



Correspondence is available for review  
in the Office of the City Clerk or on the  
City's Official Website at

[http://www.cityofsacramento.org/webtech/streaming  
\\_video/live\\_council\\_meetings.htm](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/webtech/streaming_video/live_council_meetings.htm)

# Correspondence

## Meeting of September 14, 2010

a. **Correspondence**

1. Michael Harris – African Cultural Festival
2. Britta Wilson – Treatment of Animals
3. Dr. Elliot Katz – Treatment of Animals
4. Janet Weeks – Treatment of Animals
5. Laurie Jones – Treatment of Animals
6. Meg Katzen – Treatment of Animals

b. **eComment**

1. Elizabeth Halloway – SHRA Program

# First Annual African Cultural Festival

ALL AFRICANS AND FRIENDS OF AFRICA COMING TOGETHER TO  
CELEBRATE OUR CULTURE  
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**GENERAL PUBLIC ADMISSION:** Adults \$5 and children FREE!

**PRAYER BREAKFAST:** All religious creeds are invited to join pray for the prosperity of Africa (cover charge: \$10/person)

**PERFORMERS:** FREE!

**BANQUET DINNER:** \$50/person

Individuals, groups or organizations who want to perform or rent a booth at the event should email **ACF** at: [info@afrianculturalfestival.com](mailto:info@afrianculturalfestival.com)

**R.S.V.P. for the Banquet Dinner**

\$50.00/seat, seats are limited, to reserve your seat send your name (as shown in your ID) plus number of guests. Mail your check or Money Order to **ACF** 1620 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818

To support our event with your generous donation visit our website at:  
[http://www.afrianculturalfestival.com/make\\_donation.html](http://www.afrianculturalfestival.com/make_donation.html)  
or send your check or money order to **ACF** 1620 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818

For more information about the event call:  
**Shabbir Jiwa:**(916) 441-1133 / **(510) 378-8484**, **Edrine Ddungu:**(916) 710-4123, **Uche Ozoh:** (310) 936-6865

Be part of this historic moment  
coming up on **September 25,**  
**2010** at **CAL EXPO**

This is a **MUST ATTEND** event by  
everyone!

**ADDRESS:** 1600 Exposition Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95815

**TIME:** 9.00am - 12.00midnight.

**EVENTS ON THE FESTIVAL DAY:**  
/ Prayer Breakfast / Parade / Vendors and  
exhibitors / Speakers / Performers /  
Authentic African Food / Family Fun /  
Banquet Dinner

AFRICAN DANCE RY



## SPONSORS

In collaboration with African Leadership Council



*We hope to see you there!*

# ACF

1620 BROADWAY, SACRAMENTO, CA, 95818

## VENDOR APPLICATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEAR AND LEGIBLE)

**Vendor Space Fee: \$75.00**

NAME OF COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR NATIONALITY: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE SERVICE(S) OR PRODUCT(S) YOUR COMPANY PROVIDES:

---

---

---

LIST OR STATE ANY SPECIAL EQUIPMENT THAT YOUR COMPANY WILL NEED OR USE AT THIS EVENT

---

---

---

Mail your application form to the above address, with your check or money order payable to: **ACF**

**Disclaimer:** All payments must be paid in full, and are NON REFUNDABLE. As much as we are promoting our event to draw many participants, we shall not guarantee any sales to any vendor nor give a quote of number of participants that will attend our event. By signing below, you have agreed to compile with our disclaimer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN APPLICATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME AND TITLE

## **Dr. Ensley's Review of Ringling's Medical Records**

### **About Dr. Ensley**

For twenty-nine years Philip Ensley, D.V.M, served as the associate veterinarian for the San Diego Zoological Society, where he was responsible for the care of both Asian and African elephants. Dr. Ensley is also a Diplomat in the American College of Zoological Medicine, an honor conferred on only approximately 120 veterinarians in the world. After retiring from the San Diego Zoo, Dr. Ensley spent "over 1300 hours" over the course of three years reviewing all of the medical records of all of FEI's elephants. The records reviewed by Dr. Ensley were contained "thousands of papers recounting and chronicling the health of the lives of close to 140 elephants" and they filled "between 12 and 14 boxes." In addition to this extensive review, Dr. Ensley participated in two court-ordered inspections of FEI's facilities – its "Center for Elephant Conservation" ("CEC") in Florida, and a circus tour stop in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Dr. Ensley's CV is available at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-113J.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-113J.pdf).

### **Dr. Ensley's Expert Report**

Dr. Ensley prepared a 290-page report regarding his conclusions based on his extensive review of Ringling Bros.' elephant medical records and his inspections of the elephants. Excerpts of this report, including sections discussing Karen and Nicole in detail, are available at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-113L.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-113L.pdf). Unfortunately more than half of this report is under a protective order and thus not publically available.

### **The Medical Records**

All of the page citations below, unless otherwise noted, are to Dr. Ensley's report, which quotes Ringling Bros.' medical records. The medical records themselves are available as well, as listed below. They have been scanned with optical character recognition so they are searchable, including by Bates number, which are the numbers provided in the citations in Dr. Ensley's report.

Karen's medical records are available at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Karen.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Karen.pdf) (594 pages).

Nicole's medical records are available at

[http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf)  
(698 pages).

One page from Bonnie's medical records is available at

[http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-1A-Bonnie.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-1A-Bonnie.pdf).

