



# Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in New South Wales

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#### **More information**

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## Definitions

Words and expressions that occur in these Standards have the same meaning as they have in the Act, unless otherwise specified in these Standards.

In these Standards:

**animal wagon** means any wagon, truck, float or van intended for the transport or holding, and/or static display, of an animal or animals.

**authority** means a licence, approval or permit issued under the Act.

**behaviour** means any pattern of action and attitude assumed by an animal.

**big cat** means a large member of the cat family that has the ability to roar.

**box** means any confinement facility that has a roof, four solid sides and a solid floor.

**cage** means any facility that enables close confinement of any animal and has at least one vertical side consisting of material that enables direct viewing of the contents of the facility.

**camelid** means any member of the camel family including camels, llamas and alpacas.

**carnivore** means any canid, felid or ursid.

**cetacean** means any whale (toothed or baleen).

**circus exhibitor** means a person or company that holds an authority to exhibit animals for the purposes of a circus.

**circus layover** means an off-display establishment for animals authorised to be exhibited by a circus exhibitor that is exempt from the requirement to be licensed under the Act because:

- a) the animals that are being kept for display at the off-display establishment are animals that are authorised to be exhibited by a circus, and
- b) those animals are being kept for display at the off-display establishment on a temporary and short term basis, and
- c) the off-display establishment is not an off-display establishment at which those animals are ordinarily kept for display when the circus exhibitor is not exhibiting those animals.

**circus mobile establishment** means a mobile establishment comprising premises used for the purposes of a circus.

**Department** means the Department of Industry.

**disease** means any condition suffered by an animal such that normally accepted parameters of health are not met

**distress** means the animal's mechanisms for coping with stressors are being utilised but not over-extended. Signs of distress may include anxiety, elevated heart and respiration rates, aggression, aversion, frustration, boredom and displacement behaviours. A number of these signs are evident when an animal is experiencing a 'fight or flight' response.

**domestic animal** means any of the various animals which have been domesticated by humans, so as to live and breed in a tame condition.

**enclosure** includes a cage or other structure in which an exhibited animal is kept or is treated for illness or injury.

**fence** includes a wall or other barrier.

**fixed establishment** means an animal display establishment comprising premises, used on an on-going basis, for the display of the following animals, but only while the animals are displayed or kept for display on the premises:

- a) animals that are the subject of an approval under section 22 of the Act, or
- b) animals that are the subject of a permit.

**float** means any towed wagon intended for the transport of animals while they are standing normally.

**flooring** means the solid component on the bottom of any cage, stall, float or enclosure.

**handler** means any individual engaged to attend to the physical placement, translocation or restraint of any animal, or who controls animals in an exhibit without modifying any existing behaviours.

**harness** means the combination of straps, bands and other parts forming the working gear of a horse or other animal.

**layover period** means a period during which a circus ceases performances and circus animals remain at a circus layover.

**mobile establishment** means an animal display establishment comprising premises used, on a temporary basis, for the display of the following animals, but only while the animals are displayed or kept for display at the premises:

- a) animals that are the subject of an approval under section 22 of the Act, or
- b) animals that are the subject of a permit.

**negative reinforcement** means punishment for failure to perform as required by the trainer.

**NSW DPI** means the NSW Department of Primary Industries, being a departmental office within the Department.

**off-display establishment** means an animal display establishment comprising premises used for the keeping for display of animals, but not the display of animals, that are:

- a) the subject of an approval under section 22 of the Act, or
- b) the subject of a permit, or
- c) ordinarily exhibited at a fixed establishment,

and includes the land, buildings, enclosures and facilities used for that purpose.

**pinniped** means any seal, sea lion or walrus.

**restraint** means any method (be it physical, chemical or behavioural) of preventing an animal from performing an act or movement deemed undesirable at the time.

**site** means the place at which a circus mobile establishment is located.

**stall** means any enclosure that does not permit a standing animal to turn around.

**stress** means a disturbing physiological or psychological influence which produces a state of severe tension in an individual.

**stressor** means any factor that produces stress when experienced in excess, for example heat, cold, overcrowding, inadequate husbandry, social deprivation, pain and the inability to exhibit characteristic behaviours.

**substrate** means any bedding or litter placed on the flooring of a cage, box, stall or enclosure.

**tethering** means the tying of an animal to an anchorage.

the **Act** means the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*.

the **Secretary** means the Secretary of the Department.

**these Standards** means the Standards for Exhibiting Circus Animals in New South Wales.

**trainer** means any person who interacts with an animal with the purpose of inducing that animal to perform a desired behaviour, or to modify an existing behaviour in a desired fashion.

**ungulate** means any hoofed animal including horses, donkeys, ponies, sheep, cattle, goats, camels, llamas and alpacas.

**veterinary practitioner** has the same meaning as in the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*.

**welfare** means a state of wellbeing which can be compromised by such things as disease, injury, pain, stress and deprivation.

## Notes

Notes that occur in this Standard are for information only and do not form part of this Standard

## Part 1 – General

### Clause 1 - Scope of standards

1. These standards apply to all animals displayed, or kept for display, by a circus exhibitor authorised under the Act.
2. These standards must be used in conjunction with all other applicable prescribed standards and policies of the Department (including NSW DPI), including:
  - a) General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in New South Wales.
3. An applicant may seek the Secretary's approval to any variation of the application of these Standards. An applicant must satisfy the Secretary that the proposed variation is appropriate for the particular species to be exhibited. The Secretary, if so satisfied, may approve in writing a variation in the particular circumstances.

### Clause 2 – Purpose of these standards

1. These Standards have been primarily developed to ensure the welfare of exhibited animals but cover a range of areas including:
  - a) psychological and physical animal welfare;
  - b) educational value of exhibits;
  - c) public safety; and
  - d) requirements for new or existing exhibits
2. All areas provided within these Standards are minimum areas. Exhibitors are encouraged to make enclosures larger than those listed.

## Part 2 – Suitability and safety

### Clause 3 – Suitability of animal species

1. Except as provided in subclauses 2 to 5, a circus exhibitor may only hold an animal that is being trained to perform or is performing on a regular basis. A circus exhibitor will not be permitted to acquire new animals, except for the purposes of training and performance.
2. Where it is not possible for a circus exhibitor to rehouse a retired non-performing animal at a fixed establishment, the circus exhibitor may retain the animal at the circus exhibitor's off-display establishment if the circus exhibitor does so in accordance with the prescribed standards applicable to licensed animal display establishments.
3. A circus exhibitor may hold an animal for breeding purposes only if the animal is a retired performing animal and it is housed in accordance with the standards applying to the housing of animals in fixed establishments.
4. Breeding must comply with the laws of the State in relation to breeding and with these criteria:
  - a) The animals must be compatible.
  - b) The animals must be of an age and a state of health at which breeding can reasonably

