



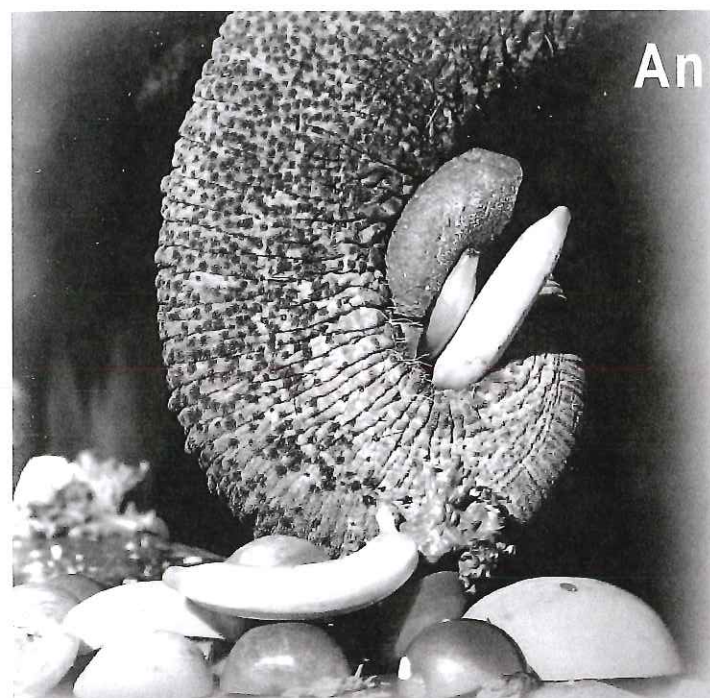
**RINGLING  
& BROS. <sup>AND</sup>**

THE  
GREATEST  
**SHOW**  
ON  
EARTH®

**BARNUM  
& BAILEY®**

**Committed to  
Progressive  
Animal Care**





## Animal Welfare Regulations

*The Greatest Show On Earth®* complies with all federal, state and local regulations, in addition to its own stringent internal animal-care guidelines. Circuses and other traveling exhibitions are required to be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Before the USDA and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will issue a license or registration, the applicant must be in compliance with all standards and regulations under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). *Ringling Bros.®* is open to comprehensive animal welfare regulations at the federal, state and local levels.

Circuses and other animal exhibitors also are open to state and local animal-care laws and permit requirements. Such regulations provide protection to all performing animals and allow for the prosecution of those who neglect or mistreat animals in their care. Depending on the state and/or city, *Ringling Bros.* may be required to apply for state and local permits through the local Fish and Game or animal-control authority and would be open to unannounced inspections conducted by these local agencies as well. Under the federal AWA, USDA representatives who are veterinarians or animal health experts conduct regular, unannounced inspections of our animals and animal enclosures.

In more than 40 years of current ownership, *Ringling Bros.* has never been found in violation of the AWA for neglect or mistreatment of its animals. In fact, in all aspects of animal care and safety, *Ringling Bros.* meets or exceeds all federal animal-welfare standards.

## Partnership with Animal-Welfare Inspector

*Ringling Bros.* animal handlers share information and work with federal, state and local officials to ensure that *Ringling Bros.* maintains the highest quality animal-care practices and inspectors have the best information on which to make evaluations.

*Ringling Bros.* animal handlers conduct interactive workshops throughout the country for animal-control officers who want to understand more about the health and welfare of exotic and domestic animals and also become better equipped to conduct inspections of animal facilities around the state and with traveling circuses and exhibitors.

## Ringling Bros. Animal-Welfare Policies

It is the policy of *Ringling Bros.* to maintain the highest quality of animal care and husbandry for both *Ringling*-owned and all contract presentations in which animals are involved. *Ringling Bros.* policy strictly prohibits the mistreatment of any animal. Company guidelines are distributed to each member of our animal-care staff periodically and also are readily available on file in the unit management office. It is the responsibility of all staff to review these guidelines regularly.

*Parts of this information were taken directly from the USDA and the APHIS Animal Care Fact Sheet.*



## Transportation and Housing

Our animals are transported in specially-designed private railroad cars. Appropriate stops are made during travel to feed and water the animals and clean out their cars. While traveling, our animals are under constant supervision. At the arena, the animals are safely housed in individual stables or enclosures or tethered in a safe, appropriate manner. All of our animal enclosures were specially designed by our staff to meet the unique needs of each individual species.

