

Animal Behavior Enterprises, Inc.
Rt. 2, Box 813
Hot Sprigg, Ark. 71901
Oct. 17, 1974

THE "COUNTRY BUMPKIN" SHOW

This show uses species and behaviors similar to those in the barnyard show, but the format is more flexible. Some of the behaviors are set in "vignettes" or "shadow boxes" in the Opryland fashion and are thus semi-automatic--for example, acts numbered 1), 2), 4), 7), 8). Other acts are presented on the open stage area in front of the shadowboxed settings.

The theme and story line would be carried by the MC's personality. The MC should present a stereotyped "country bumpkin" image. The MC by sharp country wit keeps the audience off balance and very much involved in what is going on on stage. He makes good humored fun of the sophisticated "city slicker" audience. The MC's comments throughout each portion of the show reflect this attitude.

The proposed show would last about 30 minutes, although the flexibility of the script and the behaviors would allow this time to be extended or decreased to suit park traffic flow.

The basic animal behaviors to implement this suggested show are as follows:

- 1) A school teacher cow rings a school bell to call the children in from the playground.
- 2) The children, bantam chickens, dash across the stage and enter the school house.
- 3) A goat raises the American flag to open school for the day.
- 4) A pig plays the piano. (Happy Birthday--to greet the birthday child of the day).
- 5) A goose plays the guitar.
- 6) A duck plays the drum.
- 7) Three chickens dance in separate go-go booths (mirrors are used to augment the apparent number of participants).
- 8) The cow plays the harmonica.
- 9) A duck powers a paddle boat across the pond.
- 10) A pig pumps water into a bucket, and then
- 11) the pig carries the bucket across the stage...
- 12) and then takes a shower.
- 13) A goat butts a "high striker" and rings a gong.
- 14) A chicken plays the old shell game with audience participation.
- 15) A turkey plays cards with one or two members of the audience.
- 16) The chicken counts by ringing up the answer on a gong counter, answering questions put by the audience.
- 17) The rabbit "multiplies" by releasing an appropriate number of baby bunnies.
- 18) The show ends with the duck slide.

Possible also if local regulations will permit:

- 19) A skunk walks across the stage.
- 20) The vulture appears as lifeguard at the swimming hole.

We estimate that all the above acts would provide about 45 minutes of show time. By adding such comic asides as an old-fashioned "outhouse" gag, even more entertainment is possible. Since your needs would probably be met by a 20 to 30 minute show, we suggest selecting 12 to 14 acts for the first year and then adding one or two more the next year to encourage repeat business and fresh publicity.

ABE would provide the following:

- 1) Sufficient trained animals of each species to perform the acts required of each species.
- 2) All performing animal props, including electrical portions, feeders, controls, etc., including fully equipped "shadow boxes" for acts to be presented in that fashion.
- 3) Training for the customer's personnel in the care and handling of the animals and equipment, first at Hot Springs and then during show installation time.
- 4) During the first year 10 man days of training and technical supervision during installation of the show. charging only for travel and living expenses of ABE personnel. During the second year, ABE personnel would be available on site, if needed, at a reasonable negotiated figure plus travel and living expenses.
- 5) During first and second years, replacement animals and parts of equipment.
- 6) Script outlines and suggestions.
- 7) Drawings, sketches, etc. of suggested set-up arrangements, plans for animal housing, etc.

The customer would provide the following:

- 1) Backdrops, decorations, staging, PA systems, audience accommodations, site preparation, permanent animal housing.
- 2) Suitable personnel to staff the show.
- 3) Shipping costs for animals and equipment.

ABE's price: \$20,000.00 first year rental, \$10,000.00 second year rental, with an option to purchase the show outright for an additional \$5,000.00.