

## Transport of Circus Animals

Tom Albert, Feld Entertainment



## Travel By Rail



### RINGLING BROS. FACT SHEET

- Two touring units – Red and Blue
- Approximately 90 cities visited every year
- January – November tour
- Approximately 300 employees per Unit
- Two privately owned trains
  - Roughly 1 mile long
  - Transport animals, performers, crew, equipment
  - Over 50 cars each
  - Living quarters for animals and performers

### Travel Stats

- Average distance between cities – 400 miles
- Average duration of travel – 24 hours
- Transportation process
  - Loading
  - Travel
  - Unloading



*Ringling Bros. 13<sup>th</sup> Edition (Blue)*

**ANIMAL INVENTORY**

<u>Elephants</u>	<u>Cats</u>	<u>Hoof stock</u>
• 10 elephants	• 11 tigers	• 20 horses
		• 4 alpacas
<u>Small Exotics</u>	<u>Reptiles</u>	• 3 zebras
• Goats	• 6 alligators	• 2 camels
• Mini Donkeys	• 4 snakes	• 2 zedonks
• Highland Cows		

## Rest Stops

- For Long Hops
- Requires Open Area



## Ringling Stock Cars



- 24 Hour Crew
- Ventilation
- Customized



## Texas A&M Studies

- USDA Commissioned
- Elephant/Tigers
- Ringling Participated
- Road/Rail
- Temperature
- Stress

## Preparing the Animals

- Customizing the Containers: Maximize Space & Comfort (Gilda the Elephant)
- Acclimation
- Fitness to Travel
- Special Needs (rub bars, fans, misters)
- Experienced Handlers (veterinarians?)

## International Moves

- By Rail
  - Canada
  - Mexico
- By Sea/Air
  - Japan (1988-90)
  - Import/Export of Individual Animals/Acts

## Choosing a Carrier

- Shortest Travel Times
- Least Handling (last port to first port)
- Flexibility to Accommodate Special Needs
- Affordability
- Reputation/Experience/Personnel

## Regulatory Requirements

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Carrier Rules (Ex. IATA, etc.)
- Health Protocols
- Agriculture
- National Wildlife Laws
- Customs

## CITES Passport

- Available for traveling exhibits
- Up to 3 years
- Stays with Animal
- Facilitates Trans-border Movement

- Documentation: Who Does What
  - Contract Requirements
  - Ownership of Animals
  - Importer of Record (ex. national residency requirements)
- What Inspections are Required?
  - Based on national protocols (usually health & ag)
  - By whom and where (logistics, manpower, etc.)

## Border Crossing by Rail





## Quarantine

- Can occur prior to border cross/port entry or immediately after
- Offloading arrangements
- Special transport to next destination
- Staggered Quarantines



## Sea Transport











The End

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