### **Karen**

The publically available portions of Dr. Ensley's report first summarize entries on Ringling Bros.' medical records pertaining to Karen. See pages 133-144. According to Ringling Bros. medical records:

- Karen has long suffered from inflammation and “[s]evere lameness” as far back as 1996-97. Page 133.
- Karen has long had foot problems, including an “over-grown sole” in 1998, page 133, a chronic nail bed abscess identified in 1999, page 135, and many, many more such problems over the succeeding years, pages 135-144.
- In 2000 Karen slipped during a rehearsal, resulting in a “very swollen” hamstring. Page 136.
- After this injury, Karen continued to suffer stiffness and lameness. Page 136.
- Five months after her injury, Karen continued to suffer from lameness, which Ringling Bros. attributed to “residual pain from previous injury.” Page 137. Ringling Bros. made these same observations about Karen another four months later. Page 138.
- In December 2000, in addition to lameness Ringling Bros. noted that Karen's cuticles were overgrown on her forefeet and the soles of her hind feet were overgrown. Page 139.
- By January 1991, Ringling Bros.' medical records describe Karen as suffering from “chronic intermittent lameness right hind [leg], assumed to be arthritis.” Page 138.
- A March 2001 medical record recommends that “Adequan injections for lameness” be considered. Page 140. Adequan is an arthritis medication.
- In February-March 2002 Karen suffered from an active nail bed abscess. Page 140-141.
- In 2006 Karen suffered soreness and discomfort in her right rear hip. Page 142.

Dr. Ensley summarized the information available in Karen's medical records as follows:

Karen has had severe lameness in her right rear limb and in 1997 was restricted from doing hind leg stands. She has had toe nail cracks and chronic nail bed abscesses. In 1999 the heels of her rear feet were worn down to pink tissue, and was noted to drag her feet when walking. Once she slipped during rehearsal causing lameness and discomfort and was taken out of the show. She has been reluctant to perform some tricks that require hind limb strength, demonstrating residual pain from previous injury. She has had intermittent lameness in the right rear leg, assumed to be a pulled muscle. She has had

intermittent lameness of the right hind leg, assumed to be arthritis. She has had eye and dental problems, and as recent as 2006 has had toe nail cracks, and appears sore in her right hip, and noted to be uncomfortable.

Page 260-261.

Dr. Ensley also noted that during his on-site inspection of Karen: “[T]he soles of her feet demonstrated uneven wear. On her left rear foot she had a vertical toe nail crack. She has elbow and knee callosities. Throughout the evening observation period Karen demonstrated stereotypic weaving behavior while chained on a wooden pallet.” Page 261. Photographs of Karen taken during the inspection show the uneven wear patterns and nail crack. See [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-113K.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-113K.pdf), figures 15, 16, 17, and 18 at pdf pages 9-10.

### Nicole

The publically available portions of Dr. Ensley’s report also summarize entries on Ringling Bros.’ medical records pertaining to Nicole. See pages 145-160. According to Ringling Bros. medical records:

- In November 1994 Nicole had a “lymphatic infection causing edema of forelimbs.” Page 145.
- In June 1999 both of Nicole’s front legs were swollen again. Page 145. June 1999 correspondence between Kenneth Feld and a veterinarian indicates that Nicole had “an accumulation of fluid extending up to her elbows” on both front feet. Page 146.
- This swelling lasted at least from June 17 through October 27, 1999, when “[s]ome improvement in limb edema” was noted. Pages 145-151. In July the swelling increased and her belly also swelled. Pages 147-149.
- Also in July 1999, Nicole suffered from a “severe” nail bed abscess “that involve[d] the whole nail bed.” Page 148. At the same time, on another foot, she had “inter-digital swelling.” Page 148.
- In 1999 Nicole was treated for tuberculosis, “either because of past clinical suspicions, positive DNA tests, or positive ELISA tests (blood results).” Page 151.
- In June 2001 another foot abscess was noted. Page 151.
- In February 2002, “lameness” and “stiffness” in Nicole’s left front were noted. Page 151-152.
- Nail bed abscesses were again observed in March and August 2002. Page 152.
- In June 2004 Nicole was “[s]ignificantly lame over one week” on the left front and “extremely stiff legged.” Page 152.

- A week later she was also observed to be “[s]tiff” on the right front but received no treatment. Page 152. She did begin receiving treatment in the form of ibuprofen after her right front stiffness had persisted for more than five weeks. Page 152.
- From February through April 2006 Nicole suffered from an abscess on her lower left forearm. Pages 153 – 156.
- From at least June 9 through June 27 of 2006 Nicole again exhibited “stiff[ness]” and “[l]ameness” on her right hind leg. Page 156-157.
- In October 2006 one Ringling Bros. vet informed another (Dr. Weidner) that during the animal walk he had observed that “Nichole [sic] had a stiff front leg.” Page 158.
- In January 2007 Nicole had three nail cracks, which Ringling Bros. records describe as “[n]ormal for this elephant.” Page 158.

Dr. Ensley summarized the information available in Nicole’s medical records as follows:

She has had toe nail cracks, chronic severe nail bed abscesses, and episodes of interdigital swelling, and a history of left front leg lameness, and noted to be extremely stiff legged. She has had stiffness in her right hind leg causing her to go out of the show, thought to be caused from trauma of unknown origin, resulting in swinging her leg in an arc when she walks. Her right front leg has been stiff. She has had chronic bedsore lesions on both sides of her face and left hip.

Page 261.

