

P-05-796 Calling on the Welsh Government to Ban The Use of Wild Animals in Circuses in Wales – Correspondence from Circus Guild of Great Britain to the Committee, 26.06.18

Dear Graeme and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Petitions Committee National Assembly for Wales

Firstly the Circus guild of Great Britain are pleased to have this chance to give written evidence which we hope you will take it into consideration when debating the circus petition on the 3rd of July regarding a ban on animals in circuses. The Guild represents the two licensed circuses, Circus Mondao and Peter Jolly's Circus. These circuses do not have wild animals, only exotics. No circus in the Guild has wild animals.

The Petition started by Ms Linda Joyce-Jones was signed by the public who were given false information. The signatories were led to believe that the two circuses had repeatedly been in breach of their licensing conditions and had both been suspended, I quote from the petition.

“It can clearly be shown by the licensing documents available in the public dominion that this licensing system fails the animals. The two animal circuses currently licensed by DEFRA have repeatedly breached the conditions of their licenses, and had them suspended at one time or another.”

This is completely untrue, Mondao were suspended for 21 days regarding an administration error which was quickly resolved and their license reinstated. There was a misunderstanding regarding who was supposed to be watching the animals when the public were in, which is a condition of the license, consequently the reindeer were left unattended and quite rightly Mondao had their license suspended and had to review their working practices. They did so to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State who then reinstated their license. Neither circuses breached the conditions of their licenses time and time again nor did they both have their license suspended. The general public when given this sort of false information as contained in the petition will of course sign to save the animals.

The Circus Guild have worked alongside the Welsh Assembly, The Scottish Government, both the Governments of Ireland, although Northern Ireland do not have a devolved Government at Stormont at the moment, and obviously we work very closely with Defra regarding all things circus and regulations regarding animal welfare in the entertainment sector. Both the Guild and PAWSI (Performing Animals Welfare Standards International) are at present working with DEFRA on the

conditions of The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, which become Law on October 1st 2018. We are involved in all genres of the performance side of these regulations.

Whilst we understand the Welsh Assembly's commitment to improve and maintain high standards of animal welfare and wellbeing we sincerely hope that any decision is based on evidence and truth by the circuses and the animal rights activists. As well as being truthful decisions should be fair and proportionate and those making decisions should abide by the 7 Nolan Principles of Public Life, which is part of the vow taken by Government Officials on taking up office.

During the run up to the Welsh Assembly's Mobile Animal Exhibits proposals both the circuses, Mondaos and Jollys, were inspected by the Assembly team and I attach copy of their reports for your consideration I also attach the 5 year review of the circus licensing system carried out by Defra which clearly shows that the licensing regulations are working very well. The review also reports that there were no animal welfare problems with the two licensed circuses. It also states that DEFRA put aside a certain amount of finance prior to the start of the Licensing system to use when they had to get in their legal team, in other words they were expecting trouble because they had been warned by the animal rights of many illegal practices in circuses. However the review clearly shows that none of the money had to be used for anything, there were no illegal practices and the trouble they were expecting was completely unfounded.

There were, of course, some welfare issues over the 5 years whereby animals had to receive veterinary care and one or two animals died of old age. This is normal in any animal collection whether it is farming stock, zoos and or private domestic and exotic collections, or indeed privately owned pets.

The circuses have to employ a Lead Vet who is responsible for the day to day health of the animals and the circuses report to their Lead Vet on any concerns they may have and the animals are treated accordingly. On top of the three DEFRA Veterinary inspections, the lead Vet also has to inspect another 4 times over each year, not just if they are called. This is clear to see in the Inspectors reports which are on the DEFRA website. Also everything is reported back to DEFRA via the Lead Vet, the DEFRA Veterinary Inspectors Reports and also by the circuses themselves.

We believe that because of these very important documents, namely, the two inspections by the Welsh Assembly Inspectors and the 5 year review by DEFRA, plus the year by year Inspections by DEFRA Vets, plus the Lead Vets inspections. Ms Joyce-Jones argument would not stand up to scrutiny in a court of law and that it also breaches the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, the Offences Against the

Person Act 1861, (although old this Act is still used quite widely in many courts) and the Human Rights Act 1998. Circuses have no wish to go down the legal route but of course wish to keep the status quo with regards to working with their exotic and domestic animals.

