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January 7, 2020

Dr. Astrid S. Tuminez, President
Utah Valley University
Office of the President
800 West University Parkway
Orem, UT 84058

Sent via email: gail.schwanitz@uvu.edu; instantinfo@uvu.edu

Dear Dr. Tuminez:

On behalf of Utah Animal Rights Coalition (UARC), a non-profit animal advocacy organization with more than 50,000 members and supporters, as well as the Utah Valley University (UVU) community co-signers listed below, I write to urge you to disallow the use of the UCCU Center for circus acts which feature wild animals. Such exhibitions are unavoidably abusive to the unwilling animal participants, and also pose an unreasonable risk to the safety of the university community and general public.

Since at least 2012, Jordan World Circus has made an annual winter visit to UVU's UCCU Center for its cruel and exploitive show. For many years, Jordan World Circus had its own license to exhibit animals through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). However, after years of violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), Jordan World's license was canceled. It now leases animals from other disreputable companies for its cruel circus.

If recent history is any indication, Jordan World Circus intends to bring two elephants to UVU – Carol and Patty – who are leased from the Carden family. The Carden family has itself been cited numerous times for violating the AWA, including failing to provide adequate space for the animals, and not providing veterinary care to animals who required it.

Even when circuses manage to abide by the bare minimum AWA regulations, this does not make these events cruelty-free. Elephants, tigers, and other animals used for circuses are transported in tiny cages from town to town, where they are forced to perform unnatural and frightening tricks. These animals are compelled to perform these tricks under threat of punishment. I have personally witnessed handlers with Jordan World Circus at UVU's UCCU wielding "bullhooks" around the elephants. A bullhook is a sharp, painful weapon that resembles a fireplace

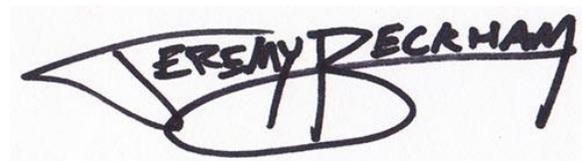
poker, that elephants are struck with in order to keep them “in line.” Shockingly, this abuse is permissible under the federal AWA. I acquired a bullhook from a circus a number of years ago. If you would like hold one of these weapons in your hands yourself, I can make arrangements to bring you the one in my possession. After holding and experiencing this weapon first hand, I believe you will agree that this kind of dangerous torture device has no place on a humane, safe campus like UVU.

There is also a very real risk to public health and safety by allowing these wild animals to return to UVU. Because it was prior to your tenure as university president, you may be unaware that in 2014, Jordan World lost control of two elephants who began fighting with one another at UCCU. The animals had to be subdued using bullhooks, metal bars, and stun guns. You can watch the disturbing footage of this incident [here](#). Additionally, one of the elephants traveling with Jordan World Circus has tested positive for tuberculosis, a highly transmissible and dangerous infectious disease.

A number of venues throughout Utah have enacted policies that prohibit their use for wild animal exhibitions, including Provo Towne Centre, Layton Hills Mall, and Fashion Place. Just last month, [Central Michigan University also ended its relationship with Jordan World Circus](#), and made clear that cruel wild animal exhibitions will no longer be tolerated on its campus. We urge UVU to adopt a similar policy prohibiting wild animal acts.

I am available to speak or meet with you, and can be reached at 385-401-4301 or jeremy@uarc.io. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JEREMY BECKHAM". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the first part of the name.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Foster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

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