

Jordan World Circus

4040 S. Pearl St., Las Vegas, NV 89121

Jordan World Circus, also known as “Vegas Productions” and “Jordan Productions Inc.,” is owned and operated by Jody and Melanie Jordan and produces Shrine circuses as well as performances under its own name. The circus no longer possesses an exhibitor license from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is no longer subject to citations under its own name. Instead, it hires outside exhibitors to provide animal acts for its shows, such as elephants from [Carson & Barnes Circus](#). The license of the circus’s frequent tiger exhibitor, Adam Burck, was canceled by the USDA after the agency found that he was keeping tigers in travel cages inside a sweltering barn teeming with maggots. During the time Jordan World was licensed by the USDA, it failed to meet minimal federal standards for the care of animals used in exhibition as established in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The USDA cited Jordan World numerous times for inadequate and unsafe enclosures and for failing to provide animals with proper veterinary care, proper handling, nutritious food and clean water, shelter from the elements, and exercise. Jordan World waited a month to seek treatment for a malnourished tiger with a fractured leg, and it forced another sick tiger to perform. Jordan World left tigers and lions in small travel cages for up to 11 days without any exercise and used elephants with a history of dangerous incidents. Contact PETA for documentation.

April 16, 2024: An elephant named Viola, who had been leased from Carson &

Barnes to perform with Jordan World Circus, escaped in Butte, Montana. She was reportedly being bathed before scheduled performances at the Butte Civic Center when a truck backfired, scaring her. She wandered through the city, including through the middle of traffic on a busy road, before being recaptured. She caused some minor damage to a storage area at the civic center.

January 25, 2022: The USDA cited Adam Burck for failing to maintain a tiger enclosure in good repair. The enclosure, which housed four tigers, had two holes and exposed sharp points in the chain link, part of which wasn’t properly secured to the fencing, potentially allowing a tiger to escape.

November 29, 2021: The USDA temporarily canceled Burck’s license for failing to have an approved site for keeping tigers.

September 23, 2021: The USDA issued Burck a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for an inspection of his records and property.

August 25, 2021: The USDA issued Burck a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult present to accompany inspectors during the inspection process. The new property owner informed the inspector that the animal facilities were no longer on the property and that Burck was no longer allowed there.

August 24, 2021: The USDA cited Burck for failing to provide tigers with sufficient space to make normal movements. Burck was holding the animals in travel cages. He had used his performance ring to provide more space but had then taken it down in preparation for an upcoming performance. The inspector noted that “[w]ithout the

exercise ring, the tigers do not have adequate space to make normal postural and social movements. If the ring is the primary source of space for the animals, it should be taken down only at the last possible moment prior to travel.”

The USDA also cited Burck for failing to have a secure perimeter. Several doors of the barn where he caged the tigers were open for ventilation, leaving 3-to-4-foot gaps. The new site wasn’t ready for approval to conduct activity covered under Burck’s current AWA license and would need another new site approval inspection.

August 9, 2021: The USDA issued Burck an official warning for citations that had occurred on June 14, 2021, regarding failing to provide adequate veterinary care, failing to have a perimeter fence, and failing to provide sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments. (See the June 14, 2021, entry below.)

June 14, 2021: The USDA issued Burck a direct citation for failing to provide a “notably thin” 15-year-old tiger named Shere Khan with adequate veterinary care. The animal hadn’t been properly evaluated by a licensed veterinarian in over a year. The USDA also issued Burck a direct citation for holding tigers in travel cages that didn’t provide them with sufficient space to move since March 2020. During the inspection, “[t]he tigers were pacing and appeared agitated ... which can be an indication of stress.” The inspector also noted that “[t]ravel cages do not provide sufficient space for the animals to move comfortably, exercise, or make normal postural adjustments. This can have a dramatic, negative impact on the health and well-being of the animals. These effects can range from physical impairment to mental/emotional distress.”

Another direct citation was issued for failing to have an adequate perimeter fence at the facility. When opening the doors to ventilate the barn, there was no fence or other security measure to prevent unauthorized access to the tigers or to prevent them from escaping from the facility if they got out of their cages. The inspector noted that “[t]he current setup is just not at all appropriate to house and care for dangerous animals. The lack of security and the absence of any secondary containment measure is a constant, ongoing potential threat both to the animals and to the surrounding community.”

