

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
INVESTIGATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES
WESTERN REGION
FORT COLLINS, CO

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Violator(s): **Feld Entertainment INC.**
DBA Ringling Bros/Barnum & Bailey
8607 Westwood Center Dr.
Vienna, VA 22182
703-448-4000

Case Number: OK07015-AC

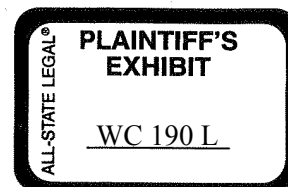
Violation(s): 9 CFR, 2

Investigator: Rodney Walker
USDA ,APHIS,IES
2150 Centre AVE.
Building B -3W10
Fort Collins, Co. 80524
970-494-7485
620-202-0010

Date of Report: June 18, 2007

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SYNOPSIS

Violator

Information: Feld Entertainment INC., DBA Ringling Bros/Barnum & Bailey is a traveling exhibitor (circus). Feld Entertainment INC. is licensed with the USDA as a class C Exhibitor (52-C-0137).

Sacha Houcke was not interviewed due to he has returned back to Russia and Antonio Olmeda has returned back to Mexico.

Previous

History: A review of the IES Tracking System disclosed Feld Entertainment INC. has cases pending FL04287 was sent to OGC and OK06022 was submitted to IES Staff.

Violation

Events: On or around May 25, 2006, one of Ringling's Bros. head elephant trainer was seen severely abusing 2 elephants by using bull hooks.

EXPLANATION OF THE EVIDENCE

May 25, 2006

9 CFR

2.131(b)(1)

Handling of Animals.

Feld Entertainment failed to handle animals expeditiously and carefully as possible as evidenced by:

Exhibit 1: Copy of Declaration of Robert Tom JR. from PETA dated October 1, 2006, states I observed elephant's being abused by head trainer Sacha Houcke.

Exhibit 2: Affidavit from Robert Tom Jr., dated April 4th, 2007, states I saw Sasha Hook, the lead elephant trainer, use the bull hook on Toby, a female Asia elephant.

Exhibit 3: Affidavit from Margaret R. Tom, dated April 4th, 2007, states I seen one of the elephant handlers use the bull hook on one of the Asia elephants.

Exhibit 4: Affidavit from Jonathan Griggs, dated May 10, 2007 states I was in Tulsa OK at this time. Robert Tom was terminated due to animal neglect.

Exhibit 5: Affidavit from Alejandro Vargas, dated May 10, 2007, stating he is the Superintendent of animals. I never observed Sacha hit any of the animals.

Exhibit 6: Affidavit from Ellen Wiedner VMD, DACVIM, dated May 10, 2007 states I was in Oklahoma City OK on June 9th and 10th, I did a thorough examination of all of the elephants and did not see any hook marks.

EXHIBIT LIST

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Exhibit 3: Affidavit from Margaret R. Tom, dated April 4th, 2007

Exhibit 4: Affidavit from Jonathan Griggs, dated May 10, 2007

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