Dr. Ensley also noted that during his on-site inspection of Nicole: “[T]he rear soles of Nicole's feet revealed uneven wear. She had elbow and knee callosities similar to Karen. Nicole had a vertical toe nail crack on the left front foot. During the evening period of observation Nicole was viewed standing while chained on a wooden pallet.” Page 261. A photograph of Nicole’s nail crack during the inspection is available at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-113K.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-113K.pdf) (figure 11, at page 7 of pdf).

### **Bonnie**

7-19-00: “Small area hole in sole between RF# 4/5,” “small sole lesion” (FELD 0021822, available at page 55 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf)).

8-23-01: “Blister on the sole.” “Sole of the LF has a large area of under-mining covered by a flap.” “Sole separation of unknown cause.” (FELD 0021901, available at page 86 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Karen.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Karen.pdf)).

11-30-01: "CBC reveals possibly mild monocytosis." (FEI 32559, available at page 545 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf)).

1-10-07: "Vertical crack LHID2, Vertical crack LF/D2, Wedge and vertical crack RH/D3." "No treatment." (FEI 44482, available at page 359 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf)).

### **Minyak**

3-22-99 – 3-21-00: treated for tuberculosis: "Isoniazid March 22,1999 - Last dose 3/21/00" "PZA 10130/99 - Last dose 3121/00." (FELD 0019908, available at page 525 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf)).

9-7-99: At the Center for Elephant Conservation, a total of 12 elephants are currently being treated for M. tb. . . . Minyak [and others] are also being treated as they are 'in contact', or have had positive DNA probe results." (FEI 21511, available at page 120 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf)).

12-13-00: "Corneal, central, pin point lesions in the right eye. Cuticles need trimming." (FELD 0021806, available at page 69 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf)).

2-21-00: "Minyak stiff in RT Ft leg . . . ." (FEI 23203, available at page 38 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Zina.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Zina.pdf)).

8-23-01: "Moderate vaginal polyps noted." (FELD 0021901, available at page 86 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Karen.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Karen.pdf)).

9-8-01: "Moderate vaginal polyps noted." (FELD 0021845, available at page 117 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Jewel.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Jewel.pdf)).

2-14-02: "Fell during the walk into Norfolk three days ago. She tripped on her left front foot, causing her to go down on that carpus. While attempting to catch her weight, her right front leg slipped and caused her to fall onto the second carpus. She stopped her fall with her trunk, and was in a semi-sternal position (her hind legs were still up). She hesitated for a few seconds, then got up and continued the walk. . . . One nail (LF#4) is abraded on the surface." (FELD

0021810, available at page 263 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf)).

4-7-02: “Stumbled during walk-out.” (FELD 0021896, available at page 258 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Jewel.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Jewel.pdf)).

8-10-02: “LF #5 old healing NBA [nail bed abscess]. Two small skin wounds on the neck. Firm SQ mass on the right abdomen (old, static, lesion). Small healing abrasion on left axillary [sic] area.” (FELD 0021897, available at page 282 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf)).

11-26-02: “Overgrown cuticle between RF #4/5.” “Reoccurrence of NBA.” (FELD 0021835, available at page 284 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf)).

11-5-03: “active, healing nail bed abscess” (FEI 42623, available at page 294 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf)).

11-5-03: “RF #5 old healing NBA.” “Small firm mass on RT flank . . . .” “Active, healing, lower aspect of the nail NBA RF#5.” (FEI 42624, available at page 294 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf)).

10-2-05: “Small firm mass on RT flank . . . .” (FEI 10872, available at page 322 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Mysore.pdf)).

12-14-06: “Trainer notes that she has not been lying down to sleep since her arrival to winter quarters.” “Mild ventral edema.” (FEI 44334, available at page 356 of pdf at [http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial\\_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/downloads/trial_exhibits/Plaintiffs-Will-Call-Exhibit-2A-Nicole.pdf)).

**Statement from PETA  
Sacramento City Council Meeting  
September 14, 2010**

Good evening. My name is Britta Wilson and I'm a captive wildlife specialist at PETA with 14 years of experience working in accredited zoos.

PETA staffers were here in Sacramento last week and observed lame elephants with Ringling limping out of boxcars and walking to the arena. Dr. Mel Richardson, an exotic animal veterinarian with 28 years of experience inspected these elephants. Dr. Richardson recommended that the lame elephants be exempted from performing painful tricks, such as hind leg stands. Given Ringling's history of forcing lame elephants to perform, this was sensible advice that the city should have required and would have given these elephants a much needed reprieve from damaging circus routines.

Dr. Philip Ensley, a board-certified veterinarian who worked at the San Diego Zoo for 29 years, confirmed that several of these elephants have long suffered from severe lameness. I am providing you with a document that summarizes their serious medical problems.

This is a potentially life-threatening situation for these animals. Ringling's own veterinarian, Dr. Gary West, wrote, "Foot-related conditions and arthritis are the leading cause of euthanasia in captive elephants in the United States."

No elephant voluntarily performs such difficult tricks. Despite their immense pain, these elephants performed grotesquely exaggerated maneuvers because they feared being punished with bullhooks if they failed to obey.

After the city informed Ringling that the four lame elephants were prohibited from performing harmful tricks, city officials permitted Ringling to bring in one of their paid relief veterinarians to overrule the decision. No animal will benefit from this new ordinance as long as the circus dictates what experts and consultants the city is allowed to utilize.

Thank you.