- be expected to occur.
- c) The animals must be held in a facility in which breeding and parental care of offspring can be reasonably expected to occur. Where the male of the species has a reputation for killing offspring, a facility for holding males separately from females and offspring must be provided.
  - d) In the case of mammals, regular records of the female's oestrus must be kept.
  - e) Prior to the commencement of breeding, written evidence of the placement of the progeny in a circus or fixed establishment must be provided.
  - f) To minimise any problems associated with inbreeding, the animals must be sufficiently genetically distant.
  - g) Only one retired pair of each species authorised for exhibit may continue to travel with the circus mobile establishment for the purposes of breeding (with the exception of lions and primates, where one male and two females may travel with the circus). If more than one pair is required for breeding purposes, the additional animals must be held in a licensed animal display establishment.
  - h) Breeding must not occur if it can be reasonably expected that welfare of the progeny would be adversely affected, because of budgetary or space constraints.
  - i) Breeding must not conflict with the Australasian Species Management Program of the Zoo Aquarium Association.
  - j) Breeding must not occur if it would not be in the best interests of the species or an individual animal.
5. Circus personnel may hold an animal of a recognised domestic species as a personal pet. The circus exhibitor must regulate the care and housing of personal pets.
  6. Any animal imported into Australia must not be exhibited by a circus exhibitor unless the circus exhibitor can prove that the following requirements were complied with prior to the animal's entry:
    - a) A permit allowing entry of the animal into the State has been issued.
    - b) The animal was transported to Australia in accordance with accepted international standards governing the health, welfare and safety of that species of animal.
    - c) The manager responsible for each act has ensured that each trainer understands the level of animal care expected under these Standards. This may involve questioning of a manager by an RSPCA or Government inspector, in order to demonstrate the manager's knowledge of this document.
    - d) Upon entry to Australia, the animal was examined by a veterinary practitioner experienced with that family of animals, and the animal was certified as being in good health prior to training and performance recommencing.
    - e) Any imported circus animal in breach of the above requirements must not be displayed and must be kept for display at the circus mobile establishment or returned to the circus exhibitor's off-display establishment.
  7. Hybrid animals (excluding the donkey–horse cross, i.e. mule) are not considered appropriate for a circus. An existing hybrid animal must not be replaced and, where possible, every effort must be made to place the animal in a suitable new environment that meets standards for the housing of animals in a licensed animal display establishment.



8. Different species capable of cross-mating must not be housed together. This clause does not apply while animals are performing or being trained together in the performance ring. Any progeny from accidental matings must not be exhibited.
9. Social species must not be exhibited as single specimens, unless the circus exhibitor can show compelling reasons for doing so.
10. Suitability of specific groups of animals:

a) Big cats

- i. Lions: In the wild, lions are basically sedentary. They only become active during hunting, feeding, fighting, territorial marking or mating.

These active periods have been shown to occupy only a very small part of the normal waking hours of lions, making lions more suitable to be exhibited by a circus exhibitor than other species of big cats. In captivity, the urge to hunt must be sublimated; otherwise boredom and the associated behavioural problems may set in. Training a lion to perform behaviours on command may offset boredom. The natural instincts being utilised during training include:

- to work as a team.
- to expend physical energy.
- to perform certain physical movements (such as leaping, rearing, running).
- to anticipate reward.

Lions form prides with a hierarchy. The trainer can exploit this, so that a lion looks to them for guidance. Stimuli emanating from the trainer, via training to perform tricks, help to cater for the natural behavioural tendencies of a lion.

- ii. Other big cats: Most other big cats are solitary and do not seek prolonged close physical contact with other individuals of their species. For this reason they are less suitable to be exhibited by a circus exhibitor than lions, which are the only social cat species.

b) Dogs

Dogs are hierarchical pack animals that respond very well to being controlled by a human.

c) Ungulates

- i. Ungulates are considered 'domesticated' by society at large and their prolonged contact and co-existence with humans has rendered them tractable. Humans have also developed a good body of knowledge about these ungulates and a high level of stockmanship.
- ii. Male camels periodically undergo a condition known as 'musth', during which they are potentially dangerous. In this instance, castration of individual male camels, if deemed necessary, remains the responsibility of the circus exhibitor.

d) Elephants

- i. Elephants are a herd animal that can be well-trained to respond to commands, as a result of their natural tendency to follow a leader. Because they are social animals, elephants appear able to relate to humans in terms of their own social structures. In time, elephants come to associate humans with food and social stimuli. This association can be used by humans on a rewards basis for training. A human in charge of an elephant should never be a source of stress;

otherwise the elephant will no longer tend to 'trust' that human or allow itself to be led by that human.

- ii. Male elephants periodically undergo a condition known as 'musth', during which they are more aggressive and sexually active. A musth bull elephant will attack anything that it perceives to be a rival and is potentially very dangerous, especially in captivity. Because of this, it is recommended that a circus exhibitor does not hold a bull elephant except where a documented, manageable, safe history can be demonstrated.
- iii. Elephants are intelligent, inquisitive and social creatures and unless compelling reasons can be shown, a circus exhibitor must not attempt to maintain single elephants. An existing circus exhibitor that exhibits elephants may acquire a single animal to add to its existing group. However, a new circus exhibitor wishing to obtain elephants for the first time must acquire two or more animals. An elephant exhibited by a circus exhibitor must be supplied with mental stimulation, avenues of play and social contact with other elephants. Constant training will provide some of the necessary stimulation, so long as the training is based only on positive reinforcement. This training must involve the introduction of new behaviours and the modification of existing routines.

e) Monkeys and chimpanzees

- i. Monkeys and apes are intensely hierarchical, very intelligent, social animals. Monkeys' and apes' association with humans is based on their perception of humans as a source of food and other types of rewards, as well as being at the top of their social order. Given proper care and facilities, most individual monkeys and apes adapt to existence in a circus environment. Ongoing training must be pursued, so that a regular and constant source of mental stimulus is provided.
- ii. Monkeys and apes are amenable to training because of their high intelligence and inquisitive nature. Both these tendencies are well-catered for if the animals are being trained. Monkeys and apes need constant stimulation when not training or performing, otherwise they become bored and frustrated.
- iii. Large apes (orang-outangs and gorillas) and arboreal apes (gibbons) are unsuitable animals for the circus environment, due to their large living space requirements. Large apes must not be exhibited by a circus exhibitor.

f) Birds

- i. The need for birds to have large display cages to allow natural flight, in addition to their nervous nature around humans, generally renders them unsuitable animals for circuses. The exceptions to this are domesticated pigeons and doves, domestic poultry, and parrots.
- ii. Parrots can be suitable circus animals, as they are intelligent enough to associate the performance of desired behaviours with obtaining a reward. This is the primary driving force behind their trainability. When displayed, these birds may amuse themselves by performing for passers-by, and thus avoid boredom.
- iii. In the case of domesticated pigeons and doves, their long association with humans has rendered them less stressed by handling, which makes them suitable birds for the circus environment.
- iv. Some birds learn to form a social attachment with their handlers or trainers. This attachment appears to be rewarding for the birds, in that it appears to cater

for their social tendencies, and is to be encouraged.

g) Bears

- i. A circus exhibitor may hold bears if the bears' performance is:
  - in an arena cage, such as that used for the performance of big cats (in which case muzzles are not mandatory); and
  - entry to the arena cage is via an enclosed raceway or some other means, by which the animal is enclosed.
- ii. When not performing, a bear must not be muzzled, unless such muzzling is required for short periods only.
- iii. Muzzling may be necessary for medical access or in circumstances when a handler must temporarily enter an enclosure containing bears.
- iv. It is not permissible to declaw or detooth a bear, unless such surgery is required for the animal's health.
- v. Because bears spend the majority of their time roaming in the wild, the size of their display cages will have to be maximised.

h) Pinnipeds

A circus exhibitor may exhibit pinnipeds *only* where the cage sizes for their display and transportation meet the relevant standards for static displays of pinnipeds in a licensed animal display establishment.

i) Reptiles

- i. Pythons are the only reptiles permitted to be exhibited by a circus exhibitor, as pythons are considered to be traditional circus animals.
- ii. Where pythons are exhibited by a circus exhibitor, the cage sizes for their display and transportation must meet the relevant standards for static reptile displays in licensed animal display establishments. A circus exhibitor must exhibit more than a single python to allow for the rotational use of each animal.

j) Amphibians

Due to the untrainable nature of amphibians, a circus exhibitor must not exhibit amphibian species.

k) Fish

Due to the untrainable nature of fish, a circus exhibitor must not exhibit fish species.

l) Cetacea

Proper facilities large enough to maintain the health and wellbeing of a cetacean cannot be provided in a circus mobile establishment. A circus exhibitor must not exhibit cetacea species.

