

Britney Spears, c/o Larry Rudolph

Dear Britney,

Greetings from PETA, and congratulations on your much anticipated new album, *Circus*. We were delighted to hear you say in a recent interview that live elephants will not be used onstage during your performances, which will spare these intelligent animals from a highly stressful and traumatic experience. However, we have since learned that you will be appearing on *Good Morning America* with the Big Apple Circus. While we appreciate that the Big Apple Circus does not perform with exotic animals, we are writing to ask you to ensure that the Big Apple Circus does not use *any* animals during this appearance. We also request that you leave all animals out of all your live shows, promotions, and videos and feature only human circus performers.

As you are well aware, music-video sets and concert stages are hectic environments—and very frightening for animals. Elephants and other animals who are forced to perform are trained through domination, fear, and punishment. Sharp metal bullhooks, electric prods, and whips are the standard training tools of the industry. PETA has obtained shocking video footage showing some of the training methods that are accepted as industry standard. Horses—animals that the Big Apple Circus *does* use—do not receive any protection under the federal Animal Welfare Act. Former circus employees have reported severe abuse of horses, including allegations that horses were grabbed by the throat and shoved, jabbed with pitchforks, and given "lip twists," a sadistic way to inflict pain on one of the most sensitive areas of a horse's body.

In addition to beatings and abuse, captive elephants, horses, and other animals are subjected to prolonged confinement, physically demanding routines, and exhausting travel. The agony that these magnificent animals endure daily is the dirty little secret of the entertainment industry. We hope that you won't contribute to this abuse by using animals in promotional efforts for your new album.

May we please hear that you will leave animals out of all of your promotion plans? The acclaim that you've received for your choreographed videos and concerts over the years—and the smashing success of human-only circuses like Cirque du Soleil—are proof enough that animals are not needed to dazzle your fans. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Mathews

Senior Vice President, PETA