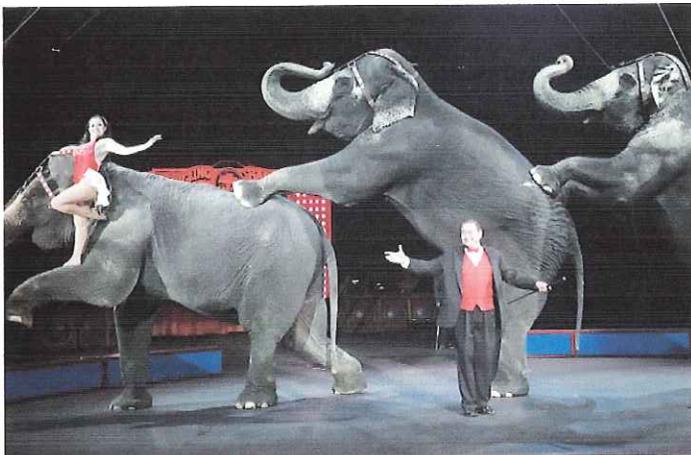
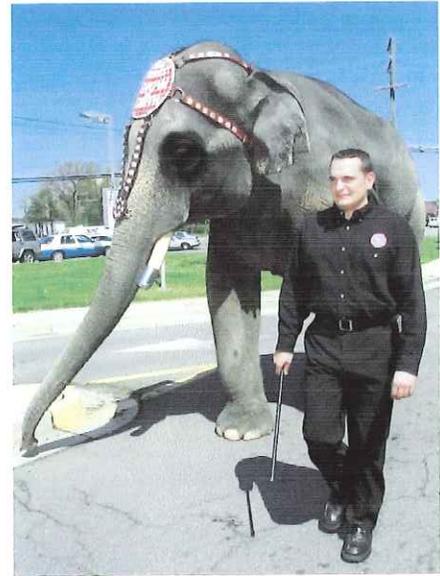


*Photographs of Calle, San Francisco Zoo  
Veterinarian, Freeland Dunker*



Good evening. My name is Janet Weeks and I live in Sacramento, District 3. I am outraged that the City of Sacramento caved in to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and made a mockery of the progressive ordinance enacted to protect animals in traveling exhibitions that was unanimously passed by the City Council in July.

Allowing Ringling to force arthritic elephants to perform strenuous tricks that further degenerate their conditions blatantly violates the letter and the spirit of that ordinance and caused more unnecessary suffering for these already ailing elephants.



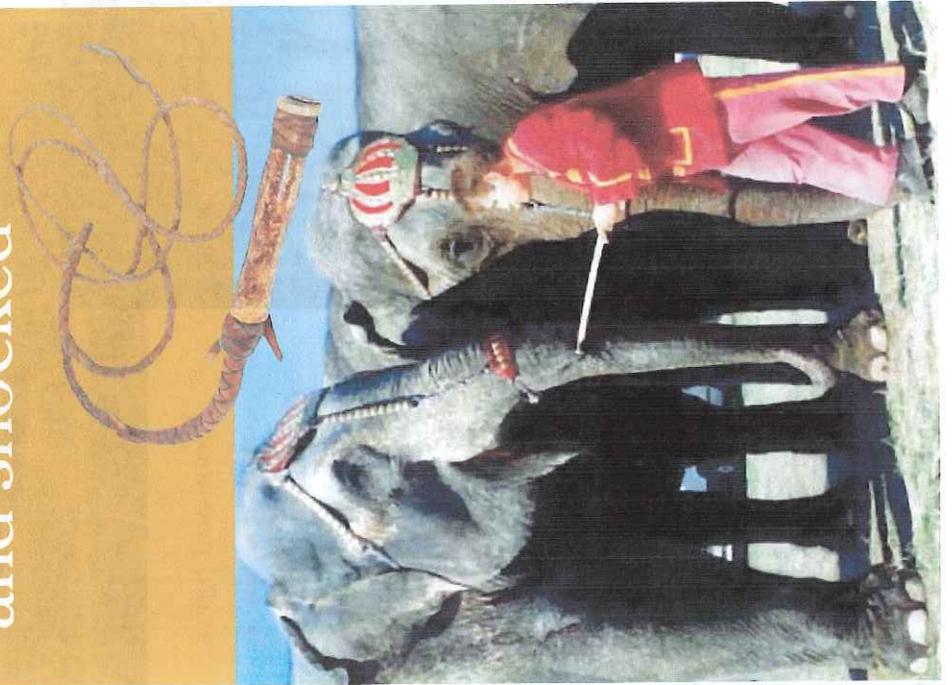
Elephants in circuses are forced to perform physically strenuous routines, including “power moves” such as standing on their hind legs and sitting up on tubs, which puts excessive weight on their joints and causes painful degenerative joint disease. The Sacramento ordinance should have protected Ringling’s arthritic elephants –

the circus’ own veterinary records show that Nicole and Karen have suffered from lameness for years, and both these elephants were seen limping out of box cars in Sacramento. Only a veterinarian who puts Ringling’s – and not the elephants’ – best interests first could have found them fit to perform.

I hope the City will do the right thing in the future when another circus or other traveling exhibitor performs in Sacramento.

As a citizen of Sacramento, I urge you to fully enforce the animal protection ordinance enacted to ensure minimally humane treatment of all animals performing in traveling commercial exhibitions. Thank you.

