



## Elephant Care Fact Sheet

*Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey*<sup>®</sup> elephants are healthy and well cared for by a team of full time veterinarians, and each elephant receives regular, thorough medical examinations.

Elephants at *Ringling Bros.*<sup>®</sup> are fed and watered in prescribed measures on a regular schedule as determined by our animal care staff.

Elephants are herbivores with a staple diet of 150 to 200 pounds of hay per day with additional grains, fruits and vegetables. Elephants are also given fresh browse when available as a regular part of their diet (it is a myth that elephants love to eat peanuts.) They also drink large quantities of water, between 30 and 50 gallons a day.

Food and vegetables are purchased locally and shipped directly to the arena before the arrival of *Ringling Bros.* in each city to ensure fresh, first-quality food for our animals. An average *weekly* shopping list for the 54 elephants cared for by *Ringling Bros.* includes:

- 4,000 pounds or 30 cases of red apples;
- 3,000 pounds or 60 bags of carrots;
- 700 pounds or 18 cases of bananas;
- 38,000 pounds or 700 bales of hay;
- 2,500 pounds of sweet feed;
- 700 loaves of whole wheat bread, and much more.

The elephants are groomed and cleaned daily. The entire barn area is cleaned regularly, manure is removed and fresh bedding or wooden pallets are provided.

Only those elephants with a suitable temperament and a natural predisposition toward training are selected for performances. Elephants learn by emulation, which is a sign of high mental capacity, and can respond to more than 50 verbal commands.

At birth, Asian elephants weigh an average of 250 pounds, and male calves are heavier than females. Fully grown males weigh in at 10,000 to 12,000 pounds, and females weigh 8,000 to 10,000 pounds. Asian elephants stand up to 10 feet in height and are, together with the African elephant, the largest living land animals. Despite their size, elephants are agile and graceful in their movements.

All of *Ringling Bros.* animal enclosures were specially designed by our staff to meet the unique needs of each individual species.

*Ringling Bros.* animals are transported in specially designed private railroad cars which are positioned right behind the locomotive where the ride is the smoothest. Appropriate stops are made during travel to feed and water the animals and clean out their cars. While traveling, our animals are under constant supervision.

*Ringling Bros.* meets and often exceeds federal regulations on the care of circus animals. *Ringling Bros.* animal care practices are commonly accepted in the animal care industry and by the federal agency that regulates animal care. In addition, *Ringling Bros.* circuses are inspected repeatedly by federal, state and local authorities in virtually every city in which the circus performs. *Ringling Bros.* has never been found in violation of the Animal Welfare Act, the federal law that regulates the treatment of animals by circuses, zoos and other exhibitors.

*Ringling Bros.* is a world leader in the care and conservation of the endangered Asian elephant. That commitment is demonstrated by the creation in 1995 – and the continued operation – of the *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Center for Elephant Conservation*<sup>®</sup> in Florida, which is a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to the reproduction, research and retirement of Asian elephants. *Ringling Bros.* spends \$6 million annually on its animal care with more than \$60,000 a year dedicated to each of its own 54 elephants.

Under the Feld family ownership, *Ringling Bros.* has never experienced an animal-related incident that placed a member of the general public at risk.