## Clause 4 – Responsibilities of the circus exhibitor

### 1. Site of the circus mobile establishment

- a) The circus exhibitor must choose a site that maximises the area for the animals.
- b) The dimensions of the display housing available to an animal must not fall below the minimum sizes set out in these Standards.
- c) An animal must not be housed on a sealed surface (e.g. bitumen, concrete, etc.) unless the sealed surface is first covered by a suitable material that will absorb the

heat and cold effects of the sealed surface.

## 2. Animal Care

- a) During all stages of animal performance, the audience must be encouraged to treat all animals with respect.
- b) An animal must be provided with shelter from climatic extremes.
- c) An animal must have access to drinking water when it is not being transported.
- d) To prevent a young animal from becoming 'imprinted' exclusively on humans, it must not be removed from the company of its own species.

## Clause 5 – Safety

1. A circus exhibitor must provide mobile phones to key personnel to enable fast access to police, ambulance and veterinary practitioners.
2. A circus exhibitor must ensure that at least one person who is a trained First Aid Officer who holds a current First Aid Certificate is on duty at all times.
3. All applications to exhibit animals by a circus exhibitor must be accompanied by an escape and recapture plan for each animal species. These plans should be reviewed on a regular basis and a drill held once a month, so all employed circus staff are aware of the plans and how to put them into action if it becomes necessary.
4. The gate or door forming an entrance to an enclosure in the performance ring, exercise yards or animal wagon containing non-domestic animals must swing inwards.
5. A keyed lock must be used for all doors, gates and slides that give access to enclosures used to hold non-domestic animals.
6. An enclosure in the performance ring must be adequately illuminated during any period that animals are housed within it. Outside of performance times, warning signs must be placed on entrance doors into the ring to advise that there are animals in the ring.
7. When non-domestic species are on public display, stand-off barriers of a minimum distance of two metres from the display cage must be used.

## Part 3 – Housing

### Clause 6 – Transportation housing

1. If a circus will travel for more than two hours, vehicles must stop for at least 10 minutes every two hours in order for the circus exhibitor to properly inspect the animals and the animal wagons, and to provide food and water as required. (Water should be removed from an animal wagon prior to resuming motion if it poses any risk of spilling, or places an animal at risk of drowning.)
2. When the circus exhibitor moves animals between sites or layover sites, there must be a stationary period of no less than 12 hours in any 24-hour period.
3. Each vehicle carrying animals should be fitted with a radio transceiver, and all vehicles should use the same operating frequency to allow for ready communication. If no radio transceivers are available, a vehicle not engaged in the transport of animals must follow at the rear, to ensure that assistance can be rendered in the event of an emergency.

4. If an animal wagon stops for longer than 15 minutes during the day in an area away from a built-up township, the animal wagon must have its sides opened (when weather permits) to allow fresh air and sunlight to enter the animals quarters.
5. A circus exhibitor must provide animal wagons and cages with adequate ventilation, to enable appropriate transport of the animals.
6. There must be at least two layover periods each year, one of which must be for at least two weeks. During this time, transportation equipment can be overhauled and the animals rested from training and performance. An animal must have a total of at least one month's rest in any twelve-month period. One of these layover periods must be for an uninterrupted period of at least two weeks, and the other days can be in the form of rest days at regular intervals.
7. During a layover period, the animal housing provided must comply with the standards for display that are outlined in these Standards.
8. When a circus animal is held in a licensed animal display establishment, it must be provided with animal housing that satisfies the requirements applicable to licensed animal display establishments.
9. A circus exhibitor must comply with all other relevant animal transport requirements that are not specific to circus transportation.
10. An itinerary, including the locations of circus mobile establishments, off-display establishments and circus layovers, must be supplied to the Department prior to entry into the State, or as soon as practicable afterwards.
11. All relevant authorities must be accessible at all times during travel within the State, for the purposes of inspection.
12. Requirements for transporting specific groups of animals:
  - a) Big cats
    - i. Since big cats tend to defecate in one given area of the cage, the food presentation and sleeping areas should be set as far away as possible from the defecation areas to prevent faecal contamination of food and bedding. Where cats do not practice this sort of 'cage discipline', containers and bedding must be raised above cage floor level.
    - ii. Flooring in the cages must be waterproof and graded, to enable quick drainage and drying after cleaning. Hardwood planking is the minimum acceptable flooring material, but this material is very hard to keep hygienically clean. A new material that has been used with success recently is steel plating covered in a waterproof plastic coating. Straw bedding that is changed regularly will provide adequate insulation and padding.
    - iii. An enclosure for a big cat must *only* allow access through a double locked door that allows clear vision into the enclosure. The animals must be excluded from the area before the keeper or handler enters.
    - iv. A transport cage for a big cat must provide adequate insulation from the heat of the sun and adequate ventilation.
    - v. The transport compartment for each big cat must provide enough space to allow the animal to assume a normal standing posture, lie down fully stretched and turn around without physical contact with neighbouring animals.
  - b) Dogs

A dog must not be transported unrestrained on the back of an open vehicle.
  - c) Ungulates

- i. An ungulate must be transported in a float that has internal partitioning (stalls) to safely restrain each individual animal. The float must have a roof to provide shade and shelter from rain or other inclement weather. The float must have solid sides with apertures to admit light and ventilation, and to allow adequate visual inspection of all animals contained within.
  - ii. When housed together for transportation, ungulates of the same size are not required to be provided with separate stalls. If ungulates differ in size and weight, separate stalls must be provided to eliminate the risk of smaller animals being crushed. Loose or potentially loose items must be secured. Under both methods of transportation—stalling and group housing—each ungulate must be sufficiently contained, so that it cannot turn around. A padded breast bar may be used in each stall, as added protection for horses and ponies.
  - iii. A feed crib must be designed and used in a manner which minimises the risk of injury.
  - iv. An ungulate must not be held solely in its float while the circus is at a circus mobile establishment. The exceptions to this are when the float is the best form of shelter for a sick animal, or in inclement weather, in which case proper bedding and hygienic conditions must be maintained.
  - v. For transportation of a camelid, the floor of the animal wagon must not be constructed in a manner that will injure the pedicle and the pads on its rear legs. The base of the animal wagon should be free of any protrusions that would discourage the camel from sitting down during transportation. Camelids normally sit during transportation; therefore, if they are tethered, the tether must be of sufficient length to allow their free movement up and down.
- d) Elephants
- i. Except in short-term exceptional circumstances, an elephant must be transported in an enclosed float. The float must be strong enough to withstand the weight of an elephant either leaning or being thrown against the sidewalls. The float must be well-ventilated to prevent build-up of heat and waste gases.
  - ii. During transportation, each elephant must be sufficiently contained so that it can stand up normally but is unable to turn around (and thereby unable to cause itself any possible injury). This can be achieved by stalling each individual elephant or housing each elephant side-by-side widthways across its animal wagon. There must not be anything inside the animal wagon that could cause injury to an elephant. The animal wagon must allow adequate and safe inspection of all elephants being transported.
  - iii. During transportation, dry fodder may be offered to an elephant provided it is contained in a feed crib that is within easy reach of the elephant and its location cannot cause the elephant injury in any way.
- e) Monkeys and chimpanzees
- i. If the animal wagon for a primate also acts as its display facility, the animal wagon must be designed to cater for the total needs of the primate. If a primate does not defecate in a particular area of its animal wagon, the food presentation and sleeping areas should be raised above cage floor level, to prevent faecal contamination of these areas.
  - ii. A compartment for transporting a primate must provide sufficient space to allow the primate to assume a normal standing posture, lie down fully stretched, and turn around. Individuals who are known to display aggression towards each other, and nursing mothers, must be physically (but not visually) separated from others of their

species during transport. In other instances, primate species may travel in group situations.

