



PACMA

MANIFESTO FOR A RIGHTFUL
RETIREMENT FOR THE FOUR
CIRCUS GOTTANI ELEPHANTS



A month has already gone by since the terrible traffic accident that took the life of one of the Gottani Circus elephants in Albacete. The four survivors continue to be confined in Pozo Cañada, and neither the authorities nor the regional or state governments have collaborated to ensure that these pachyderms are retired to a suitable place to prevent them from having to step onto a circus arena ever again.

There is no doubt that animals are endowed with physical and psychological sensitivity, and that, therefore, they should be treated in a way that ensures their maximum welfare. In 2012, a group of prominent neurologists signed the Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness. In this manifesto, they scientifically corroborated the existence of consciousness in non-human animals. The experts' study concluded that all mammals have the neuroanatomic, neurochemical and neurophysiological substrates that generate consciousness along with the ability to exhibit intentional behaviors.

And yet, even though we know they suffer, we have not changed a bit our relationship with the rest of animals.

In the case of these four elephants, they have been deprived of freedom their entire lives, caged and chained, without enough space to develop their needs and natural behaviors. As a result of this abuse, they exhibit stereotypies and compulsive movements that are evidence of terrible psychological damage. As elephant exploiters say, they have broken their souls.

Should we tear animals away from their mothers, from their families, from their environments and subject them to a life of abuse just for entertainment of a few? Is it ethical to force an elephant to play football, a bear to blow a trumpet or a tiger to jump through a fiery hoop? How much suffering, how many lives must be lost for our government to decide to do something for them?

Circuses with animals are a thing of the past, something that should disappear today, knowing as we know now that animals feel. They are not mere objects to be hauled from one place to another in deplorable conditions for no purpose other than profit.

An elephant's place, or that of any wild animal used in a circus, is the jungle, the forest, Freedom. They need to be in contact with their own kind and have a large area of land to develop, instead of a small cage on a wagon. That is their true nature, not the confined space in the truck carrying them throughout the country.

Thanks to the information gathered from several European animal organizations, we know that the owner of the Gottani Circus elephants, Joy Gartner, has managed to escape justice in several European countries and has even fled to North Africa with the elephants in the past. We cannot allow him to continue to circumvent the law.

We are at a crucial time to achieve our goal and free the four elephants from the whips, punishments and subjugation they endure in the Gottani Circus.

Therefore, we, the undersigned organizations, request the immediate seizure of the elephants belonging to Gottani Circus animal trainer Joy Gartner, and the search by the government authorities of a suitable retirement home for these four elephants, a symbol of the future we want for all animals.

Citizens do not want animals used in the circus. It is time for the Spanish government to catch up to the ethical and compassionate policies we are demanding and move forward on the General Animal Welfare and Protection Act (Zero Law) proposed by the Animal Party, which includes, among other measures, a nationwide ban on the use of animals in circuses.