Wild animals  
used in circus  
acts are  
routinely  
beaten, poked,  
and shocked



### What You Can Do

- Don't go to circuses that use wild animal acts
- Spread the word by telling your friends and writing letters to your local newspaper
- Ask businesses to drop their sponsorships of circuses with wild animal acts
- Ask your state and local representatives to prohibit these acts in your community
- Report animal abuse to local authorities and the USDA
- Suggest an animal-free circus for your community

### About The HSUS

Founded in 1954, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is the nation's largest animal protection organization, with nearly 10 million members and constituents. We work to create a humane and sustainable world for all animals, including people, through education, advocacy, and the promotion of respect and compassion.

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



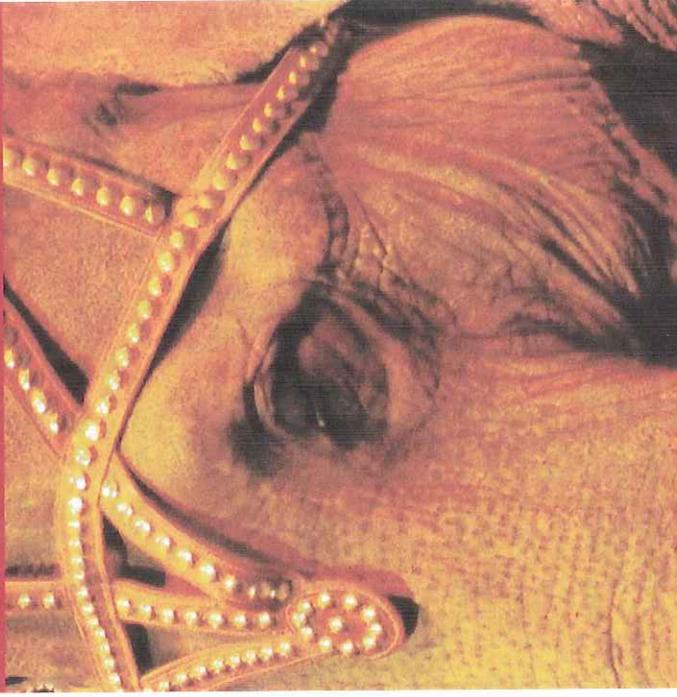
**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

2100 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037  
[humane.society.org](http://humane.society.org)

©2007 The HSUS. All rights reserved.  
Printed on recycled paper, acid free and elemental  
chlorine free, with soy-based ink.



[ Animals in Entertainment ]



# THE TRUTH *Behind the* BIG TOP



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

## Years of Abuse

CIRCUSES may seem like good family fun. But behind the scenes there's something no circus wants you to see: the suffering of the animals. Wild animals used in circus acts are routinely beaten, poked, and shocked with electric prods, all to force them to perform unnatural tricks for an unsuspecting viewing public. This abuse continues year after year.

Trainers use these tactics to try to dominate wild animals and force them to act against their natural instincts. Tigers are made to jump through flaming hoops, elephants are forced to wear tutus or balance themselves on small balls, and bears are required to ride tricycles, just for our amusement.

## Caged for Life

THE ANIMALS' MISERY continues off the stage. Animals traveling in circuses are rarely allowed out of their small, often dirty cages except to perform. After a show, they're typically locked up to travel to the next town.

Elephants are chained inside boxcars and trucks during transport. Lions and tigers may remain in small travel cages with only enough room to stand and turn around.

The trucks and trains they travel on may have no heat or air conditioning. Animals may be deprived of food and water for extended periods during travel and training.

## Dangerous to the Public

ELEPHANTS who have endured inhumane training methods sometimes strike back at their trainers or rampage through audiences, causing injuries and death. Circus lions and tigers have escaped and performing chimpanzees have injured audience members when adequate barriers were not in place. All the training in the world cannot take the "wild" out of wild animals. There's no telling when they might attack or attempt to flee. And escaped animals are often killed in the interest of public safety when recapture is difficult or delayed.

## Current Laws Don't Do Enough

THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT, enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), creates only minimum standards for animals in traveling exhibits—and it is poorly enforced. Persistent violators are rarely prosecuted, and those who are usually only face fines.

Animal trainers sometimes use cosmetics on animals to cover up injuries from ankle restraints and open sores from beatings, and they may hide abused animals from view during inspections.

Fortunately, some communities are taking action—either by banning circuses that use animals or by prohibiting them from using ankuses or bullhooks, sticks with sharpened metal hooks that trainers use to beat, pull, push, torment, and threaten elephants. These communities have sent a clear message that they won't tolerate such abuse within their boundaries.

## The Bottom Line

CIRCUS acts that use wild animals are inhumane, plain and simple. Animals don't perform because they choose this way of life. They have no choice—they're beaten until they comply.

We do have a choice, though. With so many available alternatives in family entertainment, there's no reason to support a circus that uses wild animals.



ATOURHANDS.COM



ATOURHANDS.COM



ATOURHANDS.COM

Lions and tigers may remain in small travel cages with only enough room to stand and turn around.



Laurie Jones

**From:** Laurie Jones (laurievaljo@yahoo.com)**To:** kjohnson@cityofsacramento.org; gvina@cityofsacramento.org; rthethaway@cityofsacramento.org; ssheedy@cityofsacramento.org; scohn@cityofsacramento.org; rkfong@cityofsacramento.org; lhammonf@cityofsacramento.org; kmccarty@cityofsacramento.org; rwaters@cityofsacramento.org; bparnell@cityofsacramento.org; pcastero@cityofsacramento.org;**Date:** Tue, September 14, 2010 2:56:28 PM**Cc:****Subject:** Protest of City's Decision to allow injured Ringling Bros circus elephants to perform against initial veterinary advice

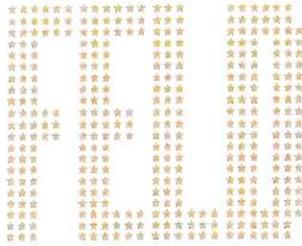
I congratulate you on previously passing an ordinance mandating safe and humane treatment of animals in the City. This ordinance includes restricting traveling shows to only work animals who are healthy and in good condition and has the substantial sanctions of heavy fines.

