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## Media Release

### **Compassionate Clowns say: "There is nothing funny about animal cruelty!"**

**August 14, 2003 (Montreal)** - Holding placards that read, "There is Nothing Funny About Animal Cruelty," 10 "compassionate clowns" will join activists from Global Action Network outside of the Tarzan Zerbini circus performance at the Gallery des Sources in Dollard des Ormeaux. Dressed in colorful clown costumes, complete with wigs and painted sad faces, the clowns will protest against animal cruelty inherent in circuses.

**Where:** Gallery des Sources (Highway 40 and Blvd. Des Sources, DDO)

**When:** 11:00 am on Saturday, August 16th 2003

The Shriners have commissioned one of the most notorious animal abusers in the circus world, the Tarzan Zerbini circus, for their Montreal performances. Tarzan Zerbini has been cited at least eight times by Canadian and US authorities for neglect and abuse, and more than 15 people have been injured by their animals. "Contrary to public perception, the proceeds from the Shriners' circuses do not go to the Shrine Hospital for burned children," stated Catherine Ferland Blanchet, campaigner for GAN. "In reality, once the circus operator and the telemarketing firm which sells the tickets have covered their costs and made a profit, the remainder goes towards paying the Shrine Fraternity's administrative expenses.

For public safety and animal welfare reasons, Global Action Network is campaigning to enact a by-law prohibiting the use of animal acts in entertainment in Montreal and Laval. "Circuses are dangerous, abusive to animals, and send a very negative educational message to our children," concluded Andrew Plumbly, Director of GAN. "We hope that the Laval and Montreal City Councils will make the ethical decision and say no to animal acts in the future."

Circus animals are forced to perform unnatural, demeaning, and often painful acts through the use of chaining, beating, electric shocks, and food deprivation. These exotic, often endangered animals endure intensive confinement in tiny, filthy cages, and travel for up to 50 weeks of the year. Because of these miserable conditions, circus animals often rebel and rampage; in the past decade alone, over 220 people have been injured or killed as a result.

*Ville St Laurent and the Town of Mont Royal have recently joined 29 other Canadian municipalities in passing bans on the use of animals in entertainment. Animal acts are prohibited country-wide in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Brazil, Israel, Singapore and India.*

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