



Inspection Report

GEORGE CARDEN CIRCUS INTL

Customer ID: **4532**

Certificate: **43-C-0025**

Site: TRA

GEORGE CARDEN CIRCUS INTL

3901 WEST STATE HIGHWAY O

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

SPRINGFIELD, MO 65803

Date: Mar-16-2011

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DIRECT NCI

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

During public exhibition, dangerous animals such as lions, tigers, wolves, bears, or elephants must be under the direct control and supervision of a knowledgeable and experienced animal handler.

APHIS Officials observed the elephant rides during the Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Circus on 16 March 2011 in Springfield, MO. During the rides before the 11:00 am performance and during the intermission it was observed numerous times where the elephants were not under the direct control of elephant handlers. During the pre-show rides, two elephants were used for rides and two elephants were standing in the center of the same ring used for rides. While there were four handlers in the ring, the 2 stationary elephants did not have handlers with control over them at all times. Several times the elephant handlers were distracted away from the ride elephants and the elephants were observed continuing around the ring without being under the direct control of the elephants. At one time it was observed that one of the elephant's trunk in the center of the ring came very close to coming in contact with the riders on one of the ride elephants. During the intermission rides three elephants were used for rides and one elephant was standing in the center of the ring. At this time only three handlers were in the ring conducting rides with the three elephants and the stationary elephant did not have a handler. At one point it appeared that one handler was assigned two elephants to oversee during the rides, leaving the rear elephant with no direct handler. Several times it was noted that an elephant handler was distracted away from the ride elephant and the elephant continued around the ring without being under direct control of the elephant allowing for potential direct public contact with the unattended elephant.

The facility failed to exhibit elephants to the public while under the direct control and supervision of a knowledgeable and experienced animal handler. The allows for potential direct contact of the elephants with the public and/or the risk of injury to the public as the elephants have freedom of movement.

Exhibits elephants only while under the direct control of an experienced handler to ensure the safety of the elephants and the public.

Correct form this time forward.

Exhibitor corrected at the time of inspection as observed during the pre-show rides of the evening

Prepared By:

DEBRA M SIME, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1072

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

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performance on 16 March 2011 and the pre-show rides of the morning performance on 17 March 2011.

Inspection conducted with Animal Superintendent.

Exit briefing conducted with Animal Superintendent, Office Manager, Elephant trainer, and Owner and this Veterinary Medical Officer and Veterinary Medical Officer #6009.

Elephants present Betty (42), Cindy (39), Vicky (48) and Jenny (46).

End of report.

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