

U.S. circus to end use of elephants

8th March, 2015



One of the largest circus companies in the USA will soon no longer have performing elephants as part of its shows. The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus said it would stop using elephants by 2018. All the 43

animals it currently uses will be moved to an animal conservation centre in Florida. There, the giant creatures will live out their retirement. The decision came after a lot of protests from the public. One hundred years ago, people thought it was OK for animals to perform to please humans. However, the world is different today and people are more worried about the lives of the animals. The circus will continue to use other animals, such as camels, dogs, horses, lions and tigers.

Circuses have been criticised for many years by animal rights activists and the public who care about the treatment of animals. Jessica Johnson, a spokeswoman for PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) explained how elephants have a bad life in circuses. She said: "Many of the elephants are painfully arthritic, and many have tuberculosis, so their retirement day needs to come now." Many cities and towns in the USA have banned the use of elephants for entertainment. This has made it hard for circuses to travel around the country. Owners of the circus company said the decision to stop using elephants was not easy but understood that: "There's been somewhat of a mood shift among our consumers."

Sources: BBC / National Geographic / Huffington Post

Writing

Animals should never be used in circuses. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

circus companies / performing elephants / conservation / creatures / protests / tigers / criticized / animal rights / treatment / retirement / travel / understood / a mood shift

True / False

- The largest circus in the world will stop using elephants in its shows. T / F
- All of the circus' 43 elephants will retire by 2018. T / F
- The circus decided to retire its elephants because of public protests. T / F
- The circus will continue to use other animals like lions and tigers. T / F
- PETA is an organization that campaigns for animal rights. T / F
- An animal rights group said elephants have a good life in circuses. T / F
- No town in the USA has banned the use of performing elephants. T / F
- The circus said it did not understand the public's feeling. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. largest | a. presently |
| 2. stop | b. prohibited |
| 3. currently | c. concerned |
| 4. please | d. discontinue |
| 5. worried | e. difficult |
| 6. criticised | f. behaviour towards |
| 7. treatment of | g. satisfy |
| 8. banned | h. change |
| 9. hard | i. biggest |
| 10. shift | j. attacked |

Discussion – Student A

- What kind of life do you think circus elephants have?
- Should we put an end to all animals in captivity?
- Would you like to see elephants in a circus?
- What are the differences between animals in zoos and animals in circuses?
- When is it OK to keep animals in circuses?
- What's the difference between a circus animal and a pet?
- What will circuses be like in another fifty years?
- What questions would you like to ask the circus owners?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. One of the largest circus | a. activists |
| 2. stop using elephants | b. conservation centre |
| 3. moved to an animal | c. for many years |
| 4. The decision came after | d. for entertainment |
| 5. The circus will continue | e. to use other animals |
| 6. Circuses have been criticised | f. to come now |
| 7. animal rights | g. by 2018 |
| 8. their retirement day needs | h. shift |
| 9. banned the use of elephants | i. a lot of protests |
| 10. somewhat of a mood | j. companies in the USA |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about elephants performing in circuses?
- What do you think about circuses?
- How do you feel about the elephants retiring?
- How do you think circus elephants feel about performing?
- Why did the public protest?
- Why did people think performing elephants were OK 100 years ago?
- Why are people more concerned about animals today?
- Should the circus stop using all animals?

Spelling

- One of the agsrelt circus companies
- mgnripfoe elephants
- All the 43 animals it ctylnurur uses
- the giant etacuersr
- a lot of sotrspet from the public
- The circus will eonuticn to use other animals
- Circuses have been idiicsretc for many years
- animal rights ssicavitt
- their emrteietrn day
- the use of elephants for tteatemnirenn
- the ideiscno to stop using elephants
- a mood shift among our rmosuencs

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. d	3. a	4. g	5. c
6. j	7. f	8. b	9. e	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Zoos

You think zoos are the worst places for animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the most acceptable of these (and why): circuses, horseracing tracks or movies.

Role B – Circuses

You think circuses are the worst places for animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the most acceptable of these (and why): zoos, horseracing tracks or movies.

Role C – Horseracing tracks

You think horseracing tracks are the worst places for animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the most acceptable of these (and why): circuses, zoos or movies.

Role D – Movies

You think movies are the worst places for animals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their places aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the most acceptable of these (and why): circuses, horseracing tracks or zoos.

Speaking – Entertainment

Rank these with your partner. Put the least acceptable uses of animals for entertainment at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • bullfighting | • zoos |
| • movies | • horseracing |
| • circuses | • TV commercials |
| • hunting | • theme parks |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.