

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 August 2009 10:55  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Report on the circus elephants

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you. You will find my report for the RSPCA below. [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern:

On 24<sup>th</sup> August 2009 I have carried out a visit to the Great British Circus along with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Essex Trading Standards from 11:00 to 13:00 hours approx. The Circus was located in Southend Road, Rochford, Essex. On site, I met [REDACTED] Great British Circus Ring Mistress and [REDACTED] Circus Horse Trainer who handed to me the attached statement which gives some background information of the incident reported by the video footage, corrective actions and lesson learned implemented by the Circus. During my visit I have been introduced to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] his wife, both German nationals and owners of the three animals in question: two Indian elephants and one African elephant which were imported into UK from Belgium earlier this year on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

I have inspected the above mentioned animals during the daily training in the circus ring and also in the day and night enclosure when they were moved to afterwards. I also questioned the owners regarding the daily activity and care provided to their animals.

The three animal were adults, between 32 and 37 years old and were in fair conditions: I noticed that one of the Indian elephant moved abnormally her right foreleg slightly, probably as result of an old physical injury, apparently the circus representatives and the owners were aware of this problem and stated that x-rays and treatment records could be produced by [REDACTED] Great British Circus Consultant on request, The other Indian elephant had few old scars on her back, however, considering both elephants' age these minor problems should be deemed acceptable. No problem was identified in the African Elephant which was also the youngest in the herd. I inspected the elephants' documents: passports and CITES licences and no problem was identified.

The three elephants had an hour of daily training in the circus ring, two-three performing sessions a day (approx 10 minutes each session). When they were not on training or performing, they were kept in a reasonably good size enclosure. A shelter (marquee) was also available in the enclosed space. Electrical fencing was in place around the whole perimeter of their area. During the day the elephants were free to move within the enclosure whilst during the night they were tethered for health & safety reasons in the marquee. During the night a layer of straw was provided as bedding where the animals were tethered.

These elephants were apparently inspected by vets in UK few times this year (including our colleagues in Lincoln AHO). I will try to contact again [REDACTED] tomorrow in order to obtain some evidences on this matter. When the elephants were in Germany they used to be inspected by veterinary surgeons of the competent authority after each circus movement where, health, welfare and documents were checked according to specific requirements laid down in the German legislation. For more details on these requirements please open the attached document in German language.



Circus  
Elephants.pdf

(A)



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re.pdf

(B)

The owners of the elephants have reported to be victimised by regular intruders during day and night since they came to England to work with the Great British Circus. They believe that if the health and

welfare of their animals were checked by Animal Health on a regular basis this would have minimised the several intrusions perpetrated by animal rights people.

In conclusion, during my visit no evidence of poor animal welfare was found in all circus animals on site (3 Elephants, 16 Equines, 13 Tigers, 1 Lion and 6 Camels), although confirmation of veterinary treatments and examinations had by the elephants is still awaited.

[REDACTED]

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