



**Learn about the care of animals at Ringling Bros. from an expert
*Bruce Read knows tons about Pachyderms, Felines and Alpacas!***

(Bridgeport, CT) – The public is invited to learn first hand what really goes on with the care of the animal performers with *The Greatest Show On Earth*[®]. On Monday October 16, at 6:30 p.m. The Barnum Museum welcomes Bruce Read, Vice President of Animal Stewardship at Feld Entertainment for an informative and detailed presentation for the entire family.

“There is always controversy about the care of animals and historical records show that animals played a huge role the P.T. Barnum circus,” commented Executive Director Kathy Maher. “When I met Mr. Read last year, I found his depth of knowledge, care and understanding about natural animal behaviors and their well-being assuring so I asked him to consider giving a talk to our members and the citizens of this area to help explain the true care and training procedures at *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey*[®].”

Mr. Read supervises the Asian elephant care programs including the *Ringling Bros.* Center for Elephant Conservation and he oversees elephant care for *Ringling Bros.* three touring circus units, the training programs for animal trainers and handlers, and the company’s expanding international Asian elephant conservation efforts. Read’s wealth of knowledge this field is a great asset to *Ringling Bros.*’ efforts towards saving this magnificent, yet extremely endangered, species.

Read holds a B.S. in Animal Husbandry from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He was an Assistant Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at the University of Missouri’s College of Veterinary Medicine and served as a consulting editor at Zoo Biology. He began his career at the St. Louis Zoological Park and also worked for Disney’s Animal Kingdom where he managed the construction and all the animal facilities and the hiring and training of their team. Prior to joining Feld Entertainment Read served as Director and CEO of the Birmingham Alabama Zoo.

The Barnum Museum has three floors of absolutely fascinating exhibits that illustrate the extraordinary life of Phineas Taylor Barnum. P.T. Barnum, one-term mayor of Bridgeport and four-term member of the Connecticut General Assembly, was born July 5, 1810 in Bethel and died April 7, 1891 in Bridgeport. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is handicapped accessible.

What: The Care and Stewardship of Animals by Bruce Read

When: Monday, October 16, 6:30 p.m.

**Where: The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT
For information call 203-331-1104 or visit www.Barnum-Museum.org**

**Cost: Free to Museum Members, General Admission applies.
Adults: \$5, seniors & college students: \$4, Children 4 - 17: \$3, Under 4: Free**

###