- iii. Hardwood flooring is an acceptable material for an animal wagon for primates. Bedding of a suitable material must be provided.
  - iv. An enclosure for primates must only provide access to the animals through a double locked door that allows clear vision into the enclosure. The animals must be excluded from this area before the keeper enters.
  - v. An animal wagon that holds primates must provide insulation from the heat of the sun and adequate ventilation.
- f) Birds
- i. During transportation, a bird must be confined in a small cage to provide physical protection.
  - ii. A perch must be provided and be positioned high enough so the bird's extremities (including its feathers) are at least six centimetres above the cage floor, regardless of the bird's posture.
  - iii. A cage must be large enough so that the bird contained can extend its head, feet, wingtips and its feathers, and turn around, without touching any cage walls, the ceiling, or solid cage furniture. This is regardless of its posture or whether it is on its perch or not.

## Clause 7 – Display housing

1. Exercise facilities for animals must be provided at each circus mobile establishment, circus layover and off- display establishment.
2. Wherever possible, display dimensions in these Standards should be exceeded, as the dimensions outlined in this document are minimum sizes only. An animal must not be maintained in an animal wagon for more than two days without exercise.
3. If an animal wagon is being used to exhibit an animal, the animal wagon must contain platforms that are raised off floor level and that are kept dry, so as to provide the animal with an area it can retreat to when the floor is cleaned and while it dries.
4. Requirements for housing specific groups of animals:

### a) Big cats

- i. When at a circus mobile establishment, a big cat must have access to an exercise area in the form of large demountable enclosures annexed to its animal wagon. The annexe must be available to the big cat for a minimum of six hours during the day. The annexe should be constructed from steel-tube, framed, interlocking mesh panels or other acceptable materials of sufficient strength to contain the big cat. The annexe must provide the cat with access to the ground (i.e. natural earth substrate).
- ii. Minimum display dimensions for big cats

Minimum floor space for one animal	20 m <sup>2</sup>
Floor space for each additional animal	10 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum height	2 m
Minimum width	2.4 m

- iii. Display housing for big cats must have the capacity to mount a suitable cage to enable physical restraint for safe veterinary examination or administration of drugs—either within the animal wagon itself or outside the animal wagon.
- iv. A big cat enclosure must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the cats housed within.
- v. Access to a big cat display enclosure must be through a double locked door that allows clear vision into the enclosure. The big cats must be excluded from the area into which the handler or keeper is entering.

b) Dogs

i. Minimum display dimensions for dogs

Enclosure	Small/medium dogs up to 15 kg	Large dogs 15 kg or above 0.5 m at rump
Minimum floor space for one pair	4.5 m <sup>2</sup>	6 m <sup>2</sup>
Floor space for each additional animal	2.25 m <sup>2</sup>	3 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum width	3 m	3 m

- ii. The enclosure material must be of sufficient strength to contain the dog.
- iii. If a dog is confined via the use of a wire running leash, the minimum acceptable length of the wire is four metres.
- iv. The area in which a dog is exhibited while not performing must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all dogs in the enclosure.

c) Ungulates

- i. An ungulate must be confined in an enclosure by ordinary or electric fencing when at a circus mobile establishment.
- ii. Minimum display enclosure sizes for the common circus ungulates.

Enclosure	Horse / donkey / camel / pony / lama	Sheep / goat / cattle / alpaca
Area for one animal	100 m <sup>2</sup>	50 m <sup>2</sup>
Area additional animal	50 m <sup>2</sup>	25 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum width	6 m	2.5 m

- iii. An enclosure must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the ungulates held within the enclosure. Where possible, the ground underfoot must be clean, well-drained, non-abrasive and not stony.

The display enclosure *must not* contain any known harmful ingestible items within the animals' reach.



**Note.** Camels and goats in particular tend to be indiscriminate browsers and, as a consequence, any access to poisonous plants or harmful materials (such as plastic bags) may have adverse effects.

- iv. The tethering of an ungulate for short periods of time is acceptable during storms, at night, or to isolate an aggressive male during the ungulate's breeding season. The tether length must be a minimum of six metres for horses, donkeys, camelids and ponies, and a minimum of four metres for sheep, goats and cattle.
- v. A horse or pony may be contained in a stable, if an outdoor enclosure is not available. The stable must be at least 2.5 metres high, with a minimum floor area of 12 m<sup>2</sup> for one horse, and 9 m<sup>2</sup> for one pony. Within the stable, a horse or pony must not be tethered and must have visual contact with others of their species. Appropriate bedding and drainage must be provided, the stable must be adequately ventilated, and the lighting should be as natural as possible.

#### d) Elephants

- i. An elephant must be confined in an enclosure. A circus exhibitor exhibiting elephants must be competent in containing elephants via the use of electric fencing. It is unacceptable to tether elephants during daylight hours using metal leg bands and chains or any equivalent form of restraint except for short periods during storms, when the elephant trainer or handler is temporarily absent from the circus, in an emergency situation, or for immediate human safety. For safety reasons tethers are allowed at night. When an elephant is tethered, only a metal leg band may be used and this must be placed around only one leg and with a minimum tether length of four metres
- ii. Minimum display dimensions for Asiatic elephants

Enclosure	Area
Single or pair elephants	600 m <sup>2</sup>
Each extra elephant	200 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum width	10 m

- iii. An enclosure must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the elephants held within the enclosure. Where possible, the ground underfoot must be clean, well-drained, non-abrasive and not stony.

#### e) Monkeys and chimpanzees

- i. When at a circus mobile establishment, a primate must be given access to a display area which complies with the minimum display dimensions for primates. If an animal wagon does not meet the minimum display requirements, demountable enclosures annexed to the animal wagon must be provided. Annexes should be constructed from steel-tube, framed, interlocking mesh panels or other materials of sufficient strength to contain primates. Exercise areas must be available at all times during daylight hours.
- ii. Minimum display dimensions for primates

Enclosure	Small primates / macaque-sized	Large primates, chimps and baboons

Minimum floor space for one animal	5 m <sup>2</sup>	20 m <sup>2</sup>
Increased floor space for each additional animal	2.5 m <sup>2</sup>	10 m <sup>2</sup>
Minimum height	2.5 m	2.5 m
Minimum width	2.4 m	2.4 m

- iii. Display housing for primates must have climbing elements within the cage (such as solid branches, mezzanine floors, etc.), because primates have extreme activity levels
  - iv. Primates of different species may mix in the display areas, provided that there is no evidence of interspecies aggression.
  - v. A primate must be kept occupied as much as possible when not performing or training. This can be achieved through the use of durable toys, swings, climbing elements, grips and perches. These playthings must be changed regularly, to provide a periodic change in stimuli.
  - vi. Access to a primate enclosure must be through a double locked door that allows clear vision into the enclosure. Primates must be excluded from the area before the handler or keeper enters.
  - vii. A primate enclosure must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the primates within the enclosure.
- f) Birds
- i. Once the circus has arrived at a circus mobile establishment, birds must be released as soon as possible from their transport cages into their display cages.
  - ii. Perches must consist of uneven-diametered, natural tree branches that do not have an abrasive surface. At least one perch per bird in the cage shall be of a sufficient height above the floor of the cage, so that all tail feathers of the bird are at least six centimetres above the floor of the cage, regardless of the bird's posture.
  - iii. If a species is capable of flight, and a single bird is kept in the cage, the dimensions of the cage must be sufficient for a bird of that species to be able to attain active flight within the cage by taking five unhurried wing beats along the length of the cage.
  - iv. If a species is capable of flight, and if more than one bird is to be kept in the cage, then the total volume of the cage is to increase by 50% of the size of a cage for a single bird, for each extra bird.
  - v. Individual birds that fight must be assigned separate, appropriately dimensioned facilities.
  - vi. A cage must have access to sunlight and shade from direct sunlight during daylight hours. Drinking water and shelter from climatic extremes must be provided to satisfy the needs of all the birds within the cage.
  - vii. If impervious flooring is to be used, then a cage substrate must be used which is plentiful and absorbent. The substrate must be changed at least weekly.
  - viii. A display cage holding a bird must be placed well away from any animals that may cause the bird to injure itself through cage panic.
  - ix. A display cage must protect a bird from predators.

