

## ***A Different Kind of Winter at the Sanctuary***



*Bunny, Jenny and Shirley enjoy the only day of snow this winter.*

Usually, December and January are months when the elephants spend considerable time close to the barn or indoors, especially at night. Their caregivers are challenged to enhance their indoor accommodations with behavioral enrichment to prevent boredom. Suspending entire evergreen trees from the ceiling and draping plastic pipe, rubber tires and noisy wind chimes across the stalls help break up the monotony of life indoors. But this winter has been different, and the elephants have savored every moment of it. As many have experienced, this winter was unseasonably weather. Not only have the elephants spent very little time indoors, they actually spent many nights outside in their favorite place, the woods.

Communing with the resident wildlife has familiarized the elephants with the habits of wild turkey, white tail deer and even the great blue heron that lands on the upper pond from time to time. It is not unusual to see a flock of wild turkey scurry past several sleeping elephants who rarely open an eye even in curiosity.

The other evening Tarra was delighted to find herself foraging near a family of white tail deer. Over the years she has encountered many deer in the habitat and has learned that any quick movement will frighten them away. Surprisingly, the deer allowed her to approach within arm's length. At one point, the fawns became jumpy and Tarra backed off, actually changing direction and stopping a distance away from them. There she stood perfectly still and watched. The deer resumed their grazing. But true to her nature, Tarra had to investigate. She approached the herd and in what appeared to be slow motion reached her trunk in their direction. The peaceful moment was broken as three young fawns leaped into the air, twirling and gyrating, alarming the adults who simultaneously raised their heads and dashed off into the nearby woods. One got the sense from Tarra's body language—head dropped, trunk limp—that she was disappointed, but she did not ponder their departure for too long. Within moments she was on to a new adventure.



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### Our Mission

The Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, founded in 1995, is the nation's only natural habitat refuge developed specifically for endangered Asian elephants. It operates on 800 acres surrounded by a 3,000-acre buffer zone in Hohenwald, Tennessee—85 miles southwest of Nashville.

It exists for two reasons:  
To provide a haven for old, sick or needy elephants in a setting of green pastures, old-growth forests, spring-fed ponds and a heated barn for cold winter nights.

To provide education about the crisis facing these social, sensitive, passionately intense, playful, complex, exceedingly intelligent and endangered creatures.

## DIRECTORS' VOICE



Many feared that the September 11 tragedy would have a negative impact on our work, especially fund raising for our expansion project. We are pleased to say that not only has our membership responded with support and enthusiasm, but the support in 2001 exceeded our expectations. It is obvious by your response over the past few months that you support our goal to expand the facilities available to captive elephants. Thank you for your vote of confidence in our abilities to make life better for captive elephants.

We believe this year will prove to be exciting and monumental. Already the Sanctuary has been featured on the ABC and CBS evening news programs, staff has been interviewed by several radio talk shows, articles have featured the Sanctuary in *Tennessee Home and Farm Illustrated*, *The Latham Letter*, *Parade* magazine, as well as numerous newspaper articles. Later this year *Redbook* magazine and *National Geographic World* magazine will feature articles about the Sanctuary.

With your help, the new land will be purchased, fenced and ready to accommodate more needy elephants by 2003. Our overseas Asian Elephant Habitat Program is expanding with medical assistance for aged elephants and funds to help anti-poaching efforts in Corbett National Park. As we expand, we hope to develop innovative, non-invasive educational opportunities for our avid supporters. More land will allow us greater flexibility for non-invasive observation and study of the elephants.

Thank you for making it possible for us to continue our work for needy elephants.

Sincerely,

Carol Buckley and Scott Blais

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To learn more about The Elephant Sanctuary and all of the resident elephants visit [www.elephants.com](http://www.elephants.com).

## ***Sanctuary Offers Home to Sissy's Former Zoo Companion***

When Mona, a long time resident of the El Paso Zoo, passed away, Savanna became the zoo's lone elephant. Many of you may recall that Sissy lived at the El Paso Zoo for nearly a year prior to the city council voting to move her to The Elephant Sanctuary.

