



# Cruelty Is Not Entertainment

**E**lephants in circuses aren't volunteers. It is standard practice to hit, beat, shock, chain, and whip them to make them perform pointless and sometimes dangerous tricks. To break the spirits of newly captured baby elephants, they are tied down, beaten, and starved for up to a month.

Elephants spend most of their lives in chains. They are often forced to sleep standing up in cramped, filthy trucks, must perform while ill, and are under constant threat of punishment with bullhooks, which are jabbed into the sensitive skin behind their ears, under their chins, and around their legs.



Sharp, metal bullhooks are purposely cruel tools used by trainers to punish and control elephants and make them perform painful tricks.



**"Hurt 'em. ...**

**Make 'em**

**scream. ...**

**Sink that hook**

**into 'em ...**

**When you**

**hear that**

**screaming,**

**then you**

**know you got**

**their**

**attention."**

**Tim Frisco,**  
Carson &  
Barnes elephant  
trainer

## **OUT OF AFRICA (AND ASIA), INTO CHAINS**

Most circus elephants were torn from their homelands and families. Elephants are highly social animals who, when roaming freely in their natural habitat, live in close-knit family units that travel up to 20 miles a day, stopping to snack on vegetation and bathe in watering holes. Baby elephants stay close by their mothers' side until they are teenagers, other adult elephants "babysit," and the dead are mourned, their bodies buried with leaves and sticks.

## **BEATINGS UNDER THE BIG TOP**

Elephants don't perform because they want to—they perform because they are afraid *not* to. The head elephant trainer at Carson & Barnes Circus was caught on tape attacking elephants with a bullhook and electric prod and instructing other trainers to hurt the elephants by ripping the hook through their flesh until they scream in pain. An animal handler with Sterling & Reid Bros. Circus was recently convicted on three counts of cruelty to animals for beating an elephant bloody during a performance in Norfolk, Va. The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus paid \$10,000 to settle federal charges of wounding its elephants with bullhooks. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus' animal-care record is riddled with tragic animal deaths and USDA investigations. In one case, a baby elephant drowned while fleeing from a handler prodding him with a bullhook.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- Please patronize only animal-free circuses such as the Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Éloize, and the New Pickle Family Circus.
- For further information or a circus action pack, write or call PETA.

**PETA**

**PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**  
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