## Clause 8 – Night quarters

1. Since most caged animals tend to defecate in one area of the cage, food presentation and sleeping areas must be set as far away as possible from the area in which defecation occurs to prevent faecal contamination of food and bedding.
2. Where an animal is seen not to practise this sort of 'cage discipline', containers and bedding areas must be raised above cage floor level. Water and food containers should never be placed under perches in the case of birds.
3. Requirements for night quarters for specific groups of animals:
  - a) Big cats
    - i. The night quarters of a big cat may be its animal wagon. A big cat must have access to dry overnight shelter that provides protection from climatic extremes.
    - ii. Bedding in the form of dry straw or other suitable material changed daily will provide adequate insulation for a big cat.
  - b) Dogs
    - i. A dog must have access to dry shelter overnight that provides protection from climatic extremes.
    - ii. Suitable bedding material must be provided for insulation. An area free of bedding must also be available for each dog at night.
  - c) Ungulates

An ungulate must have access to overnight shelter that will protect it from climatic extremes.
  - d) Elephants

An elephant must have access to overnight shelter that will protect it from climatic extremes.
  - e) Monkeys and chimpanzees
    - i. The night quarters of primates may consist of their animal wagons. A primate must have access to dry overnight shelter that provides protection from climatic extremes.
    - ii. A form of bedding material must be provided for insulation. Suitable materials include dry straw and shredded newspaper.
  - f) Birds

A bird must have high perches or night boxes to provide shelter when they roost for the night. These should be set well away from the sides of the cages, to prevent cage panic.

## Part 4 – Behavioural training

### Clause 9 – General requirements

1. An animal must receive at least 45 minutes exercise per day, on at least 4 days of every week, in the form of training sessions or public performance. This does not apply when the circus is travelling or the animal is in a layover period. An animal must have access to a display cage with the size dimensions set out in these Standards, for a minimum of six hours each day during daylight hours.
2. A training method must not be capable of causing temporary or permanent distress, pain or injury to any animal involved. The use of fire in animal acts is prohibited.

3. When an animal is being trained, care must be exercised in ensuring that the skeleto-musculature of the animals is developing or has developed sufficiently to meet the demands placed on it by the training.
4. If a worsening musculoskeletal condition manifests itself, all training must be discontinued until this condition and its cause are properly diagnosed and treated by a veterinary practitioner experienced with the species of animal involved.
5. Special care must be exercised with young, growing animals and old animals, and training regimes must be modified accordingly.
6. An animal that is clinically ill must not be trained until a veterinary practitioner experienced with the species of animals concerned states that the animal has sufficiently recovered or is capable of training or performing.
7. All training methods must be based on a positive reinforcement approach (i.e. the anticipation of a reward for successfully completing a desired behaviour). Negative reinforcement must never be used.
8. The reward for the successful completion of a desired behaviour must be immediate and tangible for the animal
9. Physical punishment of any animal is not permissible.
10. Any stools, ladders, planks or steps used as props must either be fixed to the ringsides or have a wide enough base to be sufficiently stable. Any wood elements within these items must not be splintery or split. Any props must be well-designed and as simple as possible.

***Note.** When deciding on a colour for a prop that the animal must be able to see in order to use properly, it should be remembered that most animals are colour blind. Therefore, the colour of the prop should contrast clearly with that of its background. As animals' eyes are sensitive to shape and motion, the shape of the prop should also contrast with that of its background. This will enhance the prop's visibility to the animal. Swirling designs that break up the outline of the prop should not be used, as they make the prop it harder for an animal to see. The same should apply to the inside of the performance ring.*

## Clause 10 – Command signals and bridging signals

1. A training or command implement must not be used in such a manner that pain, injury or distress will be inflicted on the animal.
2. Any implement capable of administering an electric shock must not be used for training animals for performance.
3. An elephant hook must have a probe (blunt) point on the hook, and must never be applied in a painful manner. Gentle pressure applied with the hook to the ears or to the elbows is acceptable. All other guiding pressure should be applied with the butt or the side of the stick.
4. A collar, head collar or lead should not be jerked or pulled forcefully in order to guide an animal.
5. Rattan (cane) and other types of rods may be used to push or guide an animal, and may be struck against each other or against apparatus to provide a noise stimulus but they must not be used to strike an animal. The ends of these implements must always be blunt.
6. Sharp spurs or spurs with fixed rowels must not be used for training animals.
7. All training implements must be non-toxic to animals, by virtue of their composition and construction.
8. An animal must not be struck with any training device, unless the safety of humans or other animals is under direct threat.

***Note:** A **bridging signal** is any signal discernible by an animal and originating from a handler or trainer that informs the animal that a desired behaviour has been completed satisfactorily. A*

**command signal** is any signal discernible by an animal and originating from a handler or trainer that informs the animal that a given behaviour should be performed

## Clause 11 – Types of behaviours

1. Trained behaviours must incorporate bodily movements that are within the enhanced normal physical capability of the animal. An animal must not be required to perform movements that carry a high risk of injury.
2. The apparatus that an animal may make use of in the course of its trained behaviours must be easy for it to use and have minimal foreseeable potential to cause it injury.
3. An animal that is unwilling to perform a desired behaviour must not be forced to continue.

**Note.** *If any animal is unwilling to perform a desired behaviour, it may:*

- a) *initially refuse, or balk at performing the behaviour;*
  - b) *attempt to please the trainer by performing an alternative behaviour;*
  - c) *perform a displacement activity (such as a grooming manoeuvre) which may be stereotypical in nature;*
  - d) *attempt to escape the proximity of the trainer.*
4. An animal must be constantly provided with minor changes in its behavioural repertoire. If it becomes apparent that variation is causing distress in the animal, then variation should either be decreased or ceased altogether.

**Note.** *This will provide a constant level of mental stimulation for the animals. The level of variation instigated will always remain the prerogative of the trainer. This variation is intended for the benefit of the animals.*

5. A trainer must halt a training session if a decreased attention span and an increasing level of unwillingness to perform a behaviour by an animal becomes apparent.
 

**Note.** *This should be taken as a signal that the animal has ‘had enough’. The exposure level that animals are able to cope with is very much dependent on the individual animal. It is important that the trainers develop sufficient rapport with their charges to detect signs that the training session should be terminated for the moment.*
6. Types of behaviours appropriate for specific different groups of animals:

### a) Big cats

A lion or other big cat may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Stationing (each animal to its own perch); assemblage (animals arranged together in various groups and postures); rearing, leaping (over obstacles, through hoops—but *not* hoops of fire—onto narrow perches, etc.); vocalising; rolling; close contact with handler (trainer lying against or sitting on animal, ‘shaking hands’, manual opening of jaws, etc.); balancing acts (running along narrow plank, etc.).

### b) Dogs

A dog may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Stationing; assemblage; bipedal walking and dancing; vocalising; leaping on, or over, or through, various objects; rolling; retrieving objects.

