has achieved a satisfactory body condition. ~~You may wish to consult your veterinary surgeon on this matter.~~

The question of free access to drinking water was discussed and you explained why you felt this was not advisable. Our inspectors explained the legal requirements. Clearly, the cats should be offered water at suitable intervals such that they do not suffer thirst at any time.

Both officers were most appreciative of your cooperation and hospitality during the inspection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss the above further.

Yours sincerely

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Animal Health

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