

RICHARD PRYOR

November 4, 2005

Dear Oprah,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wanted to let you know about a situation in Chicago that I've been tracking closely, with the hope that you might consider getting involved. I've enclosed a letter that I hope you will consider signing. A word from you would make all the difference.

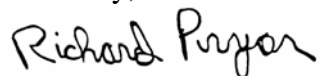
As you probably know, there is an elephant-protection ordinance, sponsored by Alderman Mary Ann Smith and about a dozen other aldermen, pending in Chicago that would prevent circuses from using sharp metal bullhooks and electric prods on elephants. It would also ban chaining, which would give the elephants a bit more freedom, and it would require that zoos provide 10 acres of land for each elephant.

I've been involved in promoting the kind treatment of animals for some time now and have worked with PETA quite a lot in recent years. During this time, I've seen some really horrible video footage of circus trainers beating elephants with bullhooks and using electric shock prods. And there's a growing concern about inadequate space and improper care which was reiterated last year when three elephants died prematurely within an eight-month period at the Lincoln Park Zoo.

There will likely be another committee hearing in December or January. At that time, if the ordinance is voted out of committee, it goes to a full City Council vote. The elephant-protection ordinance has a lot of support from Chicago residents, and after hearing from you, the Council is more likely to make the right decision in behalf of these wonderful animals. Will you consider signing the attached letter (or a variation thereof)?

As always, I hope you and yours are well. If you have any questions I can be contacted through Lisa Lange at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. She can be reached at 323-644-7382, extension 26, or via email at LisaL@peta.org. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,



Richard Pryor