



February 8, 2023

Environment Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200, Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: SUPPORT PHB 5123, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CERTAIN ANIMALS IN TRAVELING ANIMAL ACTS, AS LANGUAGE FOR COMMITTEE BILL**

Dear Co-Chair Lopes, Co-Chair Gresko, Vice Chair Hochadel, Vice Chair Palm, Ranking Member Harding, Ranking Member Callahan, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

The Humane Society of the United States, Animal Welfare Institute, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Four Paws USA, and our Connecticut-based supporters appreciate this committee's consideration of HB 5123, An Act Concerning the Use of Certain Animals in Traveling Animal Acts, for adoption as a committee bill. We urge the committee to adopt the language already filed for Proposed HB 5123, which can be found at <https://cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-05123-R00-HB.PDF>.

HB 5123 is a commonsense proposal that will promote animal welfare and protect public safety by prohibiting use of certain animals—including, among others, elephants, tigers, bears, and camels—who are commonly used in circuses and other traveling shows.

As drafted, HB 5123 is tailored to only address traveling acts that transport covered animals<sup>1</sup> into or within Connecticut for the purpose of a performance (e.g. exhibitions, displays, circuses, rides, petting zoos, carnivals, parades, or other similar undertakings). The bill does not impact exhibits at zoos, museums, or other stationary facilities, so long as animals are not transported to the facility for the purpose of putting on a performance. HB 5123 also would not impact wildlife rehabilitation facilities as the bill does not impact or cover the animals cared for at those facilities.

Should the committee draft HB 5123 as a committee bill, we urge the committee to adopt the language as already filed for Proposed HB 5123.

Yours truly,

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 2 for full list of covered animals commonly used in traveling acts  
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# Common Species Covered by HB 5123

Scientific language used in bill:	Common Terms: Species that are frequently used in traveling acts	Common Terms: Examples of other covered species
Artiodactyla, excluding domestic cattle, bison, American buffalo, water buffalo, yak, zebu, gayal, bali cattle, suidae, sheep, goats, llamas, or alpacas	Giraffe, camel	Hippopotamus, deer, pronghorn, antelope. Also referred to as even-toed ungulate.
Canidae, including any hybrids thereof, but excluding domestic dogs	Wolf	Fox, coyote, jackal, and other wild canids.
Elasmobranchii, excluding rays;	Nurse shark, lemon shark	
Elephantidae	Asian and African elephant	
Felidae, including any hybrids thereof, but excluding domestic cats;	Tiger, lion, leopards, clouded leopard, cheetah, lynx, serval, cougar	Snow leopard, jaguar, and other wild felines.
Marsupialia	Kangaroo, wallaby	Koala, opossum, wallaroo, wombat
Non-human primate	Capuchin, lemur, spider monkey, baboon, macaque	Squirrel monkey, tamarin, marmoset, chimpanzee, gibbon
Perissodactyla, excluding domestic horses, ponies, donkeys, or mules	Zebra	Rhinoceros, tapir. Also referred to as odd-toed ungulate.
Pinnipedia	Sea lion	Grey seal, walrus
Ratites	Ostrich, emu	Cassowary, rhea
Ursidae	Black bear, brown bear, Grizzly bear	Polar bear, sloth bear, Asiatic black bear, and other bears.