

State and Local Restrictions Governing Traveling Shows and Circuses in the U.S.

Twelve states and 200 other localities in 37 states have passed various restrictions governing the use of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows. And two states ban public contact with some species commonly used in circuses (such as elephant rides). Since 2014, 102 laws have passed protecting wild animals in traveling shows.

State	Locality	Description
Arkansas	Eureka Springs	Bans the display of wild animals.
California	Statewide	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants.
	Statewide	Bans the use of animals other than dogs, cats, or horses in circuses.
	Belvedere	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Corona	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
	Corte Madera	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Dinuba	Bans the use of chemical, electrical, or mechanical devices on performing animals.
	Encinitas	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
	Fairfax	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Hanford	Bans the use of chemical, electrical, or mechanical devices on performing animals.
	Huntington Beach	Bans performing wild animal acts.
	Irvine	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses.
	Larkspur	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Los Angeles	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants; bans wild animals in circuses and performing animal shows; bans public contact with wild animals.
	Marin County	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Mill Valley	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Newport Beach	Proclamation from Mayor that city will not display wild animals for entertainment.
	Novato	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Oakland	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants.
	Pasadena	Bans the display of wild animals and rodeos on city property; restricts displays of domestic animals.
	Rohnert Park	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Ross	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Rolling Hills Estates	Bans performances of wild animals for public entertainment.
	San Anselmo	Bans the display of wild animals.
	San Francisco	Bans wild animals from performing in the city, including motion pictures.
	San Rafael	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Santa Ana	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
	Sausalito	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Tiburon	Bans the display of wild animals.
	West Hollywood	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
Colorado	Statewide	Bans wild animals in traveling shows (exempts fairs)
	Boulder	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Loveland	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Timnath	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Connecticut	Bridgeport	Bans performances of wild animals.
	Stamford	Bans carnivals, circuses, and wild west shows.
Florida	Citrus County	Bans the use of prods, sticks, electrical shock, chemical or physical force on performing animals.
	Destin	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Hallandale Beach	Bans the use of tools that may cause, or are likely to cause animals pain, suffering, or injury, including bullhooks, electric prods, and whips.
	Hollywood	Bans the display of vertebrate animals on city property for entertainment; bans the display of wild, threatened or endangered species on private property for entertainment.
	Margate	Bans the use of tools that may cause, or are likely to cause animals pain, suffering, or injury, including bullhooks, electric prods, and whips.
	Mary Esther	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Miami Beach	Bans the use of tools that may cause, or are likely to cause animals pain, suffering, or injury, including bullhooks, electric prods, and whips.
	Ocala County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.



State	Locality	Description
	Panama City	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Pompano Beach	Bans animal displays on city property for entertainment (except horses); bans the use of tools that may cause, or are likely to cause animals pain, suffering, or injury, including bullhooks, electric prods, and whips.
	Sebring	Bans the use of bullhooks, whips, electric prods, or other tools that cause pain and suffering to wild animals.
	Seminole County	Bans the use of bullhooks, whips, electric prods, or other tools that cause pain to wild animals.
Georgia	Baldwin County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Coweta County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause harm to performing animals.
	Fulton County	Bans the use of bullhooks and any device that inflicts pain on, or is likely to cause injury to, elephants.
	Union City	Bans the use of bullhooks and any device that inflicts pain on, or is likely to cause injury to, elephants.
Hawaii	Statewide	Bans the import of dangerous wild animals for circuses and carnivals.
	Maui County	Bans the display of cetaceans (whales and dolphins).
Idaho	Blaine County	Bans the display of wild animals as part of a circus, animal act, exhibit, or other special event.
	Boise	Bans the display of wild animals in entertainment.
	Ketchum	Bans the use of wild animals in traveling animal acts.
Illinois	Statewide	Bans the use of elephants in traveling animal acts.
Indiana	Beech Grove	Bans the use of chemical, electrical, or mechanical devices on performing animals.
	Bloomington	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Evansville	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Fort Wayne	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Indianapolis	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Lawrence County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Munster	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Whiting	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.	
Iowa	Ames	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Burlington	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Roland	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Kansas	Olathe	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Wyandotte County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals; bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
Kentucky	Statewide	Bans the use of endangered species in circuses; bans the use of bears, big cats, elephants, primates, and other wild animals in other traveling shows.
	Boone County	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Bromley	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Crestview Hills	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Elsmere	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Erlanger	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Flemingsburg	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Florence	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Franklin	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Grant County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Highland Heights	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Hillview	Bans the exhibition of wild or vicious animals. Does not apply to a zoo, theatrical exhibit, or circus unless they use chemical, electrical, or mechanical devices.
	Kenton County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Lakeside Park	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.	