We are also very happy to work alongside the Welsh Assembly regarding all animal welfare issues as in the past. We can also supply further evidence of exotics which work in other genres around Wales. Therefore we request to give further evidence to the Committee.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With very best wishes

Rona

Rona Brown
Government Liaison Officer
Circus Guild of Great Britain

MOBILE ANIMAL EXHIBIT (MAE) CHECKLIST

Section 1:

Name of Operator:

Name of MAE:

Location of MAE:

Species kept:

Tel: No:

Email:

Name(s) of Local Authority Officer	Name of Specialist Vet (if applicable)	Name(s) of MAE Representative
Andrew Jones Powys CC		[REDACTED]
Sian Jenifer Smith Welsh Government		Rona Brown Circus Guild of Great Britain, Government Liaison Officer

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Date and start time of	17/6/16	Date and finish time	17/6/16
Inspection:	1020hrs	of Inspection:	1315 hrs

Background information *(please insert here any further information you feel is relevant):*

Peter Jollys Circus is travelling throughout England and Wales during the Summer of 2016. They are subject to 4 Veterinary Inspections in a 12 month period by their own Lead Veterinary practice Allwood and Jones Bishops Castle, which includes inspections whilst on the road. A lead vet inspection had taken place the previous day 16/6/16.

They are also subject to 3 x DEFRA Inspections in a 12 month period , 1 of which is unannounced, the last being on the 13/1/16.

The Zebu is subject to TB testing.

2 years documented records have to be kept with the Circus whilst travelling.

Section 2: Findings

Please consider the standards and conditions set out in the checklist below and provide your opinion on whether or not they are compliant with the standards required by law (see Legislation section).

Standards and Conditions	Comments/clarification
ENVIRONMENT	
<p>Accommodation</p> <p>Are areas used by animals operated in a way that provides good welfare e.g. well maintained, safe, hygienic, secure?</p> <p>Are areas suited to the social, behavioural and environmental needs of the animals e.g. size, provision of shelter, separation or housing with other species etc.?</p> <p>Do animals have access to areas where they can exercise?</p>	<p>Cages and run areas off Travelling vehicles were clean and 4 daily checks are carried out for cleanliness/feed/water which are documented. Shade/shelter from the elements can be provided if required. Tethered animals are checked to ensure sufficient grass is present and moved accordingly.</p> <p>Areas appear of good size for each species/Shade/shelter can be provided.</p> <p>Grazing animals tethered in field with access to grass, they are monitored throughout the time of tethering. The stalls have access to outside areas for exercise. The Dogs are walked on the site.</p>
<p>Authorised persons</p> <p>Are authorised persons suitably experienced to access and care for the animals?</p> <p>Does the MAE have nominated first responders for emergency purposes?</p> <p>Is access to animals restricted to authorised persons?</p>	<p>List of authorised persons is kept and displayed on wall in Office caravan. Up to 45 years experience achieved by Mr Peter Jolly senior with a large amount of experience within the family/staff with down training of all new/younger staff ongoing.</p> <p>Yes list in office, Peter Jolly, Sarah Wild, Ann Marie Thompson.</p> <p>Yes, Senior staff supervise; not allowed to work with Animals alone, part of ongoing training.</p>

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<p>Transport</p> <p>Are transport containers and any fitting (etc.) suitable for transporting the species for which they are used?</p>	<p>The Circus uses a fleet of vehicles and trailers to transport the animals which are size specific for species with internal gates for the larger animals.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DIET</p>	
<p>Diet</p> <p>Is drinking water provided?</p> <p>Is there evidence of the provision of a suitable diet?</p>	<p>Yes water was available to the animals in cages/exercise areas/tethered areas. Checks are made 4 times a day to ensure this which are recorded.</p> <p>Feed storage areas seen for each species along with diet sheets which are checked by Veterinary Inspectors. Any medicines used or required also recorded.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BEHAVIOUR</p>	
<p>Display, training and performance</p> <p>What activities are expected of animals during performance?</p> <p>Are risk assessments undertaken and recorded?</p> <p>Do the areas used for display, training and/or performance appear suitable?</p> <p>Are items of equipment (including aids, props, costumes, decoration etc.) designed, maintained and used appropriately?</p> <p>Are the animals checked after carrying out activities?</p>	<p>There are no Camel rides. Pedestal work and animals led around ring Acts include, Farm yard Act(Ducks, Geese etc),Liberty Routine (Donkeys, Llamas and Zebras),Frozen act.(Reindeers) etc.</p> <p>Yes Risk assessments seen for species and activity. Risk assessment completed for our visit today.</p> <p>Training carried out in the main ring and same for show. Animals are moved from quarters into holding area prior to display for preparation and then moved backstage as required prior to display in main ring.</p> <p>Yes Harnesses and equipment kept in separate trailer specific for each species. Equipment is purpose made in the main.</p> <p>Yes checked after training and performances back in holding area.</p>

