

Most of us are upset and outraged by abuse of any kind — be it humans or animals. Abuse of small children and animals incense us the most because they are unable to defend themselves.

On Friday, the Carson and Barnes Circus will set up north of town and provide two shows for our viewing pleasure.

The circus is being brought to town as a fundraiser for two very worthy groups: the Delphos Canal Commission and Postal Museum of History. A fun and family-oriented event has become a platform for protesting cruelty to animals.

A letter to the editor in Tuesday's paper championed circus animals and the "unnatural" acts they perform. No, a tiger does not jump through hoops of fire in its natural habitat. Elephants do not parade around with performers on their trunks or backs in the jungle. I understand this. But we still want to see it.

The circus representative says they don't abuse their animals and training methods follow the Animal Welfare Act guidelines.

I don't know who is correct. I'm sure somewhere in the middle is the truth — that's usually how it works.

I say go and judge for yourself. As Gary Levitt said in his letter to the editor Wednesday, you can find anything on the Internet and many different views and "truths." You have to wade through them and decide for yourself how you feel about them and the action or inaction you will take.

For many, this will be the first time they have ever seen such animals up close and personal. Giant gentle elephants will parade through the big top; camels and others will delight the crowd. Activists tell us all kinds of things we should and shouldn't do. We shouldn't raise animals for meat and all wild creatures should be let free to roam, etc. They would not like the fact that I have on leather tennis shoes today or that I am planning to have a steak for supper. But in the end, it's my choice.

I don't believe it's cruel to raise beef cattle to provide meat for our tables. I don't think it's terrible that pigs and chickens are raised for bacon and fryers. That is what they are for. That is their purpose. And in the end, it's my choice to eat them.

A recent study of vendors at baseball stadiums revealed some are not too picky about cleanliness. Is that going to stop people from attending games and ordering that juicy hot dog or cheese pretzel? Probably not.

All views should be considered and valued.

We all make choices. I think informed choices are even better.

I invite you all to attend the circus and tell me what you thought. E-mail me at nspencer@delphosherald.com or send me a letter at Nancy Spencer, editor, 405 N. Main St., Delphos OH 45833.