

Animals in entertainment: **Abuse we can stop!**

It is no secret that Animals don't want to ride bicycles, stand on their heads, balance on balls, or jump through rings of fire. However, they have *no* choice. Trainers use abusive tools, like whips and electric prods, and force them to perform. They believe by "breaking the spirit" of the animal they can have it do whatever tasks they want it to, and more times than not, this disgusting act works. After seeing many of the undercover videos on how animals in entertainment are treated, I've taken a vow to **never** go to a circus, rodeo, or any other form of entertainment where an animal is being exploited. In all actuality, the only spirit broken, was mine.

It is *so* overlooked on how the animals are treated in today's commerce driven entertainment business. The corporate "big wigs" don't care about the welfare of the animals, all they care for is profit. Time and time again society will never prove it self superior by destroying the lives of those thought to be inferior. Just because they are animals does not mean we could just discard their well-being for a few hours of entertainment. The question should not be can they reason?, nor can they talk?, but can they suffer? Undoubtedly, the answer is yes. Studies have shown animals live longer and healthier lives in the wild. For up to **52** weeks a year these poor, defenseless animals are constantly caged and shipped to other areas just to be let out a few times a night to do shows. This type of lifestyle is not acceptable.

Many years ago, owning a slave was legal and blacks were considered "less than" and inferior, but as time went on great minds such as *Martin Luther King J.R.* pushed their word forth and stood up and took a stand to fight the good fight, saying "I don't march because I like it, I march because I must.". Well, I, like Martin Luther King J. R. am taking a stand and am becoming the forefront in the animal liberation movement and to end slavery across the world. It is simple, animals have rights and I will do everything in my power to ensure that those rights are taken seriously and are enforced.

Many people look down on animals because they are animals, but the true meaning of animal comes from the root word "anima" which means, "the inner spirit". Animals do have spirits, feelings, emotions, fears, likes, loves, and every "human" characteristic. I shutter to even say "*human*" characteristic, because in all truth, we evolved from them. We should be thanking them and acknowledging their sophisticated ways and antics rather than degrade and denote them. I for one, will always realize that I am no better than a creature as big as an elephant or as small as an ant, because the truth is, we are all god's children and we were all put here to live in harmony with one other, and until the day I die I refuse to be silent about something so important as to an animals well being.

In conclusion, I will forever be on the animals' side because unlike society, animals are so **natural**, so un-superficial, perfect in every way. From the elephants big ears, to the tigers yellow eyes, everything about these creatures is

magnificent and deserves the same amount of respect any human being being does. As this ancient Chinese proverb states, "**Something with horns can't be hidden.**" That statement couldn't be more true when it comes to the abuse of animals in the entertainment business. It takes a small person to beat an animal and an even smaller person to *watch*. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Well, I, along with the over 4,000 members of ARFF and the millions of another animal activists out there are those citizens and we won't rest until animals are treated a little more than "just animals."