### c) Ungulates

An ungulate may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Assemblage; stationing; gait changes on command; ‘dancing’; rearing; bipedal walking (not camelids); foot tapping; vocalising; prehension of objects (e.g. retrieving a scarf); wheeling; synchronised movement.

## d) Elephants

An elephant may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Stationing; assemblage; rearing; vocalising; prehension (with the trunk); wheeling; balancing acts (restricted to cylinders not balls); weight lifting; dancing.

**Note.** *Elephants are usually trained using the 'mahout' principle, which involves contact with only one trainer. Elephants need to be accustomed to taking orders from humans, so that everyday handling is not a trauma for either the animals or the handler. Because they are social animals, they also appear to benefit psychologically from the stimuli provided by their mahouts and from the training and performance of desired behaviours.*

## e) Monkeys and chimpanzees

A primate may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Stationing; assemblage; balancing and climbing acts (may include the use of apparatus); object retrieval; vocalisation; 'dancing'; riding (on the back of other animal species).

## f) Birds

A bird may be trained to perform the following basic behaviours on command:

Stationing; assemblage; vocalising; 'dancing'; balancing acts (may involve the use of apparatus); object prehension and retrieval.

## Clause 12 – Animal dignity

1. For performance purposes, it is acceptable to ceremonially dress an animal as traditionally practised (both historically and culturally).
2. No costume shall be used that belittles an animal.

## Part 5 – Medical

### Clause 13 – Disease, stress and distress

1. Regular inspection and evaluations of animal housing by circus staff must take place when feeding and cleaning, to monitor hygiene levels and potential problems.
2. Recognising signs of stress and distress, and ascertaining the causes of such stress or distress is vital. The cause of the stress or distress must then be removed or alleviated as much as is possible. Veterinary advice should be obtained where the cause cannot be identified.

**Note.** *Signs of psychological stress or distress include:*

- *self-mutilation of no dermatological cause;*
  - *excessive self-grooming;*
  - *repetitive stereotypical behaviour;*
  - *changes in eating, defecating and urinating habits;*
  - *abnormal aggression or withdrawal, either toward keepers or toward the animal's cage mates.*
3. Animal excrement must be removed from an animal's environment as soon as possible. The methods used for removal must not be a source of stress to the animal.
  4. All tools, utensils and working surfaces associated with the preparation of food for animal consumption must be kept clean and in good repair.

5. All food offered to an animal must be clean, fresh, appropriate and wholesome.

## Clause 14 – Veterinary attention

1. A circus exhibitor must establish a regular arrangement with veterinary practitioners who have specialised knowledge of the families of animals exhibited by the circus exhibitor. The veterinary practitioners must check all circus animals on a six-monthly basis, regardless of the state of health of the animals. Where regular veterinary practitioners are unavailable, sick or injured animals should be examined by a local veterinary practitioner, who should be provided with the regular veterinary practitioner's contact address and phone number.
2. A circus exhibitor must maintain copies of all medical records for each exhibited animal. Copies of medical records must travel with the animals in a central accessible location to ensure any consulting veterinary practitioner can immediately view the medical record of a particular animal.
3. A circus exhibitor must maintain an up-to-date list and location of suitably qualified veterinary practitioners and make themselves familiar with the name and location of the nearest veterinary practitioner upon arriving at a given site.
4. The advice and attendance of a veterinary practitioner must be sought before commencing treatment using a prescription-scheduled drug. Should a suitably-experienced veterinary practitioner not be able to attend the circus mobile establishment, the advice of a suitably-experienced veterinary practitioner must be gained verbally over the phone and confirmed by fax or letter for the animal's medical record.
5. If a veterinary practitioner diagnoses a disease that requires an animal to be hospitalised, the animal should be removed for treatment or, if the space is available, a hospital facility can be set up within the circus mobile establishment. This would consist of a separate area within the circus mobile establishment, where the animal can be contained, isolated, monitored and nursed if necessary.
6. If a diagnosed disease involves an infectious agent that renders it communicable to other animals or to humans, a hospital area within the circus mobile establishment must be quarantined. Only selected circus workers may have access to the area, and disinfection measures should be devised under the guidance of the attending veterinary practitioner to prevent the spread of the disease.
7. Any act of veterinary science must only be performed by a veterinary practitioner. The detoothing or declawing of a big cat is not an acceptable surgical procedure, unless the surgery is likely to improve the animal's health.
8. A veterinary practitioner's opinion must be sought before moving animals in late stages of pregnancy.

## Clause 15 – Drug administration

1. S4 and S8 drugs administered to animals in a circus mobile establishment must be prescribed by a veterinary practitioner. Circus staff with previous experience in the procedures may administer drugs, but only at the direction of a veterinary practitioner. Circus staff should be aware of the limitations that the State's legislation places on which procedures may be performed by lay people.
2. In the use of non-prescription drugs, labelled directions must be followed.
3. An animal must be properly restrained for injections. Sterile disposable needles and syringes must be used for all injections. Darts may be used if necessary.

## Clause 16 – Euthanasia

1. The decision to perform euthanasia is ultimately the responsibility of the circus exhibitor. Euthanasia must be performed by a veterinary practitioner, except in an emergency when a veterinary practitioner is not available. In emergencies, the advice of a veterinary practitioner must be obtained verbally.
2. The only method of non-veterinary euthanasia that is permissible is gunshot to the brain. The individual performing the euthanasia must meet the relevant legislative requirements regarding the use of firearms. The person performing the euthanasia must have knowledge or prior experience in the methods of successfully euthanasing that particular species of animal. The animal to be euthanased must be properly restrained, to avoid the likelihood of the shooter missing and not killing the animal with the first shot. Suitable calibre firearms and ammunition must be available for all circus animals exhibited.

## Part 6 – Interaction

### Clause 17 – Public and Animal interaction

1. Big cats
  - a) Only circus workers with whom the big cats are familiar are permitted to have unsupervised and unrestricted close access to the big cats' facilities.
  - b) A member of the public must be prevented from coming within two metres of the big cats' cage by a safety barrier. Access beyond the safety barrier by a member of the public is not allowed.
  - c) While on display, a big cat must always have access to an area away from public view.
  - d) Pictorial signs must be used on safety barriers to alert the public to the fact that big cats are potentially dangerous to them.
2. Dogs
  - a) A circus exhibitor must ensure that no circus dog is teased or otherwise abused by members of the public.
  - b) If a circus dog is unwell or frightened, it must be kept away from the public to minimise the risk of further stress on the animal.
  - c) A dog must not be confined in such a manner that it is impossible for it to retreat from members of the public. A dog must always be provided with an area where it can remove itself from public attention, while still receiving socialisation from other dogs.
3. Ungulates
  - a) An ungulate must be confined so that it can avoid the attentions of members of the public if it wishes to do so.
  - b) Under the supervision of authorised circus personnel, members of the public may pet and feed an ungulate. The authorised circus personnel must ensure that the food is appropriate, that the animal is not stressed or mistreated, and that the public is not put at risk.
4. Elephants



- a) A member of the public must not be allowed to approach an elephant unsupervised. Pictorial signs must be used on safety barriers to alert the public to the fact that elephants are potential dangerous to them.
- b) An elephant must be confined so that it can avoid the attentions of members of the public if it wishes to do so.

#### 5. Monkeys and chimpanzees

- a) A member of the public must not be allowed to approach a primate unsupervised. Pictorial signs must be used on safety barriers to alert the public to the fact that primates are potentially dangerous to them. Safety barriers must be placed at a sufficient distance from the primates' exhibit, to ensure that a primate and public cannot come into physical contact.
- b) A primate must have access to alcoves to which it can retire, away from public view.

#### 6. Birds

Display cages for birds must include some form of solid partition or small box into which a bird can retreat, to remove itself from public view if it wishes.

