



## **PETA** Factsheet

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### **Tarzan Zerbini Circus**

USDA #43-C-0012, Rte. 2, Box 195, Webb City, MO 64870

**Tarzan Zerbini Circus has failed to meet minimal federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited Tarzan Zerbini for failure to provide a veterinary care program and medical records, failure to provide minimum space, and failure to properly maintain transport vehicles. Animals used by Tarzan Zerbini have caused serious injury to children. Contact PETA for documentation.**

**March 13, 2009:** The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failure to dispose of expired medications and for providing insufficient perimeter fencing around the elephant enclosure.

**May 21, 2008:** The USDA confirmed that two elephants, Luke and Roxy, were under a tuberculosis-related quarantine at Tarzan Zerbini's Williston, Florida, facility.

**February 20, 2008:** The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failure to maintain the structural strength of an elephant barn, which had excessive rust and corroded metal along the base of one wall as well as rusty nails protruding through the wall and into the barn. Two elephants who were tethered inside the barn every night had access to this area. In addition, the inspector noted that an elephant named Jan was thin and undergoing treatment for a medical condition.

**December 21, 2005:** The USDA issued Tarzan Zerbini a \$250 civil penalty for importing tuberculosis samples obtained from three elephants into the U.S. from Canada without a USDA permit despite having been made aware that such a permit was required. USDA correspondence notes, "This seems to be a case where everyone involved has ignored all of our instructions ..."

**January 31, 2005:** An elephant trainer with Tarzan Zerbini was trampled to death by one of the elephants as the animals were being loaded into a trailer following performances at the Mizpah Shrine Circus in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**August 16, 2004:** The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failure to provide an adequate barrier between the public and elephants, failure to provide a wholesome and healthy diet for the elephants, failure to provide sanitary waste disposal, improper drainage in an area that had an electrical supply, cluttered areas that could cause injury to the elephants, failure to provide animal records, and lack of a perimeter fence.

**August 2, 2002:** According to *The Halifax Herald Limited*, three elephants traveling with Tarzan Zerbini were quarantined in Ontario and removed from Canada on July 13, 2002, after the USDA alerted Canadian authorities that the elephants had been in prolonged contact with a tuberculosis-positive elephant. The elephants had been performing for Shrine Circuses and giving rides to children.

**December 3, 2001:** The USDA issued Tarzan Zerbini a \$2,250 civil penalty for failure to provide veterinary care to an elephant with a swollen foot, failure to provide elephants with shade, failure to include elephants in the program of veterinary care, repeated failure to maintain travel trailers in good repair, failure to maintain clean premises, and improper food storage.

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**July 23, 2000:** According to *The Daily News*, Tarzan Zerbini was forced to buy bigger overnight cages for its animals to meet minimum size requirements established by Nova Scotia provincial laws.

**November 23, 1999:** The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failure to provide adequate space for an elephant named Roxy who was kept chained inside a barn.

**November 3, 1999:** The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for the third time in a year for an improperly maintained transport trailer. The floor that supports the elephants was sagging with spots rusted through.

**November 1999:** Two elephants used by Tarzan Zerbini who had been exposed to other, tuberculosis-positive elephants were quarantined for testing.

**May 4, 1999:** The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failure to provide veterinary care to an elephant named Roxy with a swollen left front foot. The circus was also cited for failure to provide shade for the elephants and for improper food storage. The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for the second time for an improperly maintained transport trailer that could injure the elephants' feet.

**April 24, 1999:** A 27-year-old Tarzan Zerbini circus worker, who had been drinking, was hospitalized in serious condition after he was attacked by an elephant who had broken free of her shackles in Duluth, Minnesota, where the circus was performing for Shriners. Another elephant trainer admitted that the elephants had been beaten badly by drunken trainers and were wary of people with alcohol on their breath. The trainer also commented, "There are probably more people killed and injured by elephants than by any other exotic animal."

**November 18, 1998:** The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for an improperly maintained elephant transport trailer.

**April 13, 1997:** A spooked Tarzan Zerbini elephant performing at a Shrine Circus in the city of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, slapped a handler with her trunk and bit him on the head and back, causing injuries serious enough to require hospitalization.

**March 17, 1997:** A bear traveling with Tarzan Zerbini bit off the tip of a 2-year-old child's finger in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The child had to undergo surgery to repair her finger.

**January 4, 1997:** According to an internal USDA document, animals owned by Tarzan Zerbini may have been exposed to Hawthorn Corporation elephants who tested positive for tuberculosis.

**February 6, 1995:** A Tarzan Zerbini employee was critically injured when an elephant stepped on her and crushed her pelvis in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**December 8, 1994:** The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for not having a program of veterinary care and for animal transport vehicles in need of repair.

**November 5, 1994:** The USDA cited Tarzan Zerbini for failing to have a program of veterinary care and medical records. The circus also did not have records of acquisition and disposition.

**April 25, 1994:** Three children were injured during elephant rides at a Tarzan Zerbini performance in Michigan.

**July 16, 1992:** Nine people were injured in Lafayette, Indiana, when elephants traveling with Tarzan Zerbini collided and caused a barricade to come toppling down. The spectators were treated for cuts and bruises and one woman was hospitalized.

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**September 14, 1990:** The SPCA in Victoria, British Columbia, inspected Tarzan Zerbini and noted the following: The majority of the horses had lacerations, abrasions, or scars from old injuries. There was no food or water available for the tigers. The cages for the monkeys were extraordinarily small, not allowing the monkeys to stand on their hind legs. The inspector was told by the circus that the monkeys and dogs are kept in the cages at all times except for the show performances. No water was provided for the monkeys and dogs. The inspector stated in her report, "This circus, where the animals did not have food or water available, where the animals were kept entirely in cages too small to allow the least bit of movement or comfort, and where it was impossible to find anyone to accept basic responsibility for the care of the animals, was a prime example of everything that should not be allowed to occur in a circus."