

Dr. Garland
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MEMO

To: Dr. Garland
From: Michael Smith
Subject: Ringling Circus Train Arrival Inspection
:
Date: July 21, 2004

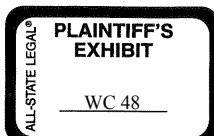
The Team assigned to inspect Ringling Circus on its' arrival in Fresno, California consisted of I, Michael J. Smith, Dr. Sofranko, Dr. Gage, and Dr. Langman were the team designated to inspect the complaint on the transport o of the large cats with the Ringling Circus.

I arrived at the Fresno, California BNSF train depot on Monday, July 12 at 15:30 PM to gather information on the Ringling Circus' train arrival time. I spoke with the train manager, who I had spoke to prior to my arrival in Fresno and was informed that the train had departed Phoenix, AZ at approximately 0940 AM on July 12, 2004. He also stated that it should arrive around 0830 July 13 but would probably make up time and arrive on schedule, some 20 hrs after departure from Phoenix, Arizona. The travel itinerary for Ringling Circus also had the animals being loaded at midnight on July 11, 2004. This would have placed the animals on the train in their enclosures 9 hours prior to departure.

On Tuesday, July 13, at 0420 AM, I, Dr. Langman, Dr. Gage, and Dr. Sofranko were en route to the depot to await the trains arrival. When we arrived at the station, we were informed of a delay with the train and were given an approximate arrival time of 11:30. We checked with the train managers several times throughout the day to receive updates on the trains whereabouts and approximate arrival times. Dr. Langman and Dr. Gage departed for already scheduled flights once we were updated on the arrival time of 1430. Reasons for the train being delayed we unknown by the train station employees.

The Ringling train consisted of 58 cars that arrived at approximately 2000 on Tuesday, July 13, which was 15 hours later than the scheduled arrival time. We met the train as it arrived at the station and identified the location of the elephants and lions. The elephants were near the front of the train and were in 3 box cars, there were five juveniles in car number 3, two adults in car 2 and five adults in car 1.

The lions were towards the end of the train. When we looked at the lion enclosures the doors to the enclosures we open exposing them to maximum ventilation. There was no way to determine if this existed the entire 36 hour train ride. We were unable to inspect the lions because there were no circus employees nor responsible person to allow access to the animals and it was too dark to see the lions in their enclosures from a distance.



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We then drove to the location and observed the off loading of the elephants and obtained temperatures of several elephants with the use of the equipment provided by Dr. Langman. We also obtained a core temperature of feces 5 minutes after an elephant defecated. We walked with the elephants until they were near the housing area at the Seland Arena. We were informed that the cats would soon be off loaded so we departed and went to observe this procedure and gather temperatures, and other information on watering, observation schedules during the transport. There was no one present at anytime we were in the vicinity of the lions. We waited a safe distance from the lion enclosures for a responsible person to arrive. After a period of time we departed this location and were going to recommend that the complaint could be evaluated at a later time since no one was available to allow inspection in this area.

The total transport time for all the animals was approximately 36 hrs through the Arizona and California desert region. We were informed by the ringling personnel that were near the elephants that the train is always last priority, all other trains on the tracks have higher priority than ringling. This may account for the late arrival of the train along with other factors.

