



controls the elephant by use of the ankus on these sensitive areas and is able to get elephants to perform unnatural posturing and tricks for public view. The physical nature of an elephant makes many of these postures extremely difficult; e.g.: standing erect on hind legs alone. The use of the ankus can leave open sores and wounds on the elephant. Compounds such as wonderdust have been developed for these trainers to cover open sores and paint over the areas that are injured. Even without physical markings, the elephants suffer pain from the use of the ankus. In some cases, the ankus has been used to hit or beat elephants.

Another tool used by elephant trainers is the hotshot or electric prod. This produces an electric shock to the animal, again in sensitive areas, that causes the elephant pain. This tool is used in a similar fashion to the ankus or bullhook without leaving physical marks.

The whip has been used in a similar fashion to the ankus during training. The whip is used to control the elephant into doing what the trainer chooses. After actual contact with the whip, it may be presented publicly by simply cracking the whip near the animal. The audience may not see the cruelty, but it occurs behind the scenes.

The long pole is used less often in performing situations. It consists of a long metal rod culminating in the same sharp pointed hook at the end. The long pole allows the trainer to be at a further distance from the elephant.

Elephants suffering these cruel training methods have overpowered trainers and killed them, rampaged through circus audiences with children on their backs, destroyed property and vehicles, and been gunned down. Tyke, for example, killed a trainer and went on a rampage through the streets of Hawaii culminating in the elephant's death by gunshots on the city streets.

Ending the use of these inhumane training methods and tools can prevent the suffering of these elephants and help protect the public from danger. Without these tools, trainers may be reluctant to allow the public to ride on the back of an elephant or get too close to the animals. You may also be saving the lives of innocent bystanders and the elephants themselves. Please take decisive action to end these forms of abuse that should never have been tolerated.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

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