The USDA issued Burck a citation for keeping the tiger cages inside a barn with no climate control, even as the temperature there reached 92.3 degrees. An additional citation was issued for failing to provide the tigers with sufficient ventilation. The barn had “very poor ventilation unless [the] outside doors [were] open.” The inspector noted that even with the barn doors open, “there was a very strong rancid odor present.” The USDA also cited Burck for failing to implement an effective sanitation plan, noting numerous flies in the barn and many live maggots on the floor beneath and around the cages.

The inspector warned that Burck was not authorized to conduct AWA-regulated activities at the site.

June 10, 2021: The USDA issued Burck a repeat citation for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for an inspection of his records and property.

December 2, 2020: The USDA cited Burck for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany officials for an inspection of his records and property.

July 29, 2010: The British Columbia, Canada, provincial Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy denied Jordan a permit to transport and display wild animals because the circus didn't have a safety plan in place that would protect the public in the event that the elephants broke loose during a show. The circus had already entered British Columbia without having first secured the required permit.

July 11, 2010: A bear got loose from a handler's leash during one of Jordan's shows in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, and attacked another bear. Witnesses said that the incident lasted for approximately five minutes, and according to one witness, "[The circus workers] hit [the bears] with their hands really hard trying to get them separated."

March 10, 2007: The USDA cited Jordan World Circus exhibitor Steeples Bears for failing to safely handle an adult black bear who was being used for public photo shoots. During the circus's intermission, the bear sat on a chair next to members of the public—without any restraint and with no barrier other than a 4-foot-wide and 5-foot-high piece of Plexiglas. Other members of the public observing the photo shoot were separated from the bear by only a 6-inch-thick and 11-inch-high circus ring.

October 12, 2004: The USDA cited George Carden Circus, which was performing as Jordan World Circus, for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, including daily observation. The circus was unable to show documentation that foot care was being administered for an Asian elephant named Duchess, who had a long crack in a toenail on a hind foot.

March 2, 2003: A 9,000-pound African elephant performing with Jordan World Circus at the Shrine Circus in Muskegon, Michigan, escaped from a tent shortly

before a performance and was recaptured 15 minutes later in a busy downtown area.

February 11, 2000: The *Albuquerque Journal* reported that Jordan had leased an elephant named Misty from Hawthorn Corporation for a Shrine circus. On July 24, 1983, Misty killed a handler in Riverside County, California. In a 1996 incident, Misty attacked her trainer while giving rides to children.

January 2000: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration fined Jordan World Circus \$4,950 for failing to implement a program for employees to test for controlled substances and alcohol.

October 7, 1999: The USDA cited Jordan Productions for failing to have proper ventilation in the camel transport trailer. The trailer had only one side window, so there was no cross ventilation.

December 9, 1998: The USDA cited Jordan Productions for failing to provide animals with clean water. A citation was also issued for failing to clean up an excess accumulation of manure in the animal enclosures. Another citation was issued for failing to transport camels in a safe travel enclosure. The camel compartment of the trailer had broken wooden panels on the ceiling, exposing insulation material. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to properly reinforce gates and fencing material used for camel and llama corrals.

November 12, 1998: Jordan Productions transferred ownership of four tigers and four lions to Sterling & Reid Bros. Circus.

September 30, 1998: The USDA assessed Jordan Productions a civil penalty of \$2,475 for 25 alleged violations of the AWA, including failing to provide veterinary care, improper animal handling, and failing to provide animals with adequate nutrition,

water, and shade.

August 31, 1998: Jordan Productions was cited for failing to provide an accurate itinerary.

August 7 and 9, 1998: The USDA issued Jordan Productions a direct citation for failing to handle animals in a way that didn't cause physical harm or psychological stress. Dutchess, a tiger, was forced to jump out of the bed of a pick-up truck onto a hard surface while being unloaded at a veterinary facility while she suffered from a fractured right front leg. Her fracture went undiagnosed and untreated for four weeks. The veterinarian confirmed that she also was suffering from inadequate nutrition, which appeared to have affected the development of her bones. The inspector noted that previously recommended veterinary care had not been administered.