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<p>Are there signage and announcements to educate the public?</p>	<p>Yes no public access to animals without supervision and announcements during performances</p>
<p>HEALTH</p>	
<p>Healthcare</p> <p>Do all animals appear to be in good health?</p>	<p>All animals seen appeared in good health at the time of the visit. A full Veterinary Inspection had taken place the previous day 16/6/16.</p>
<p>Biosecurity</p> <p>Have suitable precautions been taken to reduce the risk of disease both within the MAE's stock and for other animals?</p>	<p>TB Test carried out on relevant animal. Site is checked prior to setting up for previous usage i.e. Farm livestock.</p>
<p>Veterinary Care</p> <p>Is a vet providing the MAE with continuity of care, veterinary oversight and advice?</p> <p>Are general healthcare and treatments properly administered?</p>	<p>Licence requires 4x Lead Veterinary visits a year. A list of local Vets is kept is kept for area in which Circus is.</p> <p>Individual animal Vet medicine records kept .Also animals are weighed and records kept.</p>
<p>Are any species specific guidance documents kept?</p>	<p>Species specific diet sheets kept to include risk assessments. Care plans and codes of practice kept.</p>
<p>Breeding (if applicable)</p> <p>Are the health and welfare needs of animals during all stages of the breeding process met?</p> <p>Is guidance on fitness followed?</p>	<p>Yes an example would be recent birth of Zebra, guidance has been sought from Vet via a plan of action on pregnancy/movements after the birth. The Stallion is kept separate to mother and foal with a supervised re introduction over time. This plan of action is signed off by Vet.</p> <p>Yes Vets consulted and action plans documented.</p>

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<p>Is veterinary care provided?</p>	<p>Yes as above and visits documented with action plans</p>
<p>Records</p>	<p>Comments/clarification</p>
<p>Itinerary</p> <p>Are records maintained for the MAE's forthcoming displays?</p>	<p>Tour Itinerary submitted to Defra along with route plan. This can change due to venue issues and DEFRA are updated accordingly</p>
<p>Individual records</p> <p>Confirm that a single source of information about each animal's health and welfare needs and medical history is quickly available at the present location of the animal.</p> <p>Records should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment • Diet • Training • Health needs • General Observations • 	<p>Individual Records show diet/medical history/ treatments/ time training. 4 checks daily also recorded on water/feed/Environment and Socialisation. Day Diary for Horses. Microchip numbers are recorded for relevant animals.AML1 movement documents are completed for Goats etc. with a copy retained in records.</p>
<p>Journey Plans</p> <p>Are plans made before embarking on a journey and contingency plans put in place?</p>	<p>Tour Itinerary is recorded and submitted with Journey plans to DEFRA which includes Departure/Arrival dates and approx. times.</p>
<p>Insurance</p> <p>Does the MAE have appropriate insurance cover (public liability insurance minimum)?</p>	<p>Park Insurance</p>

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The following space is provided for:

- *Additional notes and comments on the answers to the earlier questions*
- *Any general remarks which the inspector may wish to record*

Section 3: Conclusion

Having inspected (name of MAE):

Peter Jollys Circus

operated by (name of operator):

[REDACTED]

on:

17/6/16

Summarise the findings at this MAE, noting the involvement of any other authority.

During the test checklist visit by Powys County Council Animal Health and Welfare Team all livestock was seen on the site and appeared to be in good health and no welfare issues were noted. Housing areas were of a good size and allowed socialisation between animals. Some animals were grazing and allowed to browse whilst on tethers allowing exercise and enrichment. Records were present for each animal showing medical history/examination/treatment and training. The methods of transport used were fit for purpose. A separate Caravan is used whilst on the road as an Office to store all the required records.

