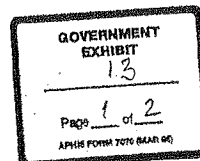


TO: USDA-APHIS-Animal Care

DATE: 1-16-99

RE: Complaint # 99-075  
Narrative



On January 7 and 8, 1999, I inspected the elephant section of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus; Blue Unit. The circus was located in Sunrise, Florida, at the National Car Rental Center. The inspection was in response to complaints made by the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). Mr. Samuel Santiago, Senior Investigator, USDA-APHIS-IES and I worked together both days.

On the afternoon of January 7, 1999, Mr. Santiago and I arrived at the circus, and Mr. Jeffrey Steele, General Mgr., Blue Unit gave us permission to proceed. However, early in the inspection, after examining the first elephant, Mr. Steele indicated that he intended to cooperate "150%" but he wanted us to wait until corporate representatives could accompany us. Mr. Steele said that this would be done quickly, and the representatives, including the attending veterinarian, could be on site by the next morning.

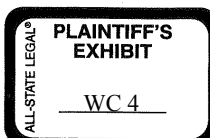
Since a delay of inspection is not considered acceptable by USDA, Mr. Santiago contacted IES headquarters, and it was confirmed that such a delay is not compliant. We were instructed to return, and if denied access at that time, to write a violation. However, soon after, we were told by USDA, to proceed with the inspection, that USDA and Ringling had conferred, and we were free to return and proceed. We would still be joined by corporate representatives the following day. Joan Galvin, VP Government Relations, came to work with us on 1-7-99, when we returned.

On 1-8-99, we were joined by the Circus's attending veterinarian, W.A. Lindsay, D.V.M., and other officials representing the Circus. The officials included Julie Strauss, VP and Corporate Council; and Jeannie Perron, JD, DVM.

On 1-7-99 and 1-8-99, we worked with Richard Froemming, VP Circus Touring Units, and the following officials and personnel traveling with the Circus: Jeffrey Steele, General Mgr., Blue Unit; Todd Sites, Assistant Operations Mgr., Blue Unit; Randy Peterson, Chief of Animal Mgt.; Adam Seidon, Assistant Supervisor of Animal Mgt.; Pat Harnod and Viktoria Voltshek, Handlers for baby elephants; and Robert ("Sonny") Ridley, Veterinary Technician.

The elephants (all Asian females except Benjamin, an Asian male) were identified as: Meena, Lechamee, Camala, Zeena, Lutz, Susan, Rebecca, Jewel, Sophie, Karen, Mysore, Minnie, Nicole, and the youngsters Benjamin and Shirley.

Meena was the first elephant I examined (1-7-99). Randy Peterson handled her. She urinated when the commands began. On the right side of her head, about midway between the attachment of the ear, and the bony ridge above the eye, was a round, symmetrical hole of about 1/8 inch in



PL 014244

diameter, penetrating the skin. The lesion was compatible in appearance with a fresh puncture wound. I touched the lesion and got a small amount of blood on my finger. There were smears beside the lesion that appeared to be dried blood. I asked Randy Peterson what he thought this was from. He told me a bullhook, another elephant, or anything. He didn't know. The next day I tried to show it to Dr. Lindsay. I was unable to locate it again, despite searching the same area.

Dr. Lindsay and I examined Nicole. I saw nothing except an approximately pecan sized lump of what appeared to be healed scar tissue at the upper attachment of her right ear.

I examined Susan, with Dr. Lindsay. She had a variety of apparently recent, healing, scratches and scrapes on her head and right side(see photos). Dr. Lindsay said he saw Susan on December 29 and 30, 1998 and they were not there. He thought they might be from the transport vehicle.

Benjamin, approximately 3 years old ( and Shirley, the younger of the two) were loose in a "large" pen when Mr. Santiago and I arrived. The pen was bedded with wood shavings, and there were traffic cones in the pen as toys. I saw the two youngsters playing together, and with their toys. The scratches seen on Benjamin seemed old, and were explained as probably being from Shirley, before her tusks were removed. Otherwise, I did not see anything unusual about Benjamin. At night, these elephants were chained, in their pen.

The Blue Unit had a turn-out pen for the elephants, although it was not set up. According to Mr. Steele, the elephants are either turned out in the pen at their stops, or walked, for exercise off-chains. The elephants at this location, were chained on the diagonal, with padded chains, and the ones that we examined were able to lie down and get up while chained.

*Kristina Cox, DVM; VMO*

Kristina Cox, D.V.M.; V.M.O.  
USDA-APHIS-AC  
Eastern Region  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT 13
Page <u>2</u> of <u>2</u>
APHIS FORM 7070 (MAY 95)