

March 5, 1974

AIR MAIL  
CERTIFIED  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Robert W. Schoning, Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
3300 Whitehaven Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20035

Hello, Mr. Schoning:

We have read in AMUSEMENT BUSINESS the recent article (March 9) concerning hearings on the exhibition of sea lions and the possible future additional restrictions on the possession and exhibition of these animals. The article mentioned that you were interested in hearing from other individuals and interests concerning these issues. While we do not represent the circus business, we are certainly involved in the amusement industry, as well as in scientific research with animals, and in these capacities we speak concerning sea lions in particular, and marine mammals in general.

A word about our credentials: we are the pioneering firm in the modern, scientific, humane training methods now being used in the production of most animal shows and trained animal exhibitions around the country. We have been in business for 27 years and have published widely in the scientific and popular literature, (see enclosed) including a college textbook on animal behavior. Our staff includes graduate biologists, graduate psychologists, specialists in animal husbandry, and many with specialized skills and technicians, special certifications in animal training and care. We are a recognized training facility of the Veterans Administration and have put veterans through our special training technicians' program. Also, we have trained a large number of government and private industry personnel in animal training and handling techniques. An extremely large number of those now engaged in training marine mammals in this country received their training directly or indirectly from ABE.

In the course of a 10 year contract with Marineland of Florida (from 1955 through 1964) we designed and produced the present Marineland show and trained their personnel. We have also been similarly involved with the shows at Marineland of the Pacific, Marine World, Redwood City, California. In our scientific capacity, we were consultants-to the U. S. Navy Marine Mammal program which began at China Lake and Point Mugu, California, in the early '60's, and our