Throughout the visit I was shown total co-operation by the Jolly family and Staff and Rona Brown Government Liaison Officer from the Circus Guild of Great Britain.

Section 4: Recommendation (tick appropriate box(es))

Animal welfare

Satisfied with welfare conditions

Improvements to be made and additional formal visits under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 required

Licensing/registration

Confirm if the MAE is licensed or registered under any of the following legislation and if not, is it eligible?

	<i>Licensed/registered</i>	<i>Eligible?</i>
Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (Modification)(No.2) Order 2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performing Animals Regulation Act 1925	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (England) Regulations 2012	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Licensing Act 2003	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please state):

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Confirm next steps (including referral where appropriate)

Share information with other Welsh Local Authorities and the Circus Guild of Great Britain.

Circus and Guild confirmed content, if deemed appropriate, for results of visit to be published on the Welsh Government website *[note: this would be the case if the document was 'live' – results of test visit will not be shared - SJS]*

Signed:

Dated:

17/6/16

Print name:

Please record the results of this inspection electronically and in a format that can easily be shared with other Local Authorities, the MAE and Welsh Government if required.

MOBILE ANIMAL EXHIBIT (MAE) CHECKLIST

Section 1:

Name of Operator:

Name of MAE:

Location of MAE:

Species kept:

Tel: No: Email:

Name(s) of Local Authority Officer	Name of Specialist Vet (if applicable)	Name(s) of MAE Representative
Darren Maughan Pembrokeshire CC		
Irene Allen Welsh Government (observer)		

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Sian Jennifer Smith Welsh Government (observer)		
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Date and start time of
Inspection:

02/06/2016
10:15am

Date and finish time
of Inspection:

02/06/2016
14:00pm

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Background information *(please insert here any further information you feel is relevant):*

Camels – Adult male used for short rides primarily for children for small fee. Custom made “saddle” used and on lead rope. Approx 15mins before show, 30 mins during interval and 15 mins after show. May not be available during breeding rut. Also walked around main show ring during opening parade.

Juvenile camel used just to walk around main ring during opening and closing parade. Not always used as a youngster under training.

Reindeer – Animals used purely for show purposes in opening and closing ceremony.

Llamas – Used much the same way as the reindeer plus group work.

Horses – Some of the animals ridden or asked to do group work. Some asked to rear and use pedestals to stand on.

Birds – Displayed in flight and some required to fly from areas of the stage. Normally returning to set area for return to aviary/housing.

Section 2: Findings

Please consider the standards and conditions set out in the checklist below and provide your opinion on whether or not they are compliant with the standards required by law (see Legislation section).

Standards and Conditions	Comments/clarification	Compliant/ Non-Compliant
ENVIRONMENT		
<p>Accommodation</p> <p>Are areas used by animals operated in a way that provides good welfare e.g. well maintained, safe, hygienic, secure?</p> <p>Are areas suited to the social, behavioural and environmental needs of the animals e.g. size, provision of shelter, separation or housing with other species etc.?</p> <p>Do animals have access to areas where they can exercise?</p>	<p>All stalls and outside areas checked daily. Mucked out every AM and skipped through day to remove waste. All stalled in groups to allow best socialisation when in/out.</p> <p>All stalls and linked outdoor areas of good size. Where possible during day adjoining stalls linked together to provide larger area and socialisation where suitable. All Animal housing has undercover and open areas.</p> <p>Some animals out on long tethers to graze where applicable for periods of the day. Monitored throughout period on tethers, swivel on both ends. All stalls have access to outdoor areas allowing more space.</p> <p>Horses have free grazing behind electric tape.</p>	
<p>Authorised persons</p> <p>Are authorised persons suitably experienced to access and care for the animals?</p> <p>Does the MAE have nominated first responders for emergency</p>	<p>Main animal care staff have large amount of experience in the industry, provide training to other staff on site.</p> <p>Yes. Senior staff Carol Macmanus / Petra Jackson. All qualified staff assigned to help.</p>	

