



Department
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Food & Rural Affairs

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Animal Defenders International
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Date: 17 August 2016

Dear [redacted]

Animal Defenders International investigation of Peter Jolly's Circus

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 2016 to George Eustice regarding footage of the conditions at the winter quarters of Peter Jolly's Circus. As you know, the circus is currently licensed under the Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (England) Regulations 2012 and Defra has been examining your footage of the winter quarters and undertaking further investigations. I am writing now to confirm the outcome of these investigations.

In response to your footage, Defra have:

- sought from the circus the daily record sheets of all the licensed animals included in the footage for the periods under observation;
- sought further views from the inspector who inspected the winter quarters in February 2015 and March 2016;
- sought clarifications and assurances from the circus; and
- undertaken an unannounced inspection of the circus whilst it was on tour.

In summary our investigations found that:

- According to Jolly's records, there were periods when the licensed animals were kept in their barn for longer than would be expected in normal conditions. These periods were identified in the circus' records (as well as by cross-checking with independent records taken from climatological records for the area) as periods coinciding with adverse weather conditions. The inspector confirmed that he noted that on some dates animals had been indoors for longer periods than

recommended. However, at the time he considered adverse weather conditions as a reasonable reason to keep the animals indoors. We noted that over longer periods though this can prevent the animals from being exercised in accordance with their needs and we have asked the circus to put measures in place to prevent this in the future.

- The zebra enclosure identified in your March and November 2015 observations was judged as adequate at the time by the inspector during his February 2015 inspection as both zebra were still then immature in size. In his following inspection of March 2016 both zebra had been moved to two separate loose boxes which the inspector judged to be of adequate size for the animals at their present stage of development.
- The camel and ankole enclosure identified in your March 2015 observation as being 17.65 sq. metres (as opposed to the recommended 20 sq. metres for two ungulates) was judged as adequate at the time by the inspector during his February 2015 inspection as the two animals also had access to an adjacent hard standing area. The ankole died in June 2015 so the enclosure space now exceeds the recommended space (15 sq. metres) for one ungulate.
- The inspector has confirmed that all licensed animals had access to water at the time of both of his inspections.
- The circus has confirmed that the individual filmed spitting at the camel was a member of staff at the circus. Although there is no evidence that the camel was 'tormented' - as you allege - by his actions, Defra still regards this behaviour as unacceptable.
- The licensed animals, in the recent unannounced inspection, were found to be in good health. Although not covered by the licensing scheme, the inspector also confirmed he had no concerns about the condition of the circus' domestic animals.

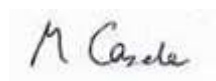
In response to these findings, Peter Jolly's Circus has agreed to:

- At the winter quarters, provide a new covered outdoor area (attached to the barn) and an additional shelter in one of their fields, to better allow for outdoor access and exercise for their animals during periods of poor weather. Further details of this work will be provided to Defra, and the work undertaken, when the circus returns to winter quarters at the end of this season.
- Ensure the member of staff involved in the spitting incident will now be supervised at all times when coming into contact with the circus' licensed animals. Any change to this situation must be first approved by Defra, along with an explanation of why supervision is no longer necessary.

In addition, for their domestic equine, we have sent the circus a copy of the Defra's Welfare Code of Practice for equines, with especial attention being drawn to the sections on tethering.

This concludes Defra's investigation of the footage of the conditions at Peter Jolly's winter quarters. We are grateful to Animal Defenders International for bringing this information to our attention. We have noted though that some of the footage was over twelve months old (and no longer an accurate reflection of the situation at that site or the stock list of the circus) when sent to us. In addition, the more recent footage from earlier this year was only sent to us a month after the circus had left its winter quarters for its summer tour. We will, of course, investigate all concerns raised about any of our licensed circuses. However, we would advise you that if there are specific concerns about the welfare of any licensed animal, it is likely to be far more beneficial to the welfare of the animal if such concerns are brought to our attention as soon as possible so we can take more immediate action.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Casale". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Marc Casale

Chair of the Defra Circus Licensing Panel

Deputy Director - Animal Welfare

Defra