Another citation was issued for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care, including daily observation. The circus didn't know the precise date when Dutchess injured her leg and/or didn't report the injury accurately to the veterinarian. The circus was also forcing big cats to perform when lame, not providing care for Dutchess' fractured leg, and not providing an adequate diet to all animals. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to maintain adequate medical records, including daily animal health logs. Inspectors were unable to verify whether a tiger named Maya and a lion named Rafin were properly being administered a drug, prednisolone, as instructed by the attending veterinarian.

August 5 and 6, 1998: The USDA issued Jordan Productions a direct citation for failing to exhibit Beaujolais, a tiger, in a way that minimized risk of harm to her and the public. On August 5, Beaujolais refused to leave her transport enclosure, to which she had been confined since July 26. The

enclosure was only large enough to allow her to stand up, turn around, and lie on her side. When the handler tried to evacuate her from the enclosure, she became very agitated with her ears pulled back, snarling, hyperventilating, and salivating. The inspector noted that the hostile behavior was directed primarily at the handler and not at the other employee or the inspector. When Beaujolais was released into the arena, she was so agitated that she rushed into the cage of another tiger, named Maya, and attacked her, drawing blood from one of her hind legs. Beaujolais did not calm down until the travel enclosure was moved away from the arena. On August 6, without the handler present, a new assistant released Beaujolais into the area. The animal stayed calm during the preparations and walked quietly into the arena.

A direct citation was issued for failing to house animals in appropriate enclosures that allowed normal postural adjustments. Big cats were kept in their travel enclosures, which didn't allow enough space for them at destinations. Felix, a lion, was unable to extend his legs fully while lying down. Felix and Baxter, another lion, were observed bumping their heads on the ceiling, unable to hold them in a fully erect position while standing on all four legs. Beaujolais exhibited excessive stress when offered the opportunity for exercise. Maya and Rafin were afflicted with rear end locomotor deficiencies. Maya limped and moved exceptionally slowly. Rafin was so weak in his hindquarters that he would sometimes flop down instead of sitting normally. His spine appeared prominent, and his muscles had deteriorated. The four lions and two tigers had been confined to their enclosures for eight days continuously. Beaujolais had been confined for an additional three days.

Another direct citation was issued for failing to handle animals in a way that didn't cause physical harm or psychological stress. Two

or three juvenile llamas were observed loose on at least four occasions. Two of the incidents involved two or three llamas who romped unattended on a paved fairground road with auto traffic, and in the other two, the animals ran across an open asphalt lot where fair attendees were standing. The circus also used inadequate barriers for the camels and the juvenile tiger, Dutchess. A direct citation was also issued for failing to provide shade during excessive exposure to the sun. Nine llamas and two camels lacked shade on a sunny day when the temperature was in the mid-90s.

The USDA cited Jordan Productions for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. Dutchess had a lame right front leg with a lump on it. Her coat was dry and dull, and her backbone and hipbones were “excessively prominent” upon palpation. She was also “pot-bellied.” No veterinary care had been sought for her various conditions, and previous veterinary recommendations for deworming and blood tests for the animals hadn’t been followed. A citation was issued for failing to have an adequate program of veterinary care along with an emergency plan in case of an attack or an escape.

Another citation was issued for failing to feed the big cats a veterinarian-approved diet. The felids were fed chicken, whole or just the legs, and some vitamin supplements. There was no veterinarian guidance for this diet, and everyone was fed the same mixture, including the juvenile tiger. The USDA cited the circus for failing to provide water to Dutchess while she was locked in the upper deck compartment of the camel trailer in 95-degree weather. When given water, she drank intently for longer than 2.5 minutes.

A citation was also issued for failing to have an adequate watering system. (The facility had just one water bowl for all the big cats.)

A citation was issued for failing to remove the lions and tigers from their enclosures while they were sprayed down and cleaned. The animals were left soaked, and Dubonnet, a tiger, had to be treated for dermatitis on the elbows. A citation was also issued for failing to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to maintain acceptable levels of husbandry. Lastly, a citation was issued because the circus continually failed to update its itinerary.

July 29, 1998: The USDA issued Jordan Productions a direct citation for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. Dutchess was limping, and there was no veterinary evaluation or treatment plan. Another direct citation was issued for keeping two big cats excessively exposed to the sun in temperatures above 100 degrees. The circus was also cited for failing to provide adequate water. The inspector noted that there was only one water dish for eight animals. Another citation was issued for failing to provide adequate shelter to the animals. Tarps, held in place with poles and stakes, had been placed over the animal cages but weren’t properly secured. Inspectors observed that the tarps were being blown out of place in the wind, and a storm was expected in the evening. A citation was issued for failing to provide animals with adequate space for normal postural adjustments. The animals were kept in their transport enclosures for extended periods of time, and the arena hadn’t been erected so that the animals could exercise in it. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to have an accurate itinerary.

