

## Concern for animals in circuses

### *RSPCA urging for policy to prevent use of animals*

---

RSPCA South Australia opposes the use of exotic animals in circuses and is urging the Adelaide City Council to develop a policy to prevent animals such as lions, monkeys and elephants from performing circus acts.

Mr Tim Vasudeva, RSPCA South Australia Chief Executive Officer, said, “As there is a circus currently in Adelaide, it is timely for all councils to develop a policy to reject circuses who include exotic animals.

“Exotic animals are not suited for circus life, no matter how long they have been in captivity, due to the inability of circuses to meet their physiological, social and behavioural needs.

“Performing circus animals are kept for prolonged periods in close confinement, in artificial social groups and are continually being transported between circus venues for the duration of their performing lives.”

A 2009 review of the suitability of animals to live in a travelling circus found that unless the species or individual required a small living area, had a simple social structure, low intelligence and could tolerate frequent transportation, then they would suffer.

The study concluded that the species of non-domesticated animals commonly kept in circuses appear the least suited to a circus life including lions, monkeys and elephants.

RSPCA South Australia opposes the use of any animals in entertainment where injury, pain or suffering is likely and believes that the use of exotic animals by circuses creates inevitable suffering.

Although the inspectorate team of RSPCA Australia is able to conduct inspections of circuses to ensure that legislated minimum animal welfare standards are met, we do not consider that these standards adequately address issues such as the effects of confinement and the absence of natural habitat on circus animals.

-- ENDS--

