



**Humane
World for
Animals**

Formerly called the Humane Society of the United States

End Dangerous Traveling Wildlife Acts

A.5850 (Glick)/S.3629-A (Fernandez) ends the use of dangerous wild animals—bears, primates, wild cats, kangaroos, and wallabies—in traveling acts in New York. These archaic, cruel acts travel across New York.

Trained with pain and the fear of punishment and forced to endure grueling travel, animals in traveling displays are denied everything natural and important to them.

Traveling Exhibits in New York

Many, if not most, wild animal exhibitors—including those touring New York—have histories of poor animal care and violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) that include failure to provide animals with veterinary care, proper food, and minimal shelter as well as animal handling practices that endanger the public.

New York acknowledged this in 2017, when it became one of the first states to pass a law prohibiting the use of elephants in circuses and other traveling shows.

By population, more than half of New York already has laws in place prohibiting wild animal acts, including New York City, and Suffolk and Westchester Counties.

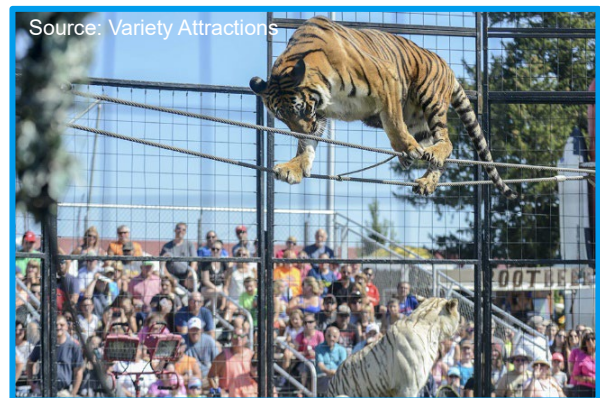
Twelve states—New Jersey, Hawaii, California, Illinois, Rhode Island, Kentucky, Colorado, Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, and Washington—and nearly 200 U.S. localities have passed various restrictions governing wild animal acts.

Extreme Confinement Leads to Extreme Suffering

Bears, primates, and big cats spend the majority of their lives on the road in cramped cages, where they are forced to eat, drink, and sleep in their own waste. Deprived of adequate exercise, appropriate social groupings, and no opportunity to express natural behaviors, animals often exhibit signs of severe and chronic stress. Life in an unhealthy environment on the road also means that sick animals may not have access to immediate veterinary care.

Opposed by the Public

Increasingly, the public believes wild animals should benefit from protective conservation efforts and not be transported from city to city for performances. A December 2025 survey of 800 New York voters found that nearly 80 percent of respondents support this legislation, with overwhelming bipartisan support. The circus industry now reflects this changing landscape: Ringling Bros.



Source: Variety Attractions
began touring again in 2023—without animals.

At least a dozen different exhibitors that are known to use big cats, bears, nonhuman primates, or kangaroos and wallabies have toured throughout New York in the last several years, including:

Banana Derby

Florida-based traveling show that straps capuchin monkeys dressed as jockeys on the backs of dogs who race around a track. A sad spectacle that is undoubtedly frightening and harmful for the animals involved. The USDA has cited the exhibitor for keeping social monkeys in solitary confinement and failing to provide enough space for primates and dogs.



Bruno Blaszak

Hauls tigers across the U.S., including to New York, to “perform” in shows that require them to do unnatural tricks such as jumping through hoops and tightrope walking. The USDA has repeatedly cited Blaszak for keeping six tigers in cramped travel cages for days at a time and missing animal welfare inspections. While performing at a festival in Wisconsin, a tiger charged at Blaszak, knocked him down, and clawed him, causing injuries that required 30-40 stitches.

A Grizzly Experience

Dexter Osborn, operating under the name “A Grizzly Experience,” hauled bears in small transport cages across the country, including to New York.

At a 2017 performance at the Saratoga County Fair, a grizzly bear clawed a handler’s face. The show was abruptly cancelled, and witnesses described blood streaming from the handler’s face as he retreated into a trailer.

Ryan Easley

This controversial exhibitor, who toured with a circus that made over a dozen appearances across New York, was tragically mauled and killed by his own tiger on September 20, 2025. An undercover investigation by Humane World for Animals exposed Easley’s violent training methods, including a training session in which Easley whipped a tiger 31 times in less than two minutes because she refused to get off a pedestal. While on tour, the investigator found that the tigers were kept in small, barren transport cages about half the size of a parking space.

Nickel City Reptiles

Buffalo-based Nickel City Reptiles takes primates, kangaroos, and other animals to New York venues. The USDA cited Nickel City for allowing feces to accumulate in an enclosure housing a sick lemur and for insufficient animal housing, including keeping a spider monkey in a crate and a cougar (observed pacing back and forth) in an indoor enclosure with no access to natural sunlight and without space to move.

Wild World of Animals

An archaic stage show featuring big cats and primates run by notorious wildlife exhibitor and trader Grant Kemmerer. Kemmerer subjects animals to prolonged confinement in small cages and has appeared at least four times at New York festivals/fairs.

Kemmerer is back in New York after the DEC cited him in 2018 for five violations, including for allowing direct contact with juvenile tigers and a lion at a Long Island residence; fined him \$7,300; and—after Kemmerer refused to comply with DEC mandates—denied him the option to apply for a license to exhibit wild animals until at least 2023. The documentary *The Conservation Game* implicated Kemmerer for providing so-called ambassador animals—especially big cats—who were dragged onto late-night talk shows and who seemingly disappeared after one or two appearances.