July 25, 1998: The USDA issued Jordan Productions a direct citation for failing to provide animals with adequate veterinary care. A veterinary report from July 23, 1998, didn’t describe tests, treatments, or follow-up needed for Maya, a 22-year-old tiger. The inspection officer later determined that

the veterinarian had recommended that Maya not be exhibited for three weeks. There was also no written veterinary diagnosis or treatment for a 2-year-old tiger named Dubonnet, who had been prescribed topical medication. A citation was issued for failing to maintain adequate health records, including a health log for all animals. Another citation was issued for failing to maintain a structurally sound transport enclosure for Dutchess.

July 21, 1998: The USDA issued Jordan Productions a direct citation for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. Maya, a tiger, was limping and lacked coordination while being observed jumping through a flaming hoop, nearly missing a pedestal. The inspector noted that Maya “performed with reluctance.” Another tiger also lacked coordination and snarled during the performance. Both tigers appeared “resentful.” After the performance, they “were not bright and alert” and their eyes “did not focus.” Maya’s abnormal condition was known to her handlers, but she “was required to perform in spite of her limitations.” Another direct citation was issued for failing to handle animals in a way that didn’t cause physical harm or psychological stress. The inspector observed two tigers who refused to leave their cage for a performance being poked, prodded, and struck with rods by as many as three people for up to four minutes. The handlers then struck the cage, causing a loud noise, and shook it for 10 minutes. The inspector wrote, “The complaint allegations that animals were treated harshly and that animals were slow and wobbly on their feet were confirmed during this inspection.” Jordan Productions was also cited for failing to maintain the tiger and lion transport trailer in good repair. A citation was issued for failing to store meat at the appropriate temperature. The meat had been purchased two weeks prior. By the time of the inspection, none of it was frozen. Lastly, a

citation was issued for failing to have a complete itinerary.

February 26 and 27, 1998: The USDA cited Jordan Productions for failing to give big cats adequate space for normal postural movements. The animals were being kept in their travel cages with a height of only 4 feet. A citation was also issued for failing to store meat at the appropriate temperature. A month’s worth of meat was being kept in a cooler at a temperature that ranged from 30 to 32 degrees, when it should have been 20 degrees. In addition, the circus was cited for failing to maintain a camel transport trailer in good repair. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to have all records available for review, including those for acquisition, disposition, and inventory.

September 5, 1996: The USDA cited Jordan Productions for failing to provide shelter and adequate space to two camels tethered to a truck with a short lead.

June 14, 1996: An elephant leased from Hawthorn Corporation knocked down and repeatedly kicked a trainer during a Jordan World Circus performance in Casper, Wyoming. At the time of the incident, the elephant was giving rides to children. One child fell off the elephant.

March 16, 1996: The USDA cited Jordan Productions for failing to store meat in a way that minimized the risk of contamination. The meat storage unit had pallets of meat with no coverings or wraps. In one case, a chunk of meat had fallen onto the floor.

February 17, 1996: The USDA cited Jordan Productions for failing to provide veterinary care to a “markedly underweight” tiger, named Tess, whose backbone and hips were noticeable.

August 21, 1995: The USDA cited Jordan

Productions for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to animals who hadn't received an annual check for parasites.

March 19, 1995: The USDA cited Jordan Productions for failing to address previously identified issues, such as not repairing a transport trailer and having inadequate barriers.

March 1, 1995: The USDA cited Jordan Productions for failing to maintain a transport trailer in good repair. A citation was also issued for failing to provide the required itinerary. Lastly, a citation was issued for failing to have adequate barriers.

January 9, 1995: The USDA cited Jordan Productions for improper food storage.

April 6, 1994: While giving rides to two children, an elephant picked up, tossed, and stepped on a Jordan World Circus animal trainer, breaking his arm and ribs and causing internal organ damage. Another trainer was also injured in the incident.

April 1993: The USDA fined Jordan Productions \$500 after a tiger escaped, ran into the audience, and bit a 13-year-old girl during a circus performance.