

Proposed Wild & Exotic Animal Ordinance

Missoula City Council
Public Safety and Health Committee

June 17, 2015

In Missoula	Wild & Exotic Animal Shows	The Proposed Ordinance
		It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or permit the display or performance of any wild and exotic animal for any commercial purpose on any public or private property within the city.

Recently In Missoula

- ❑ Annual: Shrine Circus visits Missoula with multiple animal performances including big cats and elephants.
- ❑ March 2015: Great Rockies Sports Show featuring Great Cats of the World. Great Rockies Sports Show scheduled to return to Missoula March 12-3, 2016
- ❑ August 2015: Animal Alley exhibit asked to leave Western Montana Fair after complaints.



The Truth About Wild & Exotic Animal Shows

“Consider an elephant confined to the back of a truck riding the nation’s highways for 50 weeks a year. On occasion, it’s released from chains to perform for the pleasure of people before its sent back into the cargo hold at the end of a bull hook. Such is the life of a circus elephant...” Martin Kidston, Missoulain, Apr. 19, 2015

Public Safety

German Man Killed by Elephant Escaped From Circus in Buchen

“A German man taking his regular morning stroll was killed by an elephant who had escaped from a nearby circus, police said Saturday.

The 65-year-old man was walking in the woods near Buchen, a town in southwest Germany, when the African elephant attacked him shortly after 5 a.m., said Heidelberg police spokeswoman Yvonne Schmierer. She declined to say what injuries the unnamed man suffered.

“The 34-year-old female elephant, named Baby, was captured and returned to the circus. Police are now investigating whether someone let the elephant out of its secure enclosure, and why the animal acted aggressively toward the man. “

[Associated Press](#), June 14, 2015

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>INCIDENT</u>	<u>WEBSITE</u>
Feb. 2014	California	Camel Escape	http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/18/camel-escape-california_n_4808287.html
Apr. 2013	Kansas	Tiger Escape	http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/woman-face-face-escaped-tiger-circus-bathroom-article-1.1324997
Feb. 2013	Indiana	Elephants Loose after Highway Accident	http://fox59.com/2013/01/31/update-elephants-stranded-on-side-of-road-west-of-i-70-crash/
Nov. 2012	California	Camel Escape	http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/24/camel-escapes-circus-runs_n_2184860.html
Apr. 2012	Ireland	Elephant Crushes Trainer	http://www.ad-international.org/media_centre/go.php?id=2599&si=12
Apr. 2010	Pennsylvania	Elephant Kills Trainer	http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/04/10/circus.worker.elephant/
Feb. 2010	Georgia	Zebra Escape/Later Euthanized	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/7425024/Runaway-zebra-euthanised-after-sprinting-through-Atlanta.html

Animal welfare: circus examples

- Virtually all circuses cited for animal welfare violations.
- Shrine Circuses doesn't own animals or have USDA exhibitor license. Each lodge contracts with a circus that does have a license. Shrine exhibitors have been cited for failure to provide veterinary care, adequate shelter, food & water, failure to handle animals safely.
- Shrine Circus in Montana is run by Jordan World Circus. Jordan also doesn't have exhibitors license and therefore leases animals. When Jordan World Circus did have an exhibitors license, it was cited for inadequate and unsafe enclosures, failure to provide proper veterinary care, failure to provide proper animal handling, failure to provide shelter and exercise. In one incident, Jordan World Circus left tigers and lions in small travel cages for 11 days without any exercises.
- Many circus animals are endangered species.





7 Reasons Why Elephants Definitely Don't Belong In The Circus

1. They usually live in terrible conditions.
2. They exhibit obsessive behaviors.
3. Some trainers use painful bullhooks to make them perform.
4. Performing tricks is bad for elephants.
5. Circuses break up elephant families.
6. Elephants need space to roam.
7. Elephants are incredibly smart, complex animals.

The Proposed Ordinance

It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or permit the display or performance of any wild and exotic animal for any commercial purpose on any public or private property within the city.

Overview

- Purpose

It is the purpose and intent of the city to protect the public against hazards associated with commercial display or performance of wild and exotic animals and to protect wild and exotic animals from cruel and inhumane treatment.

- Display or performance of wild or exotic animals prohibited

It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or permit the display or performance of any wild and exotic animal for any commercial purpose on any public or private property within the city.

- Definitions
 - Specific definition of “wild and exotic animals”
- Exemptions
 - Rodeos
 - Educational activities (“an organized event that includes teaching or instructing with the intent of imparting knowledge to others. An educational activity must include significant educational content.”)
 - Theatrical productions
- Penalties
 - Same as existing penalties in the Municipal Code.

	Minimum Fine
1 st offense	\$50.00 + court costs
2 nd offense (within one year of the 1 st offense)	\$75.00 + court costs
3 rd offense (within one year of the 1 st offense)	\$225 + court costs
4 th and subsequent offenses (within one year of the 1 st offense)	\$300 + court costs

- Doesn't preclude prosecution for animal cruelty if appropriate.

What the Ordinance Will Prohibit

- Circus animals
- Elephant rides
- Wild/exotic animal exhibits (e.g. Animal Alley, Great Cats of the World)
- Roadside zoos

What the Ordinance Won't Prohibit

- Rodeos
- Educational events (e.g., Animal Wonders, Raptors of the Rockies)
- Petting zoos (except those with wild/exotic animals)
- Pony rides
- Livestock exhibitions
- Non-animal circus acts

Public Opinion

69% of Americans are concerned about circus animals. 31% are very concerned. ([Gallup](#), May 2015).

Prohibitions on Wild & Exotic Animal Shows

- Countries
 - Bolivia
 - Peru
 - Greece
 - Cyprus
 - Paraguay
 - Colombia
 - The Netherlands
 - Slovenia
 - Mexico
- States
 - Hawai'i
- Local (selected)
 - San Francisco, CA
 - Boulder, CO
 - Stamford, CT
 - Ketchum, ID
 - Provincetown, MA
 - Quincy, MA
 - Richmond, MO
 - Southampton, NY
 - Chapel Hill, NC
 - Burlington, VT
 - Vancouver, BC (plus several other cities in Canada)

“I understand people wanting to see wild animals, but in reality, most people don’t know the cruelty that underlies animals being in the circus. They’re seeing animals whose spirits have been broken.” Stacey Gordon, Missoulian, Apr. 19, 2015.

