



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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Dear Councillors,

We at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have been receiving complaints from citizens who are concerned about Circus Belly Wien's recent elephant exhibit in Mullingar. On behalf of PETA and our hundreds of thousands of members and supporters, we urge you to take steps to ban wild-animal circuses from council land, as Galway, Limerick, the city of Cork, South Dublin, Waterford and Monaghan have already done. Please consider the following information.

First, there's a risk to public safety. Year after year, animals have snapped and run amok, causing injuries, death and property damage. Three [elephants rampaged](#) recently after escaping from a children's ride area of a circus and were captured 45 minutes later. Last summer, a visitor to an elephant facility in Florida was hospitalised and unable to speak for nearly two months after being attacked by an elephant. In 2009, an elephant used for rides [injured 15 children](#) after becoming spooked.

Second, elephants and other wild animals used for entertainment are denied everything that is natural and important to them. While chained and unable to flee, elephants are often hit with bullhooks – a long, heavy rod resembling a fireplace poker with a steel tip and hook on one end. Trainers use bullhooks to jab elephants in the most sensitive parts of their bodies, often causing puncture wounds and abscesses. The constant threat of punishment keeps elephants afraid and submissive. Notably, experts now recognise that elephants who are subjected to this kind of abuse are more likely to lash out. Scheduling logistics also often don't allow for downtime to let animals rest or exercise, and time and again, circuses have been cited for failing to attend to sick and injured animals.

Because of the public-safety and animal-welfare issues inherent in wild-animal circuses, we hope you will make the kind decision to ban these cruel and dangerous acts from Mullingar. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Elisa Allen, Associate Director

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
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