

**USDA-APHIS**OFFICE OF  
INVESTIGATIVE &  
ENFORCEMENT SERVICESDiane Ward  
California and Nevada

SMG 29

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# Memorandum

To: Alan Christian, IES Director, MD  
 From: Diane Ward, IES, Investigator  
 cc: D. Hutchings, IES, CO- cover letter only  
 Date: 07/23/01  
 Subject: CA00136-AC, Ringling Brothers

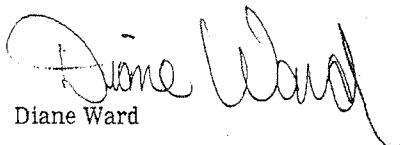
Alan,

Per your request, I am sending you a copy of all of my "Ringling requests for addition information" that were never properly completed. Enclosed are two sets- 1.) is a "clean" copy of my documents, and 2.) is the same set with my comments written in. My comments are blunt and to the point- you should use your discretion on who you share them with!

I don't know what you want me to do with these cases (note there are two cases- the abuse against "Nicole", and a case involving TB; a second case number still has to be assigned when I split the information into separate incidents); but I welcome any advice and recommendations you have. My plans are to finish up with the two outstanding interviews (Dr. Houck and Mr. Froemming) and put the cases together as best as I can. The main problem with the cases is that IES in Florida never completed my requests, and OGC interfered with obtaining records on the animals.

I will report what facts I do have pertaining to Nicole- but IES has let many people down (as well as Nicole) on being able to truthfully report the disposition and well being of this animal. It was my hopes to put together a very thorough document for Animal Care on all the elephants owned by Ringling Brothers in order to put any on going complaints against this licensee to rest---but, as the work was completed in California, nothing was completed in Florida. To much time has gone by now to go on with my attempt to put together a thorough document to Animal Care (we would have to start all over again)- so I guess we will continue to investigate every complaint out there.

As far as the TB investigation- I can not understand why OGC prevented us from doing our jobs and letting us do a thorough investigation of the Ringling records. I think we were on to something with the TB complaint, but OGC has made documenting the case difficult now. I will finish the case with what I have, and not include any possible discrepancies or violations of the Ringling records because I could not get copies of the records per the Animal Welfare Act.

  
 Diane Ward

