

COLE BROS. PRESENTS TRAINER CHERYL HADDAD

Tiger trainer Cheryl Haddad, who presents an assemblage of White, Snow White, Golden Tabby and Royal Bengal Tigers each day at The New Cole Bros. Circus, led a normal, quiet life until 1990 when the circus came to her small Connecticut town. On a visit to the Cole Bros. Circus, Cheryl met Josip Marcan, the tiger trainer, and immediately fell head over heels in love—with the tigers. “I guess you’re never too old to do wild and crazy things,” says Cheryl, describing the turning point in her life. At the age of 33, she bid farewell to the business she managed, to her friends on the women’s softball team, to her family’s house cats and garden, and ran away from Mansfield to join the circus. For the Lebanese descendent, life has been anything but normal ever since.

For more than a decade, Cheryl assisted Marcan in caring for the tigers and traveling with the tiger act throughout the United States and in Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, Austria, Croatia and The Netherlands. As an experienced midwife for expectant tigers and a round-the-clock mother’s helper for newborn cubs Cheryl plays a key role in Marcan’s internationally recognized tiger breeding program. For the past three years, she headed the tiger department for another circus, directing its tiger act from outside the cage. This season Cheryl enters the performing arena for the very first time, overcoming her reluctance to place herself in the spotlight because she wants to deliver a message to the public. “I want people to personally witness the beauty and the dignity of my tigers, so they can really appreciate the need for captive breeding programs like ours that ensure the survival of the tiger.”