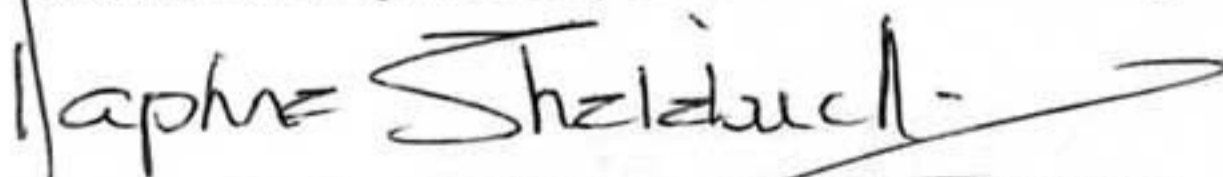


AFFIDAVIT FROM DR. DAME DAPHNE SHELDRIK DBE MBS DVMS

I have been privileged to have spent over 50 years of my life working with, observing, and understanding Elephants. During my time I have hand-reared over 95 orphaned infant African Elephants, rehabilitating them successfully back into the wild system when grown. The orphaned elephants are famous and known internationally, their lives followed daily by animal lovers throughout the world who, because of them, understand a lot more about elephants. Our work can be accessed through www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

As an internationally recognized world authority on these animals I can categorically state that the stereotypic swaying of a miserable captive indicates psychotic behaviour caused by trauma and stress. Elephants are highly intelligent and highly sophisticated animals, that duplicate us humans in terms of emotion, and in many other ways as well. They have a memory that far surpasses our own, recently established by a scientific analysis of the Elephant brain and like us they have a strong sense of family and a sense of death. Under natural conditions they keep in touch with friends and family for life. Above all they need space, so to keep an elephant tethered in a trailer and captive under totally unsuitable conditions for entertainment purposes is nothing short of blatant cruelty and something that should not be tolerated in a civilized country such as New Zealand, especially in this, the 21st Century, when animal welfare is better understood and a major concern of all caring people. Above all, Elephants need space. Walking 100 miles in a day is merely a little stroll for an elephant.

In this new millennium, it is surely time that we humans begin to extend compassion and understanding to others on this planet and particularly those that happen to have the misfortune to have been forcibly wrested from Nature and denied the chance of companionship, family and a quality of life simply for the so-called entertainment and enjoyment of humans. There is nothing entertaining, educational or pleasurable in witnessing the antics of a miserable captive in a Circus, which can be likened to keeping a human being in a cupboard for life. Aside from this, the training of circus elephants is brutally cruel. I would hope and expect the New Zealand authorities to take corrective measures regarding the elephant named "Jumbo", whose stereotypic behaviour indicates profound stress, boredom and unhappiness. I would hope that they make amends by allowing her, and others like her, a more humane quality of life somewhere where she at least has the companionship of others and where every day of her life is not sheer torture.



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