

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter sent in reply to mine. I am sorry if the tone of my letter upset you.

We wrote to you to remind you of your legal obligations and to explain that the welfare of animals needed to be protected. We also wanted to record the facts and findings from our inspections to avoid any misunderstandings.

I now wish to remind you that should you transport a lame animal you risk prosecution and the detention of the animal. Our inspector did not prevent the elephant from travelling as it was considered returning it to its winter quarters was sensible to allow it to rest and receive further veterinary treatment. That does not mean we are content for this animal to be transported again in future.

We also would not be content for this animal to be used for any purpose or performance. You would risk prosecution under our Animal Welfare Act if you did.

Our intention therefore if this animal returns to the UK is to serve you and the keeper and or owner with a notice or notices preventing transport of this animal and its use in any performance. I am sorry that we may need to do this but the alternative is that you do not allow this elephant to travel.

We will contact our colleagues in Germany to ensure they take any action they feel is appropriate such as preventing transport of an unfit animal.

Yours sincerely

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. [REDACTED] 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. Training sessions were observed involving tigers, Friesian stallions and the three elephants.~~

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~~Two matters caused concern and these were fully discussed during the visit:~~

Indian elephant 'Delhi'. This elephant is chronically and obviously lame, displaying an abnormal gait involving both front limbs. There has been a lot of diagnostic work with no conclusive result [REDACTED] so we were unable to offer further in the way of diagnosis except that [REDACTED] looked at her feet and they looked OK. Despite considerable veterinary involvement at Cambridge Veterinary School no definitive diagnosis has been reached. 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 officers that Delhi exhibited an unacceptable degree of awkwardness during the session and that she should not be expected to do anything other than gentle daily exercise while her condition remains undiagnosed. 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 could 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. should be. 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 require 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 recommendation there is that the elephants are not asked to 'dog sit'.

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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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White donkey. The donkey was in condition score 4 - 4.5 and therefore overweight. 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. 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. 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 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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