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Prohibit the use of wild animals in circuses; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Interpretation

In this Act—

“travelling circus” means a circus which travels from place to place for the purpose of giving performances, displays or exhibitions,

“wild animal” means an animal that is a member of a species not normally domesticated in Great Britain.

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2 Offences relating to the use of wild animals in travelling circuses

(1) A person is guilty of an offence if he keeps or introduces wild animals, whether for the purpose of performance, display or otherwise, as part of a travelling circus.

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(2) A person is guilty of an offence if he knowingly causes or permits another person to keep or introduce wild animals whether for the purpose of performance, display or otherwise, as part of a travelling circus.

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both.

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3 Powers of entry and enforcement

(1) A person authorised in writing by a local authority (whether generally or in a particular case) may at any reasonable time enter any premises within the area of that local authority on which he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that an offence under section 2 has been or is being committed and may inspect the premises and any animals or things found there.

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- (2) A person seeking to enter any premises in the exercise of his powers under subsection (1) shall, if required by or on behalf of the owner or occupier or person in charge of the premises, produce evidence of his identity, and of his authority or (as the case may be) appointment, before entering.
- (3) A person who has entered any premises in the exercise of his powers under subsection (1) shall, if required as mentioned in subsection (2), state in writing his reasons for entering. 5
- (4) A person is guilty of an offence if he intentionally obstructs or delays any person in the exercise of his powers under subsection (1).
- (5) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (4) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale. 10
- (6) In this section –
“premises” includes any place but not any private dwelling, and
“private dwelling” means any premises for the time being used as a private dwelling excluding any garage, outhouse or other structure (whether or not forming part of the same building as the premises) which belongs to or is usually enjoyed with the premises. 15

4 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Wild Animals in Circuses Act 2013.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on the expiration of two months beginning on the day on which it is passed. 20
- (3) This Act extends to England only.

Wild Animals in Circuses Bill

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To prohibit the use of wild animals in circuses; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Thomas Docherty,
supported by
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to be Printed, 25 June 2012.*

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Bill 36

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