## Clause 18 – Interaction between animals

### 1. Big cats

#### a) Lions

- i. Lions are social animals with a well-defined hierarchy within their colonies (prides). Direct interaction between colony members is considered essential. Lions must normally be housed together and must have frequent contact with personnel ordinarily engaged to manage them. Lions requiring temporary separation from the rest of the group must be provided with the display space requirements for an individual animal as outlined in Clause 7 (4) (a) (ii). If the animal is separated from the rest of the group for the purposes of veterinary treatment, the veterinary practitioner will advise on the confinement space necessary.
- ii. Any animal wagon used to transport lions must be able to be subdivided into separate compartments for each lion if required.

**Note.** *It may be necessary to separate lions if hierarchy is enforced to the detriment of one or some individuals. This occurs most commonly during feeding time, but will also occur if a lioness is in oestrus, or if a frustrated male displays sexual aggression to a lesser male. Fights regarding dominance are often unavoidable, but separation may sometimes be counterproductive in that it prevents the issue at hand from being properly sorted out, and sometimes can prolong the aggression and resentment.*

#### b) Tigers

- i. Tigers may be housed together, provided that there is no antagonism between cage mates.
- ii. Any animal wagon used to hold tigers must be able to be subdivided into separate compartments for each tiger if required.

**Note.** *Tigers are less social than lions. A hierarchy will always form, and this should be observed, evaluated and taken into account when handling or housing these animals. Tigers must be fed separately as, in the wild, they are accustomed to feeding solitarily on their kills.*

#### c) Leopards

Facilities to hold leopards must have provision to transport, display and feed all leopards separately.

**Note.** *Of all the big cats, leopards tend to behave in a manner most similar to that of the domestic cat. Leopards tend to be solitary creatures, although some individuals will tolerate the sharing of their cage with another if they are 'old friends'. However, this is the exception rather than the rule. Therefore, there must be provision to transport, display and feed all leopards separately.*

## 2. Dogs

Dogs have a strong hierarchical tendency, which tends to make colony situations self-regulating. Intervention should only occur if one individual is being constantly attacked, or if an attack is likely to lead to serious injury or the death of the losing dog. A retreat area must always be provided for individuals to separate themselves from the group.

## 3. Ungulates

As ungulates are social herd animals, an ungulate must always have visual access to others of their species.

**Note.** *Most ungulates will only assert dominance over other members of their colony if there is something that cannot be shared equally between all members. This may be feed, an oestrus female, or a choice spot in the enclosure. Therefore, feed should be made equally available as should 'good' areas of the enclosure. During the mating season, rival males may have to be separated, and males and females may have to be separated if breeding is not desired.*

## 4. Elephants

As elephants are social herd animals, unless compelling reasons can be shown, an elephant must always be able to see and touch other elephants.

## 5. Monkeys and chimpanzees

- a) An awareness of the hierarchy within a primate colony is essential in helping to minimise incompatible individuals being in contact with each other, as this contact can result in physical and mental injury from fighting and bullying. The fact that primates can become 'bonded' to individual humans (and can certainly recognise different humans), and the fact that they display jealousy, must also be considered when determining the composition of primate groups who share the same cage.
- b) A primate must have the opportunity to have visual contact with other primates, even where incompatibility necessitates physical separation. If two primates are incompatible, visual barriers must be provided within their enclosure. This is because stress can result from two incompatible individuals not being able to remove themselves from each other's sight. Wherever possible, primates must be housed in a group situation.
- c) A primate must be able to retire to places that provide privacy from other members of the group. Such places must be available to all inhabitants of a shared cage, regardless of their social status within the colony.

## 6. Birds

Compatible birds may be housed together, as long as the display cage is large enough to prevent harassment by cage mates. The personal space required by each bird is entirely dependent on the species and temperament of the individual.

## Clause 19 – Trainer / Handler and animal interaction

1. If a trained act is to change hands, a transfer period must be undertaken in the presence of the old trainer, until such time as the new trainer can satisfactorily work the act and gain the confidence of the animals.
2. A trainer and handler must have:

- a) a commitment to the welfare of the animals under their care;

**Note.** *This is the most important relationship between animal and human in the circus environment, as it often involves vital physical and social interaction for the animals. Trainers should aim to relate to their charges on an individual basis. In this way, trainers will be able to detect problems (physical, medical or psychological) and hidden talents in their animals before anybody else can.*

- b) a thorough familiarity with the behavioural tendencies of the species for which they are engaged to be responsible;
- c) a thorough familiarity with the potential physical capabilities of the species for which they are engaged to be responsible;
- d) a thorough familiarity with the accepted methods of handling, physical restraint and training of the species for which they are engaged to be responsible;
- e) a basic sense of hygiene, cleanliness and neatness in regard to facilities, equipment and feed;
- f) basic skills in visually assessing animal demeanour, physical condition, faecal output, feed intake, etc.;
- g) the ability to maintain coherent, comprehensive and relevant records in relation to the animals under their care;
- h) the ability to liaise with the circus exhibitor and other management;
- i) the ability to delegate responsibility appropriately where circumstances warrant this;
- j) the ability to recognise and carry out safe work practices;
- k) the ability to liaise with the visiting public; and ability and willingness to consult and communicate with veterinary practitioners.

**Note.** *Because members of the public ultimately determine the viability of a circus, questions from the public must always be treated with respect, even if the person asking the question is basically antagonistic towards the idea of animals in circuses. The circus exhibitor must demonstrate its willingness to talk to any member of the public about any aspect of the presence of animals in circuses.*

3. Staff who are going to be involved in the care of animals in a circus mobile establishment must be encouraged to utilise the following avenues to enhance their skills and knowledge:
  - a) formal courses dealing specifically with specialised animal care (i.e. animal husbandry, zoo keeping, animal ethics).
  - b) relevant new literature on recent developments in the animal husbandry field.
4. Interested members of the public shall be encouraged to watch training sessions and to ask questions. All animal handlers must be prepared to answer reasonable public queries regarding the animals in their care.

**Note.** *It should always be remembered that the public may not be aware of things that circus staff take for granted. If an animal displays fear or anxiety while in the ring, the reasons for*

*that fear should be explained to the audience. If a movement that the animal is performing looks awkward, the presenter should whenever possible point out the animal will not be hurt.*

5. Staff involved in the care of animals in a circus mobile establishment must first undergo work experience on an apprenticeship basis. This shall be undertaken with a person who is recognised as having experience in animal care with the relevant species.
6. Staff involved in the care of animals in a circus mobile establishment should have regular opportunities to visit other circuses, conferences, or personnel in order to keep abreast of recent developments in the animal-husbandry field.
7. Each animal act must have two persons who are handlers or trainers who are capable of working the act or exercising the animals. This is to ensure that an absence from the circus mobile establishment by one handler or trainer does not result in stress on the animals through separation from their familiar trainer or handler, coupled with lack of training, performance or exercise.

## Part 7 – Husbandry

### Clause 20 – Behavioural enrichment

#### 1. Big cats

- a) A big cat must have access to wood in its display cage, to serve as scratching and marking posts. Round, untreated pine uprights are suitable material.
- b) Big cats utilise trees in their natural habitat. High perches and places to climb must be provided in a big cat's display cage. Perches should be constructed of round section wood and should provide at least one fork for an animal to rest in. Folding, raised shelving can be used within an animal wagon used for transportation to provide elevated areas for big cats.

#### 2. Dogs

- a) Because of their long-standing association with humans, dogs derive a large amount of stimulation from interacting with people. Training also gives dogs the stimulation of learning new performance behaviours.
- b) As dogs are pack animals, they derive stimulation in interacting with other dogs. A dog must be housed with other dogs wherever possible.

