

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

The Right Honourable David Cameron
Prime Minister of Great Britain
10 Downing St
London SW1A 2AA

June 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on the results of the general election. I am writing on behalf of my friends at PETA and hundreds of thousands of fellow Brits who have been waiting for years to see the end of the use of wild animals in circuses. As you know, following Parliament's instruction to the government back in 2012 to take action, the British public were promised that a ban on wild animals in circuses in England and Wales would take effect by January 2015. Although that promise has been broken, now is the right time to do the right thing. I urge you to make the ban a reality.

The overwhelming majority (more than 94 per cent!) of people who responded to the government's consultation on wild animals in circuses were in favour of a complete ban. That's because our understanding of animals such as elephants, zebras and lions has improved, and we now know that a circus environment can never meet their complex needs. Wild animals do not voluntarily ride bicycles, stand on their heads or jump through rings of fire. To force animals to perform these meaningless and often uncomfortable or painful tricks, trainers use whips, muzzles, bullhooks and electric prods.

The true spirit of the circus is best illustrated by thrilling performances by human entertainers – like clowns and trapeze artists – not by wild animals whose spirits have been broken and who are forced to perform under duress.

As someone who comes from a family that has included circus performers, I would like to see us become a country where animals are treated with respect, not as objects of ridicule. The British public clearly agree and have made their feelings on this issue clear. There is no longer any excuse for delaying the ban. I look forward to hearing that the new government intend to respect the will of the people and finally put an end to the suffering of wild animals in circuses.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be contacted through PETA's Elisa Allen at ElisaA@peta.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Sheen OBE

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