Elephants are comfortably tethered along a line similar to those used for horses. *Ringling Bros.*® also has pioneered the use of a traveling perimeter fence where our elephants can safely exercise and socialize. Tigers are housed in specially-designed enclosures with fold-out verandas that provide ample room for movement and interaction between animals. Each animal is provided with adequate space according to its particular needs and requirements, as defined by the Animal Welfare Act, with the advice of the *Ringling Bros.* veterinarian and the animal's individual trainer.



## The Asian Elephant Conservation Act

In 1997, *Ringling Bros.* and *Barnum & Bailey*® joined other conservation-minded organizations, such as World Wildlife Fund, The Sierra Club and Wildlife Preservation Trust International, to oversee support and enactment of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act, which was signed into law on November 19 of that year (Public Law No. 105-96) and has been reauthorized in ever since. The Asian Elephant Conservation Act assists in the conservation of Asian elephants by allocating financial resources to conservation programs with the elephants' native range states and by establishing a fund that provides the means for matching private donations.

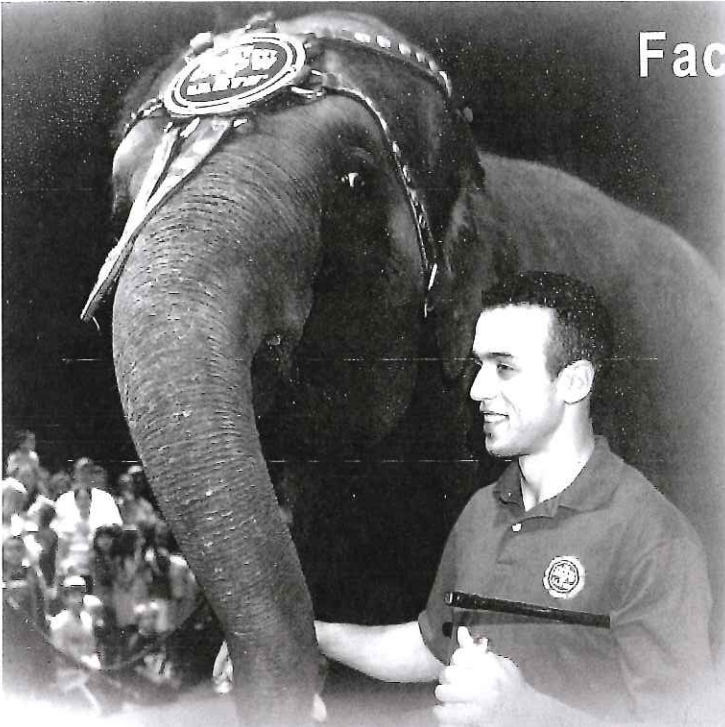
*Ringling Bros.* is committed to and supports efforts with the international conservation community and the United States Congress to continue funding for Asian elephant conservation. With the successful continued support of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act, the United States will greatly expand its ability to assist in the survival of the species.

Additionally, as a founding Board member of the International Elephant Foundation, *Ringling Bros.* has pledged funds and expertise to aid in elephant conservation and assistance projects in Sumatra, Sri Lanka and beyond. Through a contribution to the Forest Industry Organization of Thailand, *Ringling Bros.* helped provide a veterinary vehicle to deliver medical and husbandry services and personnel to injured elephants in Northern Thailand.





# Facts About Elephants Performing in Circuses



- Only those elephants with a suitable temperament and a natural predisposition toward training are selected for performances. For example, most circuses utilize female elephants for performances, as their social structure better lends itself to training and performing. Bull elephants are more solitary by nature.
- The Asian elephant has been living and working with humans for thousands of years. Over one-third of the remaining Asian elephants in the world interact closely with humans, in such varying areas as circuses, zoos, agricultural and logging industries, religious ceremonies and eco-tourism.
- Elephants that perform with reputable circuses are provided with round-the-clock veterinary attention, nutritious meals and a clean and safe home. They are stimulated by all the exciting activity around them, have time for play and social interaction with other animals and have a chance to use their physical and mental skills every day.
- A positive, healthy environment is the only acceptable and successful method of training elephants. Therefore, the cornerstone of all circus elephant training is positive reinforcement through praise, repetition and reward.
- Elephants have long been important and beloved members of circus culture and history. The affection and awe that they generate among circus audiences helps focus attention on the current challenges facing the future survival of the species.
- Studies have shown that the public display of performing elephants contributes to heightened public awareness of the animals themselves and of man's responsibility for their well-being and protection. This is especially true for children, who not only become more aware of elephants and their special needs and abilities, but also experience first-hand the importance of caring for and respecting all animals.
- The Asian elephant is in grave danger of extinction. Fewer than 35,000 Asian elephants remain in the world. Surviving populations in the wild are faced with poaching, consumer demand for ivory and other elephant products and a dwindling habitat due to human encroachment.
- Because of the superior care they receive, elephants in captivity live healthier and safer lives than their counterparts in the wild.