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<p>purposes?</p> <p>Is access to animals restricted to authorised persons?</p>	<p>Yes. Unless trained and signed off by senior staff to work with species, not allowed to work with species alone.</p>	
<p>Transport</p> <p>Are transport containers and any fitting (etc.) suitable for transporting the species for which they are used?</p>	<p>2 X Articulated lorries used. 1 for larger animals 1 for smaller. All divided with internal gates. Ventilation points according to the size of animals transported. Birds transported in suitable trailer.</p>	
<p>DIET</p>		
<p>Diet</p> <p>Is drinking water provided?</p> <p>Is there evidence of the provision of a suitable diet?</p>	<p>Fresh water available all day in the night / exercise areas.</p> <p>Diet sheet and records as well as feed storage areas and handling equipment seen.</p>	
<p>BEHAVIOUR</p>		
<p>Display, training and performance</p> <p>Are risk assessments undertaken and recorded?</p> <p>Do the areas used for display, training and/or performance appear suitable?</p> <p>Are items of equipment (including aids, props, costumes, decoration etc.) designed, maintained and used appropriately?</p> <p>Are the animals checked after carrying out activities?</p>	<p>Risk assessment for species kept. Also assessments for daily husbandry and training seen.</p> <p>All training done in main "Ring" and same for show/display. Area suitable.</p> <p>Main prop / aid are 4 pedestals /foot tubs. Designed and made for purpose in house. Checked before every use and maintained on site if required.</p> <p>All animals checked before / whilst working /training. Done checked if worked well and no issues arose</p>	

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<p>Are there signage and announcements to educate the public?</p>	<p>during that period.</p> <p>Some signage on the animals stalls/quarters as well as H&S signs for public. Staff available to speak to guests whilst animal areas are open.</p>	
<p>HEALTH</p>		
<p>Healthcare</p> <p>Do all animals appear to be in good health?</p>	<p>All livestock on site appeared in good health at time of visit.</p>	
<p>Veterinary Care</p> <p>Is a vet providing the MAE with continuity of care, veterinary oversight and advice?</p> <p>Are general healthcare and treatments properly administered?</p>	<p>As part of licence have a lead vet consultant for MAE. 4 visits a year must be made. 2 by lead vet 2 by nominated local vet in area where MAE is located at time due. List of local vets for regularly visited areas kept in office should care be needed.</p> <p>Carol Macmanus administers meds should it be an ongoing treatment or part of a course of medication.</p> <p>Individual animal vet med records all kept and up to date.</p>	
<p>Are any species specific guidance documents kept?</p>	<p>Species specific diet sheets seen, as well as risk assessment for handling and training of the species.</p>	
<p>Breeding (if applicable)</p> <p>Are the health and welfare needs of animals during all stages of the breeding process met?</p> <p>Is guidance on fitness followed?</p> <p>Is veterinary care provided?</p>	<p>Animals in rut managed according to temperament variations. Deer in velvet separated to transport, partition gates used to reduce risk of injury to antlers. No breeding stock part of MAE anymore.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>See veterinary care above</p>	

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Records	Comments/clarification
Itinerary Are records maintained for the MAE's forthcoming displays?	Records kept for future venues and planned dates at sites, and venues visited previously
Individual records Confirm that a single source of information about each animal's health and welfare needs and medical history is quickly available at the present location of the animal. Records should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment• Diet• Training• Health needs• General Observations•	Records kept that show animals diet, medical history and treatments, dates and amount of time spent training and used for display. All observations on behaviour and daily husbandry also recorded in day diary. Records showing time of loading / unloading and journey time kept.
Journey Plans Are plans made before embarking on a journey and contingency plans put in place?	Journey plans seen showing expected route and journey time estimates. APHA informed of journey plan and contacted should any issues arise.
Insurance Does the MAE have appropriate insurance cover (public liability insurance minimum)?	Yes, covered by Parks insurance.

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The following space is provided for:

- *Additional notes and comments on the answers to the earlier questions*
- *Any general remarks which the inspector may wish to record*

Section 3: Conclusion

Having inspected (name of MAE):

Circus Mondao

operated by (name of operator):

Carol McManus

on:

02/06/2016

Summarise the findings at this MAE, noting the involvement of any other authority.

