



USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT

Complaint No. E11-106	Date Entered 22 March 2011	Received By A Benson
Referred To Sofranko	Reply Due 25 April 2011	

Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against

Name George Hanneford Jr.		Customer/License/Registration No. 3149/58-C-0666	
Address 4550 Verna Bethany Rd			
City Myakka City	State FL	Zip 34251	Phone No (954) 614-4916

Complainant

Name (b)(6), (b)(7)c		Organization In Defense of Animals	
Address 3010 Kerner Blvd.			
City San Rafael	State CA	Zip 94901	Phone No./Email address (415) 388-9641/ (b)(6), (b)(7)c

How was complaint received? e-mail

Forward response to FOIA: Yes  No

Details of Complaint: Complainant observed the Hanneford elephants while performing with the Shrine Circus and while she did not witness Liz being used in the performance, the complainant states that Liz was "chained by two legs" and "was standing backstage on cement for the duration of the show". Complainant is concerned because of Liz's poor condition and past citations have not yet been corrected.

Results:

I had inspected the Licensee and his 3 elephants in February 2011 when he was in Albuquerque, NM and a routine follow-up re-inspection was planned for sometime within the following 45-60 days. The follow-up inspection was conducted on 3/30/11 in Utica, NY and on 3/31/11 in Syracuse, NY.

The 3 elephants were not chained at any time that I was with the the Licensee on either 3/30/11 or 3/31/11. However, the Licensee did mention that the elephants were chained when the circus played in Grand Rapids, MI because of a requirement of the facility.

The Licensee had complied with the correction schedule as specified in the 2/12/11 inspection report. Liz did undergo a complete and comprehensive examination by an independent veterinarian who is experienced in elephant medicine and husbandry following the 2/12/11 inspection, and the examination was completed prior to the 3/14/11 correction date specified. The elephants'

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diet was also reviewed as part of the evaluation, and dietary recommendations were made to meet the nutritional needs of all 3 elephants. I confirmed during this inspection that all of the consultant veterinarian's recommendations pertaining to both Liz and the other 2 elephants were being followed by the Licensee.

I was able to observe the elephants eat, drink, and interact as part of both the February and March inspections. Liz was bright and alert, had a good appetite, and interacted appropriately with the other 2 elephants.

No non-compliant items were identified during the March 2011 inspection at the NY locations.

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Application packet provided? Yes  No

INSPECTOR

Paula S. Gladue, V.M.D.; #1054

DATE

25-Apr-11

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REVIEWED BY

DATE



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

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March 17, 2011

Via email

Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer  
Eastern Regional Director  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200  
Raleigh, NC 27606-1401

Dear Dr. Goldentyer:

Please consider this an urgent complaint on behalf of In Defense of Animals (IDA) concerning the elephant Liz, exhibited by George Hanneford, Jr., under the name Hanneford Family Circus (Cert. No 58-C-0666, Cust. ID 3149) of Myakka City, Florida.

The Hanneford elephants were observed performing with a Shrine Circus in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Sunday, March 13, 2011. Liz was not used in the performance, at least for the 1:30 show. (It appears from media reports that she has not been performing for at least two weeks.) She remained chained by two legs, unable to take more than one step forward or back, and was standing backstage on cement for the entire duration of the show, intermission and rides.

Liz's appearance is alarming. She appears emaciated, her ribs clearly visible and spine protruding (see video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixWkBAvFeDc>). This elephant is clearly underweight, which could be the result of or a symptom of any number of serious underlying medical or husbandry problems. Liz also exhibits an abnormal gait, clearly due to problems with one front and one rear leg.

Further, Liz exhibited severe stereotypic behavior for the duration of the time she was observed, which should of itself be cause for requiring a thorough medical and behavioral evaluation.

IDA is aware that your agency cited this exhibitor on February 13, 2011, for most of these problems, with an order to correct by March 14. That order included the requirement that the exhibitor use appropriate methods to maintain the elephant's health and, due to her age and the nature of her deformities, she was to be evaluated by a veterinarian who is experienced in elephant medicine and assessed for her suitability for performances and travel.

