

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

8 September 2016

Dear Ms May,

We are writing on behalf of eight animal-protection groups and our millions of members and supporters to urge you to bring forward legislation to ban wild animals from travelling circuses at long last.

It is widely recognised that circuses can never adequately provide for the unique physical, social, and psychological needs of any species of wild animals or offer an environment suited to their natural behaviour. As eyewitness investigations have documented, animals are routinely mistreated behind the scenes. They are deprived of everything that is natural and important to them, their spirits are broken at a young age, and they are kept in cages or pens for most of their lives. Pacing, bar-biting, circling, self-mutilation, and other captivity-induced types of neurotic behaviour are common among performing animals.

Although the vast majority of the British public doesn't want wild animals to be used in circuses (a public consultation on the issue found that more than 94 per cent of the public wanted to see a ban implemented) and former Prime Minister David Cameron promised to prohibit the practice by January 2015, no government bill on this issue has been introduced. A private member's bill has repeatedly been blocked in the House of Commons, so it's imperative that a government bill be brought forward in order to ban this cruel and archaic form of so-called "entertainment". Every day that this legislation is delayed is another one of misery for animals.

Many countries – including Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Mexico, Serbia, and Singapore – have implemented bans or prohibitions on the use of wild-animal acts. The UK, a nation that prides itself on high animal-welfare standards, is now lagging woefully behind. Please, may we hear from you that this important piece of legislation will be introduced without delay? PETA's Kirsty Henderson can be contacted at KirstyH@peta.org.uk or on 0207 8376327, extension 227, on behalf of the groups below.

We look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



