

Background on Queenie

Queenie is an Asian elephant who is estimated to be 52 years of age. She has been "owned" by the Davenport family for at least two decades and has been trucked around the country and forced to perform in circuses and to give elephant rides for years. In 2006, an undercover investigator for Animal Defenders International [videotaped](#) Queenie (also known as Boo) and another elephant named Chrissy being abused by Mike Swain, an employee of the Bailey Brothers Circus, a Davenport family operation.

In March 2007, USDA inspectors documented the continued abuse of Queenie, who was found in poor condition at a fairgrounds in Pueblo, Colorado. The inspection report from that time states:

"[The elephant has] excessive dead skin over most of her body and doesn't show evidence of proper bathing for quite some time. She has urine staining and what appears to be urine scalds on her back legs. The pads on this elephant had excessive growth and there were numerous flaps of skin that had trapped debris in them. The cuticles were also excessively long."

Queenie also had "multiple wounds draining yellowish exudates inside the left ear" . . . consistent with the improper use of an ankus in the ear."

*The handler was "not properly trained or experienced." "[He] had to continuously rely on excessive and inappropriate use of the ankus to get the elephant to perform the behaviors he was asking for during the rides and performances... during the rides and performances, **the handler was observed repeatedly jabbing and hitting the elephant with the ankus.** Several times during the elephant ride, **the handler used the ankus to hit the elephant and she reacted by throwing her head and changing her gait demonstrating irritation** at the action of the handler... This is inappropriate and **abusive use of the ankus** and such use is likely to cause trauma, behavioral stress, physical harm or unnecessary discomfort..." (Emphasis added).*

Queenie must not be left at the Davenports' mercy. Ask USDA to act promptly to send her to a sanctuary!