During the compliance visit by the Pembrokeshire County Council Public Protection Division, Animal Health and Welfare Team, all livestock on site was inspected and all appeared to be in good health and no welfare issues were noted.

All housing areas were of a good size and suitable for use, with socialisation allowed where applicable, and adjoining stalls and exercise areas opened up to maximise space during the day, and separated again for night time periods. Some animals were seen to be allowed to browse / graze whilst on tethers, allowing exercise and enrichment.

All records were present showing the animal's medical history, diet and use for training and displays. Staff training records were available recording which species and duties each member of staff was allowed to perform in relation to the livestock. Records also seen for journey times and expected journey times to next venue.

All vehicles used for transport seen, and were fit for purpose with loading and travel taking into consideration socialisation and prevention of welfare issues during the journey.

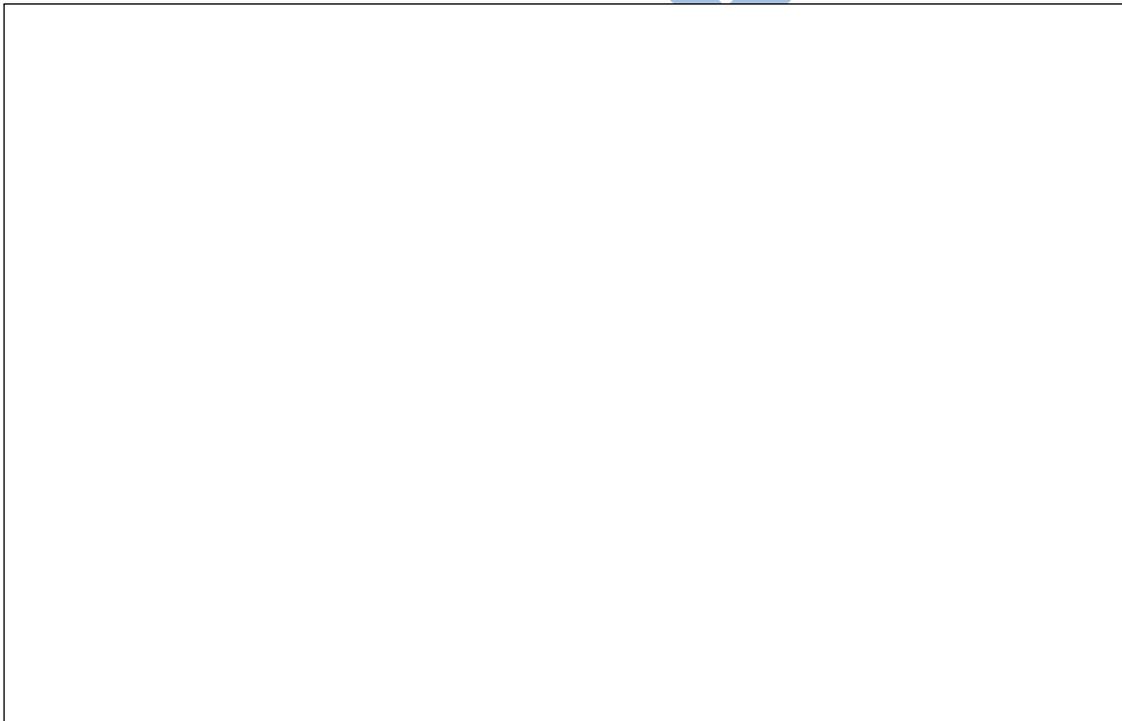
Section 4: Recommendation (tick appropriate box(es))

Animal welfare

Satisfied with welfare conditions

Improvements to be made and additional formal visits under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 required

Confirm next steps (including referral where appropriate)



Licensing/registration

Confirm if the MAE is licensed or registered under any of the following legislation and if not, is it eligible?

	<i>Licensed/registered</i>	<i>Eligible?</i>
Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended)	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (Modification)(No.2) Order 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performing Animals Regulation Act 1925	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses (England) Regulations 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/>
Licensing Act 2003 (Temporary event licence exempt)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Confirm next steps (including referral where appropriate)

Provide copy of completed form to the MAE and share results with other Local Authorities.

Signed:

Dated:

Print
name:

Please record the results of this inspection electronically and in a format that can easily be shared with other Local Authorities, the MAE and Welsh Government if required.