

Subject:	Stop Zippos Circus from Returning to Brighton and Hove to Exploit Animals for Entertainment Petition for Debate		
Date of Meeting:	31 January 2019		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 The e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 5,606 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 7th March 2019.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

Stop Zippos Circus from returning to Brighton & Hove to exploit animals for entertainment.

<https://www.change.org/p/brighton-hove-city-council-stop-zippos-circus-from-returning-to-brighton-hove-to-exploit-animals-for-entertainment>

Lead Petitioner – Victoria Wood

Additional Information:

Animals are not here for our entertainment and should not be made to perform in the circus. We want Brighton and Hove City Council to repeal, revoke, and/or reject any proposed or confirmed licence/permission provided to Zippos Circus for their 2019 scheduled tour, and any tour thereafter.

Their use of domestic animals, including horses and budgies is not necessary, and while Zippos claim they follow animal welfare rules and regulations, the fact remains that these animals are made to perform, and carry out tasks that are unnatural. The training required to perform these tasks is often not observed/monitored by the relevant regulatory bodies and can breach welfare legislation (usually involves punishment using whips and depriving the animals of food until they perform the tricks required by the trainers). By allowing Zippos Circus to return, year after year, Brighton and Hove City Council are condoning these questionable training methods.

Horses performing in a tent full of people is uncharacteristic and no doubt causes them stress and anxiety (by their very nature, horses are timid and would normally be startled by the loud noises and flashing lights used in the circus). Whips are used on horses in the performance, and while not performing, the horses are kept in cramped conditions, tethered, unable to roam freely.

We acknowledge that the RSPCA and the council's animal wardens carry out welfare checks. However, these inspections do not take into account the methods used to train animals, the transportation of animals, and the animals schedule before and after they leave Hove Lawns. At no point is the holistic welfare of the animal taken into consideration.

We also question why Zippo's Circus do not advertise their use of domestic animals on their poster. It seems unethical to fail to warn customers about the use animals when it is clearly an important issue for many people.

We, the undersigned, believe that any show involving animals is cruel and unnecessary, especially when it comes to Zippos. Isn't it time ALL animal circuses were committed to the history books?

The council have given us the opportunity to present our case to them when they make their decision in January. Please support us in our efforts by signing this petition - let's send a strong message to the council, let them know that we do not agree with the use of animals in the circus. We cannot make an effective case without your help!

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:
 - (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
 - (ii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors for period of 15 minutes and will first call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response. The Mayor will then call on

those councillors who have indicated a desire to speak in the matter, before calling on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the debate;

- (iii) An amendment to the recommendation in paragraph 2.1 of the report or to add additional recommendations should be submitted by 10.00am on the day of the meeting; otherwise it will be subject to the Chair's discretion as to being appropriate. Any such amendment will need to be formally moved and seconded at the meeting;
- (iv) After the 15 minutes set aside for the debate, the Mayor will then formally put:
 - (v) (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

