

UPDATE

### **Stop the Cruel Con: Richard's Racers**

The Lifeforce investigation of Richard's Racers (pig and duck "races") exposed numerous animal rights violations at the Abbotsford Agrifair and Rodeo from August 2 – 8. Lifeforce sent a letter to the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE), city officials and Safeway (a sponsor) in which we outlined our concerns and urged them to cancel this performing animal act.

The business was hired for the fair that runs August 18 to Sept 3. Some changes were made as compared to what we documented at the Agrifair. Acting upon Lifeforce call to the Vancouver SPCA an inspector went to the PNE and later advised us:

1. The pigs and ducks are now let out of the transport trailer before and after the four daily shows.
2. The pigs and ducks are not kept in the transport trailer overnight at the PNE.
3. The pigs and ducks are only fed at show times and they are given food at the end of the day.
4. Now that the animals are not confined to the trailer the ducks had water and pigs had at a nipple inside the trailer.

Although the SPCA said that the pigs were fed according to agriculture standards, pet pigs are given freer access to food and water. Also, ducks should have free access to food and water. The SPCA did not determine if the two pigs that do "tricks" – one pig per show - are fed two or four times during the day.

These animals are forced to performed stupid acts for human entertainment. And many people are conned into thinking that the animals are doing it for enjoyment – not for the food. They are "conditioned" by food deprivation at the PNE. They were "conditioned" by food, water and behavioural deprivation at the Agrifair.

The Vancouver SPCA inspector said they maybe not agree with it but it is not illegal and the only way to stop it is to stop people going to see it. Well, Lifeforce will continue to educate people about what goes on behind the scenes and what people are actually seeing – hungry and deprived animals. One day we will make it illegal. One day animals will not be forced to perform on cue and exploited for the entertainment bucks.