

# PROTOZOA

May 21, 2009

104 NORTH 7th ST BROOKLYN, NY 11231 p. 718-388-5280 f. 718-388-5425

Paul E. Pariser, Co-CEO  
Charles R. Bendit, Co-CEO  
Taconic Investments  
111 Eighth Ave., Ste. 1500  
New York, NY 10011

Dear Messrs. Pariser and Bendit:

As a Brooklyn native, I'm disappointed to learn from my friends at PETA that Taconic Investments has decided to donate the use of its land on Coney Island to Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus this summer. It is regrettable that you chose to give Ringling—a circus that has a long history of animal abuse and neglect and that has had innumerable run-ins with federal authorities—a free ride. I ask that you reconsider this decision or at the very least impose restrictions on the use of the land in order to reduce the suffering of elephants, tigers, and other animals who will be housed on the property.

If you cannot cancel the arrangement this year, please require Ringling to do the following:

- Prohibit the use of electric-shock prods and bullhooks on elephants. (Bullhooks are sharp, steel-tipped devices resembling fireplace pokers that inflict pain on elephants and puncture their skin.)
- Prohibit all chaining of elephants except during emergency medical care. Elephants who are used by Ringling spend the vast majority of their lives tightly shackled and unable to take a step. Prolonged chaining causes deadly foot ailments and arthritis.
- Allow elephants 24-hour access to an outdoor pen so that they'll experience at least a taste of freedom. As the world's largest land mammals, elephants in the wild are accustomed to walking up to 30 miles a day.
- Provide elephants with soft substrates (loose dirt, sand) to sleep, walk, and stand on at all times when they're not performing. This will help prevent the leg problems that plague them because of inadequate care in the circus.
- Provide animals 24-hour access to water to combat the summer heat.
- Ensure that all animals receive daily exercise and that particular attention is paid to the multiple days each week when the animals are not performing.

If the above conditions are in place during Ringling's time on Coney Island, they will help to reduce the suffering that the elephants, tigers, and other animals who are kept in servitude to this primitive circus experience this summer.

Please let me know what you decide. You can reach me through PETA's Michelle Cho at [REDACTED] extension [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Darren Aronofsky