

David Cameron, Stop Clowning Around – Ban Wild Animal Circuses Now!

October 2, 2012



David Cameron - Stop clowning around with

prolonging the suffering of wild animals in circuses, rather than enacting an immediate ban under section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act.

In 2011, a Defra consultation saw 94 per cent of respondents, including the British Veterinary Association, backing an end to this archaic form of entertainment. Earlier this year, [PETA, along with other major animal protection organisations, boycotted a second pointless and costly consultation](#) because the questions did not allow for the rejection of the licensing provision, which would enable abusive circuses to hide behind a veneer of respectability.

Wild animals in circuses commonly suffer from chronic health problems, abusive treatment, psychological disorders and aberrant behaviour, and many die prematurely. By virtue of the very nature of circuses – which confine animals to cages or boxcars, force them to perform tricks which are totally unnatural to them and deny them the opportunity to engage in natural behaviour – animal welfare can never be ensured in a circus environment.

[Please urge the Prime Minister to take action to protect wild animals used in circuses now.](#)

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— Despite having been instructed by Parliament in 2011 to get wild animals out of circuses, David Cameron has been [heel-dragging and stalling](#) on implementing a ban. Whilst the government has finally begun work on draft legislation, it's insisting on primary legislation which could take years,

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For more information, please visit <http://www.peta.org>.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), with more than 2 million members and supporters, is the largest animal rights organization in the world.

PETA focuses its attention on the four areas in which the largest numbers of animals suffer the most intensely for the longest periods of time: on factory farms, in laboratories, in the clothing trade, and in the entertainment industry. We also work on a variety of other issues, including the cruel killing of beavers, birds and other "pests," and the abuse of backyard dogs.

PETA works through public education, cruelty investigations, research, animal rescue, legislation, special events, celebrity involvement, and protest campaigns.

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