**Respect for Animals**

I would like to ask that you deeply consider the lives of animals not just as part of entertainment spectacles

but as individual beings each with their own unique needs of their species.

Animals do not belong with the intense stress of performing.

Add to that the actions taken to control large animals that can be a danger to humans.

There are videos of these brutal actions towards animals. These videos drive the public away from paying for these now outdated and expensive forms of "entertainment".

Of course, animals have no voice to say STOP, you're hurting me, I need exercise, I need to be with other animals like me, I need space, I need to feel safe....

You know there are and have been many entertainment venues that do not include animals that have made much money and have been widely enjoyed, the expensive and elaborate Cirque du Soleil for one.

Some years ago, in the SF Bay area I remember the small quaint and funny The Pickle Family Circus. Now there is also Teatro ZinZanni and Circus Bella. From what I have read these regional circuses are thriving with a classic feel like Ringling but without the expense and the (mistreatment of) animals.

Unique personalities of performers with live music from small bands along with the costumes and set designs create a charming old school effect the audience loves. Let's encourage youth to explore their interest in the arts. There are also schools for acrobatics. Let's give humans jobs and relish their creations!

LEAVE THE ANIMALS OUT OF IT PLEASE.

THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Let's respect animal life.

Jo Ann Herbert RN., BSN (retired)

The five freedoms as currently expressed are:

1. Freedom from hunger or thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor

2. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area

3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment

4. Freedom to express (most) normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind

5. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering