

TUNE IN TONIGHT: PAGE 3D

COMICS: PAGES 4,5D

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1D

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Feld Entertainment photos



# DOGS on a WIRE

Canines leap, balance and tumble to please audiences at 'Zing Zang Zoom' circus

By Jessica Chia

Tribune-Herald staff writer

Circus performer Hans Klose spends his time traveling around the country with 18 members of his extended family — if you define his seven fox terriers, four standard poodles, a Great Dane, five mixed-breed dogs and an Australian shepherd as family. He does.

Klose, 35, is the dog trainer for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's "Zing Zang Zoom" tour, which returns to Waco's Extraco Events Center for five shows today through Sunday.

The son of two circus performers, Klose got an early start in the circus, performing as a foot juggler when he was 10. Eventually, he took over his family's dog act at 25. His current "Zing Zang Zoom"

routine features 13 dogs.

Each dog has different abilities, from performing somersaults and leaping from a perch 16 feet above the ground to jumping rope and balancing on a rope on hind legs, a crowd favorite.

"Sometimes it's more challenging to work with humans than it is to work with the dogs," Klose said. "The dogs listen better."

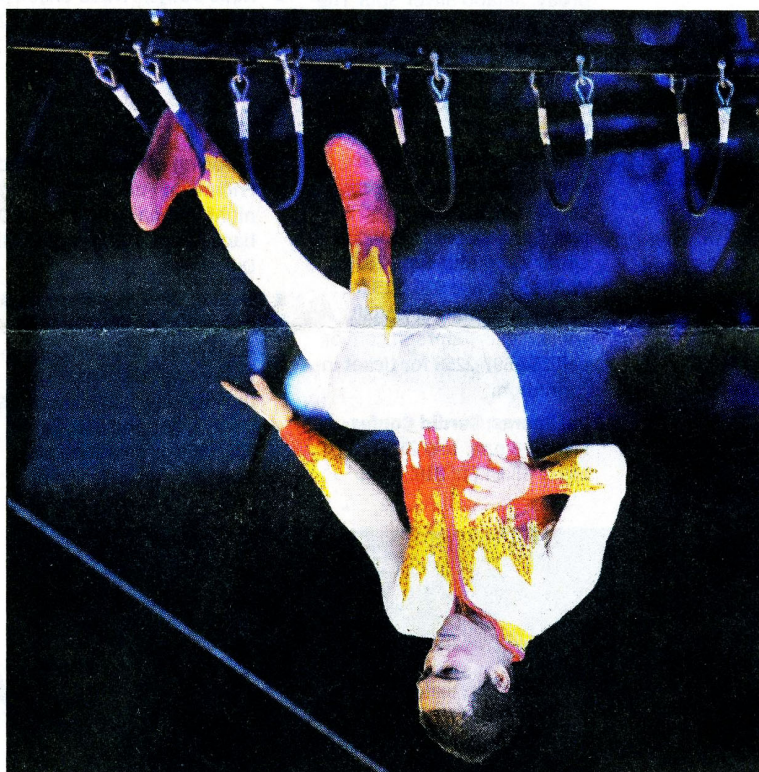
The hardest part of training, he added, is getting new dogs to work together with the older dogs. More than half of the animals with which Klose works come from animal shelters and pounds.

It's all worth it for the dog trainer.

"My favorite part is the relationship you build with them.... You get attached. Once you get a dog and you've spent so much time training them, you've worked with them for so long, I just have to keep them," said Klose, who considers the dogs more like children than coworkers and keeps his retired dogs.

During circus tours, Klose

See CIRCUS, Page 6D



Acrobat Frangleib Rodriquez hangs from a series of foot loops while performing high above the circus floor.



The Clowning Caveagna Family adds a touch of antic comedy to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's "Zing Zang Zoom," whose performances run today through Sunday at Extraco Events Center.

## Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's "Zing Zang Zoom"

**Performances:** 7:30 tonight and Friday, 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Extraco Events Center.

**Tickets:** \$31 for VIP floor seats, \$16 for general admission; general admission seats for tonight's performance are \$11. Call 254-776-1660 or 1-800-745-3000 to order by phone or at [www.extracoeventscenter.com](http://www.extracoeventscenter.com).



# CIRCUS

**From Page 1D**

and his wife travel with their dogs in a recreational vehicle outfitted with an indoor exercise pen. During off-months, the couple share their Sarasota, Fla. home with all 18 dogs.

Joining Klose's trained dogs in this year's "Zing Zang Zoom" are "thrillusionist" David DaVinci and his exotic birds; Catherine and Brett Carden and their dancing Asian elephants; and the Panfilov troupe's cats, whose tricks showcase balance and agility.

## **Some high flying**

The performance will also feature the acrobatics and high-wire motorcycling of the Medeiros Troupe, aerialist Frangleib Rodrigues, the metal-bending Kung Fu Kings, the Barons of Balance and their low-wire act, the Salsations' teeterboard act with a Latin flair, the Urias family with their steel globe motorcycling act and the Clowning Caveagna Family's antics.

All ticket-holders may attend the free all-access pre-show an hour before show time to learn how to juggle, try on costumes, learn to balance feathers on one end and pick up some new dance moves.

During the pre-show, the circus' animal experts and performers will be present for autographs, photos and questions.