Now Savanna is alone and zoo officials are trying to determine if she will remain at the zoo or be moved. A committee dubbed The Elephant Working Group was formed and their first meeting was held last November to discuss the future of Savanna and the zoo's elephant program.

Zoo Director, Dr. Bill Torgerson, stated, "The zoo has two missions (in regard to elephants); a short-term, 5-year mission and a long-term, 10- to 20-year mission."

He stated that the committee must consider how the El Paso Zoo's elephant program can contribute to the American Zoological Association's Species Survival Plan.



Savanna

The consensus of the committee was that Savanna will remain at the El Paso Zoo.

## ***The Alliance for Elephants***

The Alliance for Elephants is a new group founded for the principal purpose of promoting the welfare of captive elephants. For the Alliance, the interests and needs of captive elephants come first. The mission of the Alliance is to restore, preserve and promote the welfare of captive elephants.

The Alliance's core objectives include:

- Achieving a broadly based consensus on elephant welfare guidelines addressing the physical, mental and emotional well being of captive elephants.
- Educating the public and interested members of the captive elephant management community about the natural history and inherent welfare needs of these endangered and threatened species.
- Communicating a vision of elephants as exceedingly intelligent and complex individuals that require a rich, spacious and stable social environment.

The Alliance has an important role to play as advocates for the species by engaging in research, advocating the adoption of the highest standards by governmental agencies regulating elephant welfare and establishing cooperative liaisons with institutions influencing the welfare of captive elephants.

If you are interested in becoming a member and supporting this important work, please contact: Kathi Murray 229.878.1584 or visit the Alliance for Elephants website at [www.allianceforelephants.org](http://www.allianceforelephants.org).

# Helping People Help Wildlife-Barbara's Memorial Fund at Work

*A report from India by M.D. Madhusudan, Nature Conservation Foundation in the south Indian city of Mysore.*

Thirty kilometers from the coffee-growing district of Chikmagalur in the southern Indian state of Karnataka lies the Bhadra Tiger Reserve. Here, the towering ridges of the Western Ghats wrap around a gently undulating landscape dissected by scores of streams and draped in the finest moist deciduous forests anywhere. These forests harbour an impressive assemblage of wildlife from the large and imposing elephant and tiger to a dazzling array of lesser marvels including birds, lizards, snakes, frogs, and insects. Also scattered across Bhadra's forested landscape are sixteen hamlets. These hamlets consist mainly of peasants who till the land as share-croppers to raise seasonal crops of wet-paddy, graze their small cattle holdings, and gather assorted produce from the adjoining forests.

So, is Bhadra an idyll where people, forests, and wildlife coexist harmoniously? The answer, unfortunately, is 'no'... both for the villagers and the wildlife. Every year, despite many sleepless nights in the defense of their crops, villagers lose nearly 15% of their paddy to raiding elephants. Marauding leopards and tigers annually devour some 12% of their livestock holding. Occasionally, villagers are themselves killed in attacks by elephants and tigers. The result is a deep, gnawing resentment among villagers for the wildlife reserve itself. Often, this resentment spawns angry reprisal: large carnivores are poisoned at kills, elephants are shot in crop fields, and forests are set on fire.

The lot of the area's magnificent wildlife and forests is no better, really. Pressures of hunting by humans have contributed to keeping wildlife populations low. The extensive removal of small timber, fuelwood, bamboo, and other forest produce by local villagers also poses a serious challenge to the region's wildlife habitat. Slowly, but surely, the splendoured forests and wildlife of Bhadra are becoming the stuff of legend.

Given these circumstances, and constant demands from Bhadra's villagers for access to civic amenities and a better life, the government worked, albeit in fits and starts, to draw up a plan of relocating and rehabilitating these villagers to a site outside the park.

