

July 29, 2009

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Via fax: [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

I was extremely disheartened when I learned from my friends at PETA that Ringling Bros. received your support to bring its circus to Coney Island. Ringling's lengthy history of animal abuse and neglect and its pending federal trial alleging that the circus's routine abuse of elephants with bullhooks and chains violates the Endangered Species Act are reasons enough for New York City to distance itself from the circus. Can I please have your assurance that this will be the last time that Ringling is invited to perform in Coney Island?

Elephants are complex animals who require a great deal of space and humane handling to ensure that their social, physical, and psychological needs are met. Using bullhooks and keeping elephants chained is immensely cruel. Won't you please take the following simple steps to help alleviate their suffering while the circus performs in Coney Island:

- Prohibit chaining (except for legitimate medical emergencies) and require that the elephants have round-the-clock access to an outdoor pen as well as appropriate ground covering and substrates such as loose dirt, sand, and hay to sleep, walk, and stand on. Although the enclosure won't allow them to walk up to 30 miles a day as they would in the wild, having a tiny bit more freedom and soft surfaces will help their tired feet and joints.
- Prohibit the use of bullhooks and electric-shock prods on elephants. Elephants have extremely sensitive skin and can even feel the pain of an insect bite. These barbaric tools are no longer used by most zoos with elephants and have never been used by accredited sanctuaries.

Please do your part as New York's mayor to minimize the misery that these gentle giants are enduring this summer in Coney Island. There is no room for animal cruelty at this wonderful landmark.

I look forward to hearing that you've made the compassionate decision to impose the two minimal restrictions listed above. You can reach me through PETA's Michelle Cho at [REDACTED] extension [REDACTED], or [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Kyra Sedgwick