Given the observations made on March 13, IDA fails to see how this exhibitor could be found to be in compliance by the correct-by date. The very fact that Liz was still on the road, despite her condition, significant weight loss and physical deformities, demonstrates that this exhibitor has no intention of taking the action necessary to protect this elephant's health and well-being. Further, the exhibitor clearly failed to "use appropriate methods to maintain the health of the animal" by keeping Liz chained for prolonged periods on hard surfaces like concrete – conditions that will only cause further mental and physical deterioration.

**IDA Complaint Re George Hanneford, Jr.**

**March 17, 2011**

**Page Two**

If not done so already, IDA urges your agency to immediately remove Liz from travel due to the extreme nature of her condition and ensure that she is evaluated by a qualified, independent veterinarian for treatment. Considering the seriousness of her condition and the obvious failure of the exhibitor to maintain the health of this elephant, we urge you to confiscate Liz before her condition worsens.

I look forward to your immediate response to this urgent matter. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

Captive Elephant Specialist  
circuses@idausa.org



APR 19 2011

### Inspection Report

GEORGE HANNEFORD JR

Customer ID: 3149

Certificate: 58-C-0666

Site: TRA  
HANNEFORD, GEORGE

HANNEFORD FAMILY CIRCUS  
4550 VERNA BETHANY RD

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

MYAKKA CITY, FL 34251

Date: Mar-30-2011

This was a focused inspection based on the non-compliant items identified at the time of the last inspection that was conducted on 2/12/11 and 2/13/11. No non-compliant items were identified during this inspection.

NOTE - This inspection was conducted at the Utica Memorial Coliseum in Utica, NY on 3/30/11 and at the NY State Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY on 3/31/11. The following Elephants were present: Carol (Asian) 36 years, Liz (Asian) 36 years, and Patty (Asian) 36 years. Exit interview held 3/31/11 on-site with Licensee. END OF REPORT.

Prepared By: *Paula S Gladue*  
PAULA S GLADUE, VMD USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:  
Mar-31-2011

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1054

Received By: [Redacted]  
(b)(6),(b)(7)c

Date:  
Mar-31-2011



FEB 18 2011

### Inspection Report

GEORGE HANNEFORD JR

Customer ID: **3149**

Certificate: **58-C-0666**

Site: TRA

HANNEFORD, GEORGE

HANNEFORD FAMILY CIRCUS

4550 VERNA BETHANY RD

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

MYAKKA CITY, FL 34251

Date: Feb-12-2011

#### 2.40 (b) (2)

##### ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

Section 2.40 (b) (2) states Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include: (2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries.

1. Liz, a 36 year old Asian Elephant, was noted to be thin and underweight. The elephant's pelvis and dorsal processes of the spinal vertebrae were prominent and her ribs were visible. The most recent weight recorded on 6/30/10 was 4760 pounds.

Per this Regulation, an exhibitor should use appropriate methods to maintain the health of the animal. The elephant should have a complete and comprehensive veterinary exam by a veterinarian who is experienced in elephant medicine and husbandry to review the current diet, determine the cause of the weight loss, and make recommendations for an adequate diet to meet the nutritional needs of this elephant. In addition, Licensee should weigh the elephant on a more frequent basis to monitor any changes in her weight. Correct by 3/14/11.

2. Liz, a 36 year old Asian Elephant, was noted to have an angular limb deformity of the front left leg as well as a congenital deformity of the right hind leg. Both of these conditions have affected her gait.

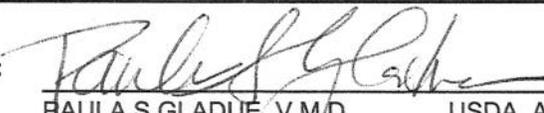
Per this Regulation, an exhibitor should use appropriate methods to maintain the health of the animal. Liz has been examined in the past by the attending veterinarian; however due to the nature of the deformities and her advancing age, the elephant should be examined and evaluated at appropriate intervals by a veterinarian who is experienced in elephant medicine and husbandry to assess her suitability for performances and travel. Included in this evaluation should be a discussion of behaviors required for performance, appropriate exercise, and substrate. Correct by 3/14/11.

