

Calgary Humane Society

Animals in Entertainment

Position:

The Calgary Humane Society is opposed to the use of animals in any form of entertainment that puts the animal at risk of suffering stress, pain, injury, or death.

The Calgary Humane Society is opposed to exhibitions or presentations of animals in circuses or travelling menageries, including petting zoos.

The CHS recognizes that rodeo events, racing and other related forms of entertainment involving the use of animals take place and are legal in western Canada. The CHS believes the best way to serve the interests of the animals involved is to work with those using the animals in these venues to ensure that the potential for suffering is minimized or, preferably, eliminated.

Rationale:

Animals in circuses and other traveling shows are kept for long periods of time in close confinement, in abnormal social groups and are continually being transported, all of which causes stress to these animals and can cause illness, injury or death.

Performing animals are often subjected to forced training, performing to a timetable and performing acts that are unnatural for them, as well as being exposed to a variety of acts unnatural to their species.

Animals obtained from the wild for display in zoos, circuses or other forms of entertainment undergo unacceptable suffering and distress caused by their capture, transportation and acclimatization. Capture may also involve the injury and/or killing of other animals.