#### 3. Ungulates

As ungulates are herd animals, they derive stimulation in interacting with other members of their own species. An ungulate must be housed with its own species wherever possible. If two individuals sharing the same enclosure results in constant fighting or bullying, these individuals must be physically, but not visually, separated.

#### 4. Elephants

- a) As elephants are herd animals, they derive stimulation in interacting with other members of their own species. Unless compelling reasons can be shown, an elephant must be housed with its own species. If two individuals sharing the same enclosure results in constant fighting or bullying, these individuals must be physically, but not visually, separated.
- b) Because elephants are intelligent, inquisitive and social creatures, an elephant must be

supplied with mental stimulation, avenues of play, and social contact with humans and other elephants. In between shows, an elephant must be given durable objects to play with that are not capable of causing the elephants injury.

#### 5. Monkeys and chimpanzees

- a) As primates are highly social animals, it is very important that they derive stimulation from interacting with others of their own species. A primate must never be housed alone unless aggression between individuals causes a health threat to a particular individual, in which case the aggressor should be separated temporarily.
- b) Encourage foraging behaviour by hiding food such as nuts in different areas of the enclosure, including clean substrate.

#### 6. Birds

- a) A parrot must be provided with natural perches and fresh leaved branches to chew, on a regular basis. A parrot must be encouraged to engage in foraging behaviour by hiding food in different areas of its enclosure. A parrot may also benefit from the presence of play elements within their cages, such as swings and bells.
- b) Domestic waterfowl must be provided with water to swim in when housed in a display enclosure.
- c) Domestic geese should be given access to a grassed area for at least four hours every day.

## Clause 21 – Tethering and Harnessing

#### 1. Big cats

A Big cat may only be tethered during training sessions, while in the presence of a trainer.

#### 2. Dogs

- a) A dog may be tethered via a running lead. The minimum length of the running lead must be four metres.
- b) If a collar is worn by a dog, the collar must be a non-chafing collar. . The collar must be regularly checked to ensure that it has not become too tight or too loose. A non-chafing shoulder harness may be worn by dogs during performances and training sessions.

#### 3. Ungulates

- a) Tethering of an ungulate is only allowable at night, during storms, or to temporarily separate an aggressive animal from other animals. The minimum tether length for horses, donkeys, camelids and ponies is six metres. The minimum tether length for goats, sheep and cattle is four metres.
- b) During performances a halter, bridle with bits, saddle, trap and carriage harness may be used on a horse or pony, as long as it has no components that may damage the animal's skin. The equipment must be applied so that no galls, rubs, bruises or cuts result. A nose ring may be used to control cattle while they are being performed. A nose peg may be used to control a camel while it is being performed .
- c) No harnesses of any sort (except a light headstall) may be worn by an ungulate unless it is performing or tethered. The headstall must not rub around the ungulate's ears or cheeks.

- d) A camel must not be tethered via its nose peg. If tethered for transportation, a camel must be restrained with a long tether tied from its headstall to floor level, so that the camel can completely sit down.
- e) Cattle must not be tethered via their nose rings.
- f) A tether for an ungulate must be constructed of light rope or another material that is strong enough to contain the animal, but does not weigh down the ungulate's head. Metal chain may only be used on a tether when an ungulate is to be staked outdoors. Under these circumstances, the chain must form the extreme lower section of the tether (that nearest the ground) and must not exceed 30 centimetres in length.

#### 4. Elephants

- a) Except under special circumstances (see Clause 7(4)(d)(i)), it is unacceptable to tether an elephant during daylight hours using metal leg bands and chains or any equivalent form of restraint .
- b) An elephant may be harnessed during a performance if the elephant is going to pull or carry something. The harness must be applied so that no rubs, cuts, galls or bruises result. Metal components of the harness must not come into direct contact with the elephant's skin, especially under pressure. A decorative headpiece may be worn, but it must be removed when the elephant is not performing.

#### 5. Monkeys and chimpanzees

- a) A primate may only be tethered immediately prior to performance or training for a maximum of 15 minutes.
- b) A primate may be fitted with a permanent, non-chafing, leather, neck collar with a maximum of 10 centimetres of light metal chain. A permanent collar must be checked on a weekly basis for tightening around the primate's neck and adjusted accordingly. A shoulder harness may be used for the purposes of training and performance handling only. It must be removed after the primate has completed its performance or training session.

#### 6. Birds

A bird may not be tethered.

## Clause 22 – Grooming

#### 1. Big cats

- a) Tough, raw meat (including raw bones) in sizes that necessitate chewing must be provided to a big cat to maintain cat's tooth and gum health.
- b) Access to wood for scratching must be provided to maintain the health of the cat's claws and their sheaths.

#### 2. Dogs

- a) Teeth and gum health is to be maintained by feeding the dog tough, raw meat (including raw bones) at least twice a week, or substituting this with a chewable item, such as beef hide chew.
- b) A dog's coat and toenails must be maintained in good condition.

**Note.** Most dogs have self-grooming coats. The long-haired breeds should either be clipped or brushed and combed regularly to prevent the coats from building up and matting. Dogs should not be bathed more than once a week, and only mild human shampoos or special dog shampoos should be used, followed by conditioner. If a dog's toenails are long enough to touch the ground when the dog is standing square, these should be trimmed to the correct length, avoiding the quick.

### 3. Ungulates

- a) An ungulate must have its coat groomed sufficiently often enough to maintain the desired level of cleanliness.
- b) An ungulate's hooves must be trimmed regularly so that they don't split, separate from the sole, or start to curl upwards.
- c) An ungulate's teeth must be inspected once every three months to ensure that no sharp points are developing. Any sharp points should be rasped back.

### 4. Elephants

- a) An elephant's feet must be inspected regularly, and the toenail length should be kept sufficiently short, so that the toenails do not splay or start to curl outwards.
- b) An elephant's feet must be inspected at least once a week to ensure that the soles and nails are in good order. Regular nail trimming and rasping may be necessary.
- c) If an elephant is unable to self-groom because grooming materials (water, loose dirt, large trees to rub against) are not accessible, it should have its hide bathed and scrubbed once a day to remove loose skin flakes. The exception to this is where the ambient temperature falls below 15 degrees Celsius, in which case an elephant should be brushed clean.

### 5. Monkeys/chimpanzees

A primate's teeth and gum health must be maintained by providing a diet that includes firm foods, such as apples, to polish the teeth and massage the gums.

### 6. Birds

- a) A bird will groom itself. Access to cuttlebone and similar substances will aid beak and claw maintenance. Access to baths is compulsory.
- b) The correct perches (natural branches of varying widths) and floor substrate (natural material) will maintain the bird's claws.

## Clause 23 – Record keeping

1. A circus exhibitor must maintain regular, accurate and detailed records for each individual animal. A record must show:
  - a) species (common and scientific name);
  - b) given name of animal and its sex;
  - c) date of birth;
  - d) name of breeder, place of birth, sire and dam (if known);
  - e) date of acquisition by the circus exhibitor;
  - f) previous ownerships - names and dates;
  - g) breeding history—mating dates, mating partners, number and sex of any offspring, and

- the fate of those offspring;
  - h) medical history (including diagnoses of diseases, medical treatments, surgical procedures, vaccinations). Dates are essential;
  - i) any scars or distinguishing marks;
  - j) any noteworthy incidents involving this animal;
  - k) any comments or precautions (e.g. side effects of certain drugs);
  - l) identification—e.g. leg band, ear tag, microchip, tattoo number or appropriate photograph;
  - m) dietary preferences;
  - n) routine husbandry procedures (nail trimming, hoof trimming, worming, etc.).
2. A circus exhibitor must record the numbers and species of animals they exhibit.
  3. All records must be retained in a safe place for the life of an animal plus three years.