# Animal-Care Facts

*Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey*® has more than 141 years of experience working with and caring for exotic and domestic animals. The *Ringling Bros.*® family typically includes Asian elephants, tigers, horses, zebras, camels and llamas, but varies depending on the current productions on tour.

## Feeding

Our animals are fed and watered in prescribed measures on a regular schedule as determined by our animal programs team. Fresh food, including hay, protein-enriched grains, fruits, vegetables, meat, vitamin-fortified prepackaged meat, bread and a special vitamin and mineral-enriched granular mix, is shipped directly to the arena from local sources in each city.

## Safety and Security

We are the first to acknowledge and respect the natural instincts of our exotic animals. Our animal attendants are familiar with the individual personalities and temperaments of their charges. *Ringling Bros.* provides around-the-clock security for our animals — protection from other animals, natural predators, public harassment, vandalism and trespassers. Only qualified animal attendants, trainers and *Ringling Bros.* personnel are allowed in the stable area. In fact, there is no evidence that captive animals are any more prone to aggressive or erratic behavior than those in the wild. Operant conditioning and socialization help build a lasting relationship between the animals and their handlers that makes the animals safer and more predictable to work with.



## Training

The relationship between the humans and animals that perform with *Ringling Bros.* is built on mutual respect and trust. Our training methods are based on reward and repetition in the form of food and words of praise. Trainers teach animals routines that showcase their physical abilities and beauty, as well as their distinctive behaviors. Verbal or physical mistreatment and the withholding of food or water are strictly prohibited, and drugs or sedatives are not administered unless prescribed by our *Ringling Bros.* veterinarian for medical reasons.



## Animal Health

*Ringling Bros.* employs full-time staff veterinarians who administer veterinary care to all the animals. A local veterinarian is also on call 24 hours a day in each city where the show performs. Each animal receives regular, thorough medical examinations and all needed vaccinations. The animals are fed, watered, groomed and cleaned daily. The entire stable area and the individual animal stalls are cleaned regularly, manure is removed and fresh bedding is provided.



## Conservation Education

*Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey®* is the largest advocate of animal welfare, and we believe that being the steward of the largest herd of Asian elephants in the Western Hemisphere is a great responsibility and an exceptional privilege. We also feel that it is vital to educate the public about the plight of this endangered species by actively participating in and funding conservation research and educational programs.

That is why in 1995, we established the *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Center for Elephant Conservation®*. Located in Central Florida, the center is a research, reproduction and retirement facility dedicated to the preservation of the Asian elephant. We have continued to successfully demonstrate our commitment to the species with 23 elephants born under our care. In addition to establishing the center, *Ringling Bros.®* has funded more than half a million dollars toward research and conservation projects in the past six years. Some of these projects are supported by the Smithsonian National Zoo and include the funding of an endotheliotropic herpes research lab, a reproductive study aimed at increasing the captive population of the endangered Asian elephant, a pheromone study designed to reduce the encroachment of farmland in range countries and other projects through the International Elephant Foundation.

However, there are times when *Ringling Bros.* becomes a target of aggressive campaigns managed by national animal rights organizations. These organizations seek publicity using unscrupulous tactics such as making false allegations and distributing information not based on facts or through publicity stunts to strictly manipulate the emotions of individuals and partners. The sources for their materials come from organizations that want to promote the animal rights philosophy of keeping humans and animals separate. Interestingly enough, none of the large national animal rights organizations directly fund conservation initiatives to save endangered or threatened species.

We are proud that millions of people who attend our circuses have joined us in helping to save the species, since a portion of each ticket is contributed solely to support the *Ringling Bros. Center for Elephant Conservation* and its global conservation programs. Today, thanks to the efforts of many, there is hope in the race to keep this majestic species on the planet for generations to come.

*Endangered Species?*



*Not If We Can Help It.®*

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