I'm saddened, however, that Ringling Bros. Circus was here in Sacramento recently, and I think they hoodwinked you to get around this ordinance. Traveling shows by nature are not in any one place very long, so perhaps disputes don't get thoroughly researched. When the circus train arrived in Sacramento and the elephants walked off the boxcars, 4 of the elephants were shuffling and showing signs of lameness, Bonnie and Minyak, and Karen and Nicole. The circus's own records showed that the latter two, Karen and Nicole, have been lame for years. This does not meet the ordinance requirement of "healthy and in good condition."

Wildlife veterinarian Dr. Mel Richardson and the City's own Animal Services Officer Penny Castero both informed the City and Ringling that the animals were not fit to perform any act requiring the lifting of more than one leg at a time. Somehow the City's Interim General Manager Gus Vina ordered a second veterinary opinion. They hired Freeland Dunker, who we have heard works for Ringling, so this sounds like conflict of interest to me. Of course, Dunker cleared the elephants to perform acts which we believe aggravate their condition, such as "power acts" like rearing up on hind legs or sitting on a raised platform. These acts require movements which are not natural to elephants except just fleetingly. So Interim Manager Vina allowed the elephants to perform these acts. As in the 2004 case of the San Francisco Zoo, Dunker has been known to say that animals are "in good health although somewhat arthritic"; shortly after he said that, one of those elephants had to be destroyed only 3 months after being retired from display and placed in a sanctuary.

We need to use the current City ordinance to prevent torture of animals for entertainment. Just because we can make them, doesn't mean the animals should perform acts when they are in pain and which will exacerbate their condition. Just because the animals can and will perform the acts doesn't mean they should, either. We are stewards and protectors of these magnificent animals, and the City didn't do its job in this case. This is abuse of power over our fellow helpless beings. They can't protect themselves from our control, so we have to do it. I urge you to in the future not allow veterinarians with ties to the profiting agency and/or circus to make decisions which get around this well-meaning ordinance that you already have in place. Even a layperson knows that a limping animal is in pain.

Meg Katzen



ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

September 14, 2010

Gus Vina  
Acting City Manager  
City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2604

Dear Mr. Vina:

As you know, Feld Entertainment, Inc. is the owner and producer of *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey*. We appreciate the city's efforts to address our concerns and objections to what we considered an unwarranted and erroneous attempt by the Animal Care Services agency to restrict the performances of several *Ringling Bros.* elephants during our engagement at the Arco Arena. The restrictions were based on an inadequate and biased veterinary assessment.

We had a number of concerns and objections to the actions of Animal Care Services during the permit inspection process which we will address more fully at a later time. However, at this time we would like to briefly address some of the allegations and attacks directed at *Ringling Bros.* and the City's decision to seek a thorough, independent veterinary inspection.

First, all of the elephants that are traveling with our circus units including those that were in Sacramento are in good health and receive exceptional care. Their welfare is always a top priority and we would not do anything to put them at risk. To do so would be both foolish and disingenuous to our patrons.

At 53 animals, *Ringling Bros.* has the largest herd of Asian elephants in the Western Hemisphere. *Ringling Bros.* also has a skilled and knowledgeable veterinary care team, including four board certified veterinarians, with a combined 83 years of experience caring for elephants. The veterinarians know and are authorized to do what is best for the animals, and they will call for other expert opinions or take the animals to specialized facilities if needed. The team works with the veterinary technicians and handlers who attend to the animals around the clock to provide veterinary care.

In Sacramento we also utilize the services of Murray Fowler, DVM who is Professor Emeritus at UC Davis. Dr. Fowler is one of the leading experts on exotic animal care and literally wrote the book on zoo animal medicine. Recently Dr. Fowler performed a thorough inspection of all our elephants that were in Sacramento and found them to be in good health. Dr. Fowler also was present at the animal walk to the arena and at the initial inspection of the animals after their arrival at the Arco Arena.

The train carrying our elephants was met by the Manager of Animal Services, as expected. What we did not expect was that she would be accompanied by a group of alleged elephant experts who oppose animals in circuses and/or all captivity. One of the individuals, Carol Buckley, testified against *Ringling Bros.* at trial in a case that is still ongoing. These individuals are outspoken animal activists who are affiliated with the radical animal rights group PETA. The group also included two employees of PETA. We immediately objected to the presence of all of these individuals -- none of who had any official affiliation with Animal Care Services.

Our objections extended to Dr. Mel Richardson a retired zoo veterinarian who has a history of criticizing the keeping of elephants in zoos and circuses. Dr. Richardson has frequently testified and otherwise worked in conjunction with animal rights groups, including PETA and In Defense of Animals. He has previously offered critical veterinary opinions of the health of various elephants apparently without actually examining the animals themselves. Moreover by his own admission he is "not an elephant specialist" since he lacks any veterinary board certification. Given his bias and his lack of qualifications, we objected to his presence as a "volunteer" advisor. Nevertheless, at the request of the City Attorney's office, we agreed to allow Dr. Richardson to accompany Animal Care Services during the inspection of our animals because we were told that Animal Care Services did not have any elephant experience. We later learned that the City had contracts with two Board Certified veterinarians, who could have assisted Animal Care Services.

