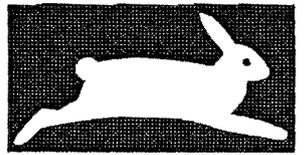


NO. .578

AC/IES  
Jamarra



**PETA**

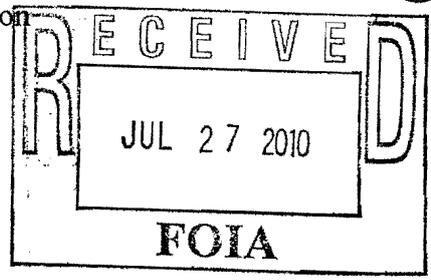
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

501 FRONT ST.  
NORFOLK, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA  
757-628-0784 (FAX)

PETA.org  
Info@peta.org

July 27, 2010

Tonya Woods  
Director for Freedom of Information  
USDA  
4700 River Road, Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1232



**AUG 24 2010**

One page via fax: 301-734-5941

Dear Ms. Woods:

This is a request for public records made on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended.

PETA requests all records related in any way to any investigation conducted into the April 27, 2010 incident of an elephant named Viola, traveling with Cole Bros. Circus, escaped and fell down a ravine in Lynchburg, Virginia. Viola was being leased to Cole Bros. by Carson & Barnes Circus, 73-C-0001. If records which are responsive to this request are located in other USDA offices, please forward this request to all appropriate offices.

The term "records" includes, but is not limited to, reports, studies, correspondence, memoranda, meeting notes and minutes, drafts and working papers, notes and summaries of conversations and interviews, e-mails, photographs, videotapes, Animal Care inspection reports, records of violations and alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act, records of complaints and response taken, veterinary care programs, necropsy reports, inventories, records of acquisition and disposition, and any other forms of written or recorded communication. Please note that e-mails are specifically requested, as often these agency records are excluded from the agency's FOIA responses.

PETA is a non-profit public interest organization and as such PETA requests that all fees be waived pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(iii). PETA has no commercial interest in the requested information, and its disclosure will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the USDA's administration of the AWA. For this reason, the USDA has routinely granted PETA a fee waiver. However, should you need additional information to process this request for a fee waiver, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact me at 757-962-8323 or TeresaM@peta.org.

Very truly yours,

*Teresa Marshall*

Teresa Marshall, Administrative Assistant  
Captive Animals & Entertainment Issues Department