State	Locality	Description
	Louisville	Bans the use of African elephants for rides; regulates the use of Asian elephants for rides; bans public contact with other inherently dangerous animals used in circuses.
	McLean County	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Mount Washington	Bans the exhibition of wild or vicious animals. Does not apply to a zoo, theatrical exhibit, or circus unless they use chemical, electrical, or mechanical devices.
	Oldham County	Bans forcing animals to perform by means of any prod, stick, electrical shock, chemical or physical force, or by causing pain or discomfort.
	Park Hills	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Shepherdsville	Bans the exhibition of wild or vicious animals; applies to zoos, theatrical exhibits, and circuses. Bans theatrical exhibits or acts that use chemical, electrical, or mechanical devices.
	Southgate	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Villa Hills	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
	Walton	Bans animal exhibitions, circuses or horse shows that use devices likely to cause injury or suffering to animals.
Maine	Bar Harbor	Bans wild animals in traveling animal acts.
	Portland	Bans wild animals in traveling animal acts.
Maryland	Statewide	Bans the display of bears, big cats, nonhuman primates, elephants in traveling shows
	Gaithersburg	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses and most other traveling shows.
	Montgomery County	Bans the display of wild animals in traveling animal acts.
Massachusetts	Statewide	Bans primates, bears, big cats, giraffes, and elephants in traveling shows.
	Amherst	Bans wild animals in traveling shows.
	Braintree	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
	Brookline	Bans use of wild animals in traveling acts
	Cambridge	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows.
	Mendon	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows.
	Northampton	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows.
	Pittsfield	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
	Plymouth	Bans the display of dangerous wild animals in traveling shows.
	Provincetown	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
	Quincy	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
	Revere	Bans the display of wild animals for entertainment.
	Somerville	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.
	Topsfield	Bans the display of wild animals for entertainment.
Weymouth	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses, carnivals, or similar entities.	
	Wilmington	Bans wild animals in traveling animal acts.
Michigan	Ferndale	Bans the display or performance of wild animals.
	Marquette	Bans transport of wild animals for entertainment or benefit of live audience.
	St. Clair Shores	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Minnesota	Minneapolis	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants.
	Rochester	Bans wild animals in performances on city property.
	South St. Paul	Bans wild animals in carnivals and circuses.
Mississippi	Biloxi	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Brandon	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Clinton	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Crystal Springs	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	D'Iberville	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Flowood	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Gulfport	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Horn Lake	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Jackson	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Meridian	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.



State	Locality	Description
	Ridgeland	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Southaven	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	West Point	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Missouri	Richmond	Bans the display of wild animals.
Montana	Missoula	Bans performing wild animals, wild animal exhibits, and elephant rides.
Nebraska	Bellevue	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
New Jersey	Statewide	Bans the use of wild animals in traveling animal acts.
	Bergen County	Bans performing wild animals on county property.
	Clifton	Bans traveling shows that use wild animals on city property.
	Cumberland County	Bans traveling shows or circuses that use wild animals on county property.
	Hudson County	Bans traveling shows or circuses that use wild animals on county property.
	Jersey City	Bans performing wild animals on public or private property.
	Passaic County	Bans traveling shows or circuses that use wild animals on county property.
	Vineland	Bans traveling shows or circuses that use wild animals on city property.
New Mexico	Las Cruces	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Santa Fe	Bans traveling shows or circuses that use wild animals.
New York	Statewide	Bans the use of elephants in entertainment acts.
	Statewide	Bans public contact with big cats; bans public contact with endangered or threatened species, including elephant rides.
	East Hampton	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Greenburgh	Bans the display of wild animals in circuses; prohibits all rodeos on town property; bans wild animal species from "parades, carnivals, races, rides, public shows, trade shows, photo opportunities, or similar undertakings in which animals perform tricks, fight or participate in performances for amusement."
	New York City	Bans wild animals in circuses.
	Southampton	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Suffolk County	Bans wild animals in traveling shows.
	Ulysses	Bans wild animals in traveling shows.
	Walkkill	Bans public contact with big cats and bears at fairs, circuses, carnivals or exhibitions.
	Westchester County	Bans the use of wild animals in traveling shows.
North Carolina	Asheville	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Chapel Hill	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Charlotte	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Orange County	Bans the display of wild animals.
Ohio	Delaware	Bans wild animals in circuses.
	Cincinnati	Bans the display of wild animals.
Oklahoma	El Reno	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Mustang	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Oregon	Benton County	Bans the participation of a wild or exotic animal in a traveling animal display.
	Clatsop County	Bans the use of bullhooks, electric prods, whips or other devices that cause injury to elephants, felines, and primates.
	Multnomah County (including the city of Portland)	Bans the participation of a wild or exotic animal in a traveling animal display.
	Washington County	Bans wild animals in traveling shows.
Pennsylvania	Bellevue	Bans performances of wild animals.
	Pittsburgh	Bans the use of bullhooks, electric prods, whips, sticks, muzzles or instruments capable of inflicting or threatening pain on wild animals.
	Whitemarsh Township	Bans the display of wild animals.
Rhode Island	Statewide	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants.
South Carolina	Aiken County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Edgefield County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Spartanburg	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Tennessee	Germantown	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Oliver Springs	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.



State	Locality	Description
Texas	Austin	Bans the use of bullhooks on elephants.
	Corpus Christi	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Denton	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Killeen	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Marion	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	New Braunfels	Bans the use of bullhooks on elephants and devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Nolanville	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
Utah	Helper	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Huntington	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Davis County	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Salt Lake County	Bans wild animals shows at county-owned facilities.
Vermont	Burlington	Bans the display of wild animals.
Virginia	Statewide	Bans the use of bullhooks and other devices that cause pain, fear, or injury.
	Charlottesville	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Chesterfield County	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	Fairfax	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	Falls Church	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	Goochland County	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	King George County	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	Manassas	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	Manassas Park	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	Prince William County	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	Richmond	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants.
	Salem	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	Smithfield	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
	Spotsylvania County	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.
Stafford County	Bans public contact with wild animals, with no exemption for elephant rides.	
Washington	Statewide	Bans the display of bears, big cats, nonhuman primates, elephants in traveling shows
	Darrington	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Port Townsend	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Redmond	Bans the display of wild animals.
	Snohomish	Bans the use of devices likely to cause injury and suffering to performing animals.
	Spokane	Bans the use of bullhooks and similar devices designed to inflict pain on elephants.
	Wenatchee	Bans the display of wild animals.
Wisconsin	Dane County	Bans performing elephants at the Alliant Energy Center of Dane County.
	La Crosse	Bans display of elephants, non-domestic cats, non-human primates, bears