Our veterinarian was present on all three occasions when Dr. Richardson visited the animal compound and Dr. Fowler was present at the initial inspection. During these visits Dr. Richardson was shown each elephant and their feet. He also had the opportunity to observe the elephants exercise in the arena and relax in their outside pens. At no time did Dr. Richardson review, or even request to review, a single medical record for any animal. Further, he did not ask to physically inspect any animal and in fact stated that he did not want or need to touch the animals. At no time during any of these visits did Dr. Richardson indicate to *Ringling Bros.* that he thought that there were any serious health issues that would prevent any of the elephants on the circus from performing.

Nevertheless, on September 9, after the third visit and less than four hours before the first scheduled circus performance, we received a letter from Animal Care Services that proposed to

restrict the performance activities of four of the elephants on the basis of Dr. Richardson's inspections. The letter named the elephants, but did not identify which specific medical concerns existed for each elephant. Nor was there any clear connection between the restrictions issued and the purported health conditions of the elephants. The Manager of Animal Care Services later indicated that she did not have a written report from Dr. Richardson when she prepared her letter and we have yet to see a written report from him.

We immediately objected to Animal Care Services and to the offices of the City Manager and City Attorney again citing our concerns about Dr. Richardson's bias, his lack of qualifications and the fact that he failed to review any medical records on our animals. We requested and the City agreed to seek to bring in a credentialed veterinarian, not affiliated with animal rights groups, to conduct a more thorough and independent examination of the elephants. We specifically requested that the City utilize one of the two board certified veterinarians at the Sacramento Zoo, both of whom have significant elephant experience. It is our understanding that neither of these veterinarians were available. As an aside, given their presence in the Sacramento Zoo we do not understand why Animal Care Services did not arrange in advance to utilize them, but instead looked to PETA to provide or recommend a veterinarian.

We also provided the City with the names of more than half a dozen other experienced elephant veterinarians in California who were qualified to assist the City. We understand that the City attempted to contact at least some of them. Eventually because the City was not able to secure the services of any other veterinarian in a timely manner, we reached an agreement to have Freeland Dunker, DVM inspect the elephants, watch them perform, and review their medical records. Dr. Dunker has more than 18 years experience caring for elephants and was previously affiliated with the San Francisco Zoo.

Dr. Dunker conducted an extensive physical inspection of all four of the elephants identified in the September 9 letter. He also examined the feet of all 10 adult elephants traveling with the circus. He reviewed medical records on the four identified elephants and interviewed *Ringling Bros.* attending veterinarian and its elephant handlers regarding the concerns expressed by Animal Care Services. Finally, specifically at the request of the City's Animal Care Services Manager, Dr. Dunker observed the elephant performance. Throughout this process, Dr. Dunker was accompanied by a City Animal Control Officer.

As to three of the four elephants Dr. Dunker found that "...none of the concerns identified in the September 9, 2010, letter applied to..." them. As to the fourth he found that while she does have an abnormal gait in both of her stifles (knees), he also found that *Ringling Bros.* was already doing a good job of managing her condition, including modest limitations on her performance activities that were put in place by *Ringling Bros.* prior to their arrival in Sacramento. Dr. Dunker also stated that his examination, "...did not reveal evidence of

Sacramento City Manager  
September 14, 2010  
Page 4 of 4

neglected foot care. In fact, in my opinion, all of the feet looked good." A copy of Dr. Dunker's report is attached.

On the basis of Dr. Dunker's extensive inspection and report thereon, the City agreed that the restrictions imposed in the September 9 letter would not be implemented. *Ringling Bros.* wants to assure the City and the Members of the City Council that all of the elephants in the circus are in good health and are being properly cared for by our team of experienced experts. Among other things, regular activity and daily routines help maintain our animals' physical fitness, along with the hard work of their veterinarians and caregivers.

We appreciate the efforts of the City to resolve this matter in a fair manner and look forward to bringing our circus and our elephants to Sacramento again next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas L. Albert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "T".

Thomas L. Albert

cc: City Council

Freeland Dunker, DVM

September 10, 2010

At the request of the City of Sacramento, Department of General Services, Animal Care Division and Feld Entertainment, Inc., dba Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, and with a City Animal Control Officer, I reviewed the City's letter of September 9, 2010, and the concerns noted therein. On this day, I also physically and visually inspected specifically the four elephants identified in the September 9<sup>th</sup> letter and the feet of all of the elephants. I met with the Circus's veterinarian, Ellen Wiedner, and personally observed the elephants' performance on this date. I also reviewed the medical records on all four specified elephants: Bonnie, Karen, Minyak, and Nicole. The City's Animal Control officer accompanied me throughout this process.

Based upon all of the above, it is my professional opinion that none of the concerns identified in the September 9, 2010, letter applied to Bonnie, Karen, or Nicole. Bonnie's confirmation does show she has an inward turn of her rear feet and an outward turn of her front feet, but this condition is not causing any discomfort or locomotion abnormalities. In my opinion, these elephants are physically fit, well cared for and fed, and their participation in the Circus performance that I observed did not and would not cause unnecessary discomfort, behavioral stress, or physical harm to these animals. No condition existed that is, or could be, injurious to the animals. Since I observed no lameness or gait abnormalities in these animals, osteo-arthritis is not a concern.

