

## RINGLING BROS. CIRCUS CRUELTY DOCUMENTED IN 2009 TRIAL

### ELEPHANTS BEING HIT

- The CEO of Feld Entertainment Inc., which runs the Ringling Bros. Circus, **admitted under oath that “all” of the elephant handlers “strike” the elephants with bullhooks.**
- Gary Jacobson, **Ringling’s head elephant trainer, testified that he uses the bullhook to “hit” the babies to make them do as he wishes.** Also, the CEO of Feld Entertainment said that elephants are struck with bullhooks as “a reminder that when I say pick up your head, you should pick up your head.”
- **Ringling Bros.’ attorney admitted** that the evidence shows that **Ringling Bros. “wounds” and “injures” the elephants with bullhooks.**
- Robert Ridley, who has handled elephants for Ringling Bros. for over 40 years, testified that he sees **“puncture wounds” on the elephants caused by bullhooks** “3 to 4 times a month.” He also testified that he sees “hook boils” – infections caused by bullhook wounds – on average twice a week.
- One internal Ringling Bros. memorandum reported that **an elephant had “22 puncture wounds”** caused by a beating with a bullhook.
- Ringling Bros.’ own “animal behaviorist” reported that **an elephant was bleeding “all over the arena floor”** because she was hit with a bullhook several times during a show.
- Internal Ringling Bros. e-mails recount **“lacerations” from “hooks”** observed on the elephants after their morning baths.
- Another internal document recounts that Feld Entertainment’s “Superintendent of Elephants” “was observed **hitting [the elephant] Angelica 3 to five times** in the stocks [with a bullhook] before unloading her.”
- The record also showed that some of the **elephant handlers use electric “hot shots” on the elephants.**

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- The record also showed that, despite the overwhelming evidence that bullhooks are routinely used to strike the elephants, **no Ringling Bros. handler had ever received a written reprimand for hitting an elephant with a bullhook.**

#### LIVING IN CHAINS

- Gary Jacobson, who runs the Circus's breeding farm in Florida testified that **most of the female elephants are kept chained on two legs for at least 16 hours each day on concrete floors and some are kept in chains for 22 ½ hours every day.**
- Ringling Bros.' documents show that, on average, the elephants are **chained by two legs** on hard surfaces, on narrow dark railroad cars for **26 consecutive hours** when on the train – about 48 weeks each year – and that they are **often chained for 60-70 hours at a time, and longer.**
- Ringling Bros.' own employees admitted under oath that when the elephants get off the train, they are **always chained “at night” - which means 10-18 hours**, depending on when the last show ends, **even though elephants only sleep 3-4 hours out of every 24.**
- The trial record also contains voluminous evidence that the **Ringling Bros. elephants** – both adults and babies – engage in classic harmful “stereotypic behavior” when they are chained – i.e., they **sway, bob, and weave repetitively**. Dr. Joyce Poole, **one of the world's leading experts on elephants, testified** that she has never seen an elephant engage in such abnormal behavior in the wild, and **that this behavior is a result of the extreme confinement of the elephants.**
- The record further showed that many of Feld Entertainment's **elephants had tested positive for tuberculosis** over the years – a disease that is linked to a stressful life, and **can be transmitted between animals and humans.**

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