

Privacy Act Notice on Reverse

Page 1

AFFIDAVIT

I, Robert Tom, Jr., being duly sworn on oath make the following statement:

To Carol S. Ballard who has identified herself to me as a USDA Investigator with USDA, APHIS, Investigative and Enforcement Services.

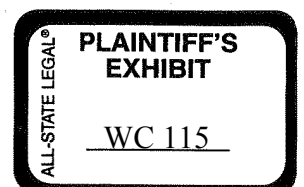
I reside at [Redacted] My phone No. is [Redacted] and my SSN is [Redacted]. From April 2004 until August 2006 I was employed by Ringling Brothers Circus, Palmetto, FL. My job title was Animal Care Keeper; this included feeding, watering, grooming, and keeping the horse and exotic animal stalls cleaned. Mostly, I cared for the horses. Occasionally, I would help with the elephants care. My wife (Margaret) and I traveled with Ringling Brothers Circus to various states to exhibit the animals. I was fired from Ringling Brothers Circus on August 1, 2006. The reason I was fired was because they said I didn't take care of the animals. I believe I was fired because I saw them abusing the animals, specifically the elephants, and I voiced my concerns to Management and the Corporate Office. The day I was fired, PETA was present at the fairgrounds. I talked to them shortly after I was fired. I told them about the elephants and the abuse they suffered.

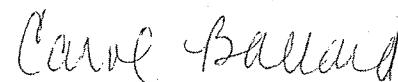
On or about April 20, 2006, Ringling Brothers Circus was housing their animals at the fairgrounds near Oklahoma City for two weeks. Hurricane Katrina had devastated New Orleans and we had planned to do a show there and were told that there were no facilities available; so we were in limbo for two weeks. The animals and personnel were resting at the fairgrounds during this time. On this day I saw Sasha Hook, the lead elephant trainer, use the bull hook on Toby, a female Asia elephant. He hooked her by her left ear, top of her back and left rear leg. Another trainer, Alex Varga, was also using his hook on her. The hook caused Toby to bleed from her ear and the top of her back. The blood ran down her face and back. Both the trainers


SIGNATURE OF AFFIANT

Subscribed and sworn to before me at [Redacted]
on this 4th day of April, 2007.

APHIS FORM 7162 Replaces VS Form 3-59G which is obsolete.
(NOV 92)




DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO 7 U.S.C. 2217 TO
ADMINISTER OATHS, AFFIDAVITS, AND AFFIRMATIONS,
AUTHORITY NO: 2497

PL 014501

Privacy Act Notice on Reverse

Page 2

AFFIDAVIT

I, Robert Tom, Jr., being duly sworn on oath make the following statement:

were using all their weight to pull the bull hook. I was told that the elephant wasn't listening to the command to lie down and this was why they were using the bull hook. All I could do was stand and watch. If I had said something I'm sure I would have been fired. The public was allowed to observe the animals while they were at the fairgrounds. Soon, several of them came over and watched the trainers. When the trainers noticed them they stopped using the hook.


This incident is not unusual. I observed the trainers using their hooks on the elephants many times during my two year period with Ringling Brothers Circus.

I swear the above statements are correct and complete to the best of my belief and knowledge. I have had the opportunity to correct this affidavit.


SIGNATURE OF AFFIANT

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Redacted
on this 4th day of April, 2007.

APHIS FORM 7162 Replaces VS Form 3-59G which is obsolete.
(NOV 92)


DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO 7 U.S.C. 2217 TO
ADMINISTER OATHS, AFFIDAVITS, AND AFFIRMATIONS,
AUTHORITY NO: 2497

PL 014502