In addition, my examination of all ten (10) of the adult elephants' feet did not reveal evidence of neglected foot care. In fact, in my opinion, all of the feet looked good. They had no sole abscesses, no nail abscesses. The one vertical nail crack I saw was cared for properly. All of this, in my opinion, is evidence of good training of the handlers in foot care. I was generally pleased with their feet. I did observe cracking of the pads on some of the elephants, but the feet were well groomed, and in my opinion if the pads were trimmed down to meet the cracks this would leave the animals with no protection on their feet. I did observe that the cracks were being monitored, and opened, proper foot/pad care for aging elephants.

The only elephant I have some reservations concerning is Minyak. I observed an abnormal gait in both of her stifles. However, I also observed that this elephant's performance was limited and asked whether that was due to the restrictions set forth in the September 9<sup>th</sup> letter, but was informed that this elephant's performance had been limited for several weeks as part of the management of this elephant's stifle issues. I was also informed, and verified in Minyak's medical records, that the condition was also being addressed with anti-inflammatory medications.

---

It is my opinion that this elephant's stifle condition was being managed in a proper and professional manner. I was informed that a maneuver using a spindle and one requiring this elephant to walk onto and over a tub and then sit up on the tub were removed from her performance. However, I have recommended either an increase in the current medication (ibuprofen) dose, or that another type of anti-inflammatory medication be tried.

In Minyak's current condition, it is my opinion that she can continue to perform so long as her performance activities are limited to what I observed. In this limited performance and under anti-inflammatory medication, I observed no unnecessary discomfort, behavioral stress, or physical harm to this animal. It is also my opinion, that for this herd animal, the enrichment provided by performing with her group and the benefit of the movement/exercise performing and practicing provide is currently beneficial to this animal.

In conclusion, Minyak's condition in my opinion is a management issue requiring continued monitoring and management. Based upon my review of this animal's medical records and my discussions with her handlers and the Circus veterinarian, it is my opinion that they are currently doing a good job of managing this elephant's condition.

If you have any questions regarding this report, my examination of these animals, their performance, and their medical records, please contact me.

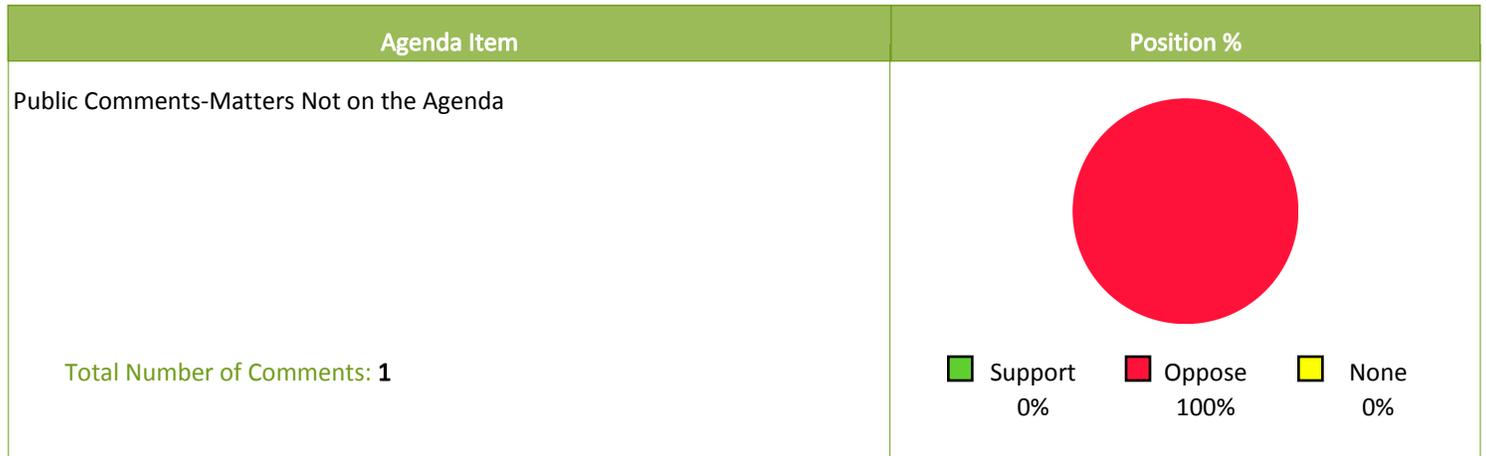
Sincerely,

  
Freeland Dunker, DVM

# City Council

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

## Top Discussion Item



## Public Comments Summary

Opinion	Agenda Item	Support	Oppose	None	Total
✘	Public Comments-Matters Not on the Agenda	0	1	0	1
				Total	1

## Public Comments Details

Agenda Item	Support	Oppose	None	Total
Public Comments-Matters Not on the Agenda	0	1	0	1
elizabeth halloway elizabethhalloway@yahoo.com 1820 Capitol Ave. #804 District 2 sacramento ca	Wiley Rowe, representing SHRA, contacted me today about possible eviction for not providing enough paperwork in my yearly renewal as a participant in the SHRA program. I've lived at this address for 4 yrs. I'm treated for depression. Every time I get one of these notices (& there have been several), it puts me in a spin.  Four years ago I signed a waiver stating that SHRA can look up anything about me at any time. Now Wiley wants 6 months of bank statements (I don't even keep them that long), & an SSI			<b>Oppose</b> 9/14/2010

printout. Isn't this "New" business attitude supposed to be conservative of useless paperwork? SHRA gets more than enough info on me every year. Why the constant harrasment? Why no hot water?0000000000