#### 2.131 (c) (1)

##### HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

Section 2.131(c) (1) states - " During public exhibition, any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm

Prepared By:

  
PAULA S GLADUE, VMD

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

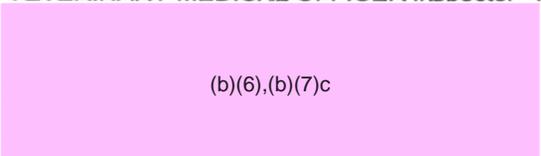
Date:

Title:

VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1054

Feb-13-2011

Received By:

  
(b)(6),(b)(7)c

Date:

Feb-13-2011

Title:



FEB 13 2011

### Inspection Report

to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public so as to assure the safety of animals and the public.

1. APHIS personnel were on-site during appearances of the Shrine Circus at the Tingley Coliseum in Albuquerque, NM on 2/11/11 and 2/12/11 and observed the elephant rides given before the show, at intermission, and after the show. The public barrier surrounding the Elephant ride area was made up of rope strung between free-standing vertical metal posts that were approximately 2 feet high, and spaced about 1 post every 20 feet around the ride area. There was slack in the rope that resulted in sagging of the rope mid-way between adjacent posts. Members of the public crowded around the ride area while the rides were in progress.

The only circus personnel present at the ride area were either loading the riders or handling the Elephant during the rides. During each of the ride sessions APHIS personnel observed young children holding onto and swinging the rope while the rides were in progress. During the 2/12/11 4:30 PM intermission rides, one child was observed to be inside the rope barrier at a point where the rope had fallen onto the ground. Loading of passengers for the rides given after the 2/11/11 4:30 PM show began before the rope barrier was in place. As the worker began setting up the rope barrier while passengers were being loaded, he/she had to ask several people to move out of the way in order to put the rope barrier up.

Per this Regulation, any animal must be handled during public exhibition so that there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public so as to assure the safety of the animal and the public. There was an insufficient physical barrier in place around the ride area between the Elephant and the viewing public in order to minimize the risk of harm to both the animal and the public. The Licensee needs to address this item for the safety of the Elephant and members of the public. Correct from this date forward.

**3.138 (a) (2)**

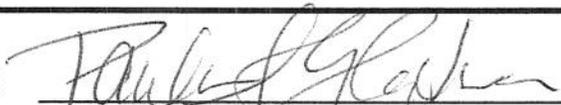
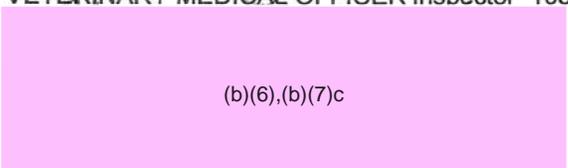
**PRIMARY CONVEYANCES (MOTOR VEHICLE, RAIL, AIR, AND MARINE).**

Section 3.138 (a) states - " The animal cargo space of primary conveyances used in transporting live animals shall be designed and constructed to protect the health, and ensure the safety and comfort of the live animals contained therein at all times."

1. There are numerous areas in the trailer where the metal lining is rusting and or deteriorating resulting in sharp and jagged edges that could cause an injury to the Elephants during transportation.

Per this Section, animal cargo spaces used to transport animals should be constructed to ensure the safety and protect the animals. The Licensee needs to repair or replace the damaged metal so that there are no longer any sharp edges that could cause an injury to the Elephants. Correct by 3/1/11.

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Prepared By:		Date:
	PAULA S GLADUE, V M D      USDA, APHIS, Animal Care	Feb-13-2011
Title:	VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1054	
Received By:		Date:
	(b)(6),(b)(7)c	Feb-13-2011
Title:		



FEB 13 2011

## Inspection Report

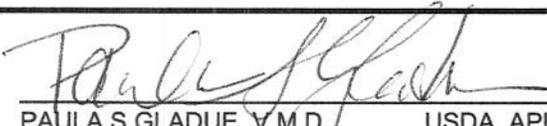
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NOTE - This was a focused inspection of the Licensee that took place at the Tingley Coliseum, Albuquerque, NM and included items and areas related to the care of the Elephants. The following Elephants were present: Carol (Asian) 36 years, Liz (Asian) 36 years), and Patty (Asian) 36 years.

NOTE - Exit interview held 2/13/11 on-site with Licensee and APHIS personnel Dr. Paula Gladue and Dr. Denise Sofranko, Field Specialist for Elephants. END OF REPORT.

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Prepared By:

  
PAULA S GLADUE, V M D      USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1054

Feb-13-2011

Received By:

(b)(6),(b)(7)c

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