

The Pamela Anderson Foundation

9 April 2014

The Honourable Christian Schmidt
Minister of Food and Agriculture

Dear Mr Minister:

Congratulations on your new position as Minister of Food and Agriculture. I'm writing to you today about an issue that's very close to my heart: the use of animals for entertainment. During my recent visit to lovely Munich, I learned that Germany still allows exotic animals such as elephants and tigers to be kept and trained in circuses in dreadful conditions.

I'm hopeful that since Germany is a progressive country, it will soon join the 17 European countries that have banned all or at least some animals from circuses. **I respectfully urge you and your ministry to introduce a bill that prohibits the use of exotic animals in circuses.** Since you represent the ruling party in Germany and all three other parties in the Bundestag have spoken in favour of a ban, you have the power to make this important change. Two-thirds of the German population as well as your own federal chamber of veterinarians are against the use of wild animals in circuses.

In the circus, elephants are chained by two legs every night of their lives and forced to obey their trainers through the use of a sharp bullhook. Big cats are kept in cages and live in fear of being whipped during their performances. My friends at PETA Germany showed me documentation of repeated cases of serious animal-welfare violations and cruelty to animals at Circus Krone, the largest circus company in Germany. Official documents from Munich's prosecutor note "clear husbandry deficiencies ... behavioural disorders ... [and] serious suffering" at Circus Krone.

As more people become aware of cruelty behind the scenes in circuses, cities around the world are banning exotic animal acts, including here in the States. I hope your beautiful country will soon take part in this modern movement. Please outlaw the use of exotic animals in circuses.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela', with a large, stylized loop at the top.

Pamela Anderson