



Veterinary Ireland Media Release **29th July 2016**

Veterinary Organisation's Opinion on the Needs of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses

Speaking on behalf of **Veterinary Ireland**, the representative body for veterinary practitioners in the State, **Brendan Smyth MVB**, Chair of the organisation's **Animal Welfare Committee (AWC)**, stated that "***Veterinary Ireland is of the opinion that the physical and psychological needs of wild animals cannot be met in travelling circus environments***".

Brendan Smyth went on to state that "*Veterinary Ireland is currently conducting a major review of all of its Policies, including its Policy on the Welfare of Performing Animals*".

As part of this exercise, Veterinary Ireland's Animal Welfare Committee has been examining the evidence on the health and welfare of wild animals kept in travelling circuses, including previous public consultations in Scotland and the recent publication of a report on the "Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses" commissioned by the Welsh Government, and evaluating this evidence against the scientific studies and research which have been carried out on the health and welfare requirements of these species in a zoo environment over the last 10 years.

"*Veterinary Ireland, through its Animal Welfare Committee, is considering all of this scientific evidence and opinion, in order to formulate a modern Policy, whereby the health and welfare of all animals in such situations is considered and protected*", Brendan Smyth concluded.

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