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October 18, 2013

Delcianna Winders, Esq.
Director of Captive Animal Law Enforcement
PETA Foundation
1536 16th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Winders,

The City of St. Louis Department of Health and Animal Care and Control are grateful for your information and concerns. We have shared your informational resources with our staff. The health and well being of the elephants and other animals in the circus are a top priority for us. Please know that we will immediately investigate any and all concerns you may have as soon as they are brought to our attention.

We would like to take this opportunity to assure you that our Animal Care and Control Officers will be conducting numerous inspections of the animals involved in the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus throughout their stay in our city. We have a specific agreement guaranteeing our access from the time they awaken in the morning until they are bedded down at night. Of the inspections already conducted, there have been no signs of animal neglect or abuse. Our own staff veterinarian has also been conducting inspections and will perform more inspections as they continue to stay in our city.

We thank you for the offer to provide for us an independent elephant expert to assist our efforts, but I am happy to report we have called in an Asian elephant expert from the zoo to assist our city vet and he has joined our staff veterinarian on her inspection. Let me also assure you that we will fully enforce all of the laws under our jurisdiction that may be subject to violation throughout the stay and performances of the animals. The mission and goals of our department remain to guarantee the humane treatment of animals and end animal abuse. We will assure no hooks are used, appropriate medical care is given, and no elephants are abused while in our city.

Thank you again for your compassion and concern,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melba R. Moore".

Melba R. Moore, MS, CPHA
Commissioner of Health