In 1998, when the new Deputy Conservator of Forests, Yatish Kumar, took charge of Bhadra, the people were

unimpressed. They had seen how little difference a turnover of officials had made to their fate. Conflicts were rife, and annually large parts of the park were burnt in acts of redirected aggression. Over the first year there, Yatish endeavoured to re-establish communication links between the forest department, the villagers, and conservationists. Simultaneously, the relocation and rehabilitation plan that had been shelved were again pursued and eventually backed by financial commitment. Meanwhile, the forest department had begun to instill a good faith in the villagers that the

protection of wildlife did not have to be to the detriment of their interests. By late 2001, the process of relocation and rehabilitation had actually commenced.

Under this relocation plan, the relocating villagers are given a generous valuation for their property. Following this, and based on the size of lost holdings, land is allotted to the relocating villagers in one of two resettlement sites. Landless people, who comprise half the relocating families, are all being provided with one acre of irrigated land. Additionally, the villagers are given a

residential site, a construction grant for a new house, and a transportation allowance. However, many relocating families are extremely poor wage-earners, unable to finance preparation of the land for agriculture, procure seed or manure for the first crop, or travel to the rehabilitation site during the transitional stages. It is here that supplementary financial assistance to the project can make a significant difference to the villagers, enabling them to cope better with the big change to their lives.

To survive into the future, the wildlife in our country needs large areas that are minimally impacted by humans. The process of creating such inviolate areas is fraught with serious practical and ethical problems and can be accomplished only if local communities desire and support the necessary relocations. This can only be accomplished by making welfare of relocating communities a serious priority in the effort to reduce human pressures in wildlife reserves. Not often is it possible to undertake an effort that contributes simultaneously to the welfare of people as well as wildlife. As one such unique effort, the rehabilitation programme in Bhadra is richly



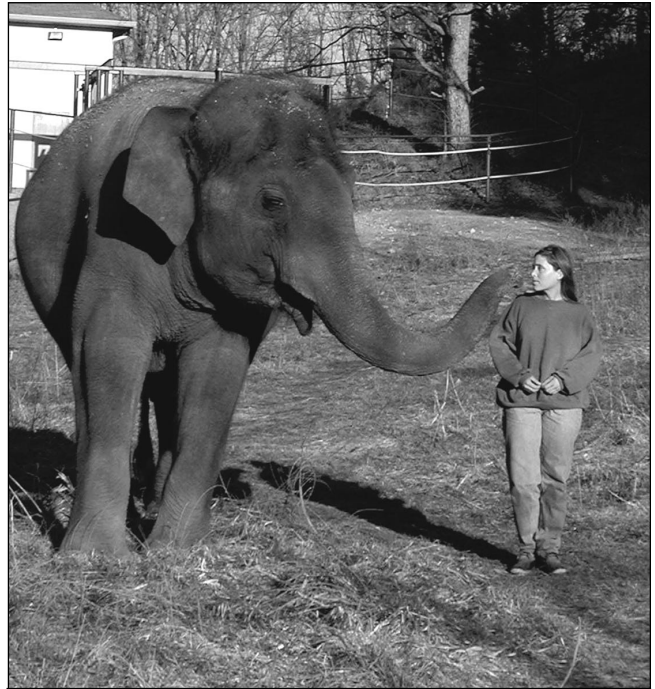
## Thank you, Tarra

When I began as an intern at The Elephant Sanctuary three-and-a-half years ago, I was unprepared for what an incredible journey it would be. The thought of interacting with such an intelligent animal was exhilarating. I did not realize at the time that my desire to interact with these animals was not what would best serve them. In fact, it was in letting go of my desires, expectations, and ego that I would find what it truly means to serve. Tarra has taught me this lesson better than any being I have encountered in my life.

I worked for a year and-a-half at the Sanctuary before I began working directly with the girls. Carol and Scott reminded me again and again what high expectations Tarra has of the humans in her life and not to expect a relationship to develop quickly. I had to earn it, and so for the past two years I have been the student and Tarra the teacher.

I learned rather quickly that gaining or losing points with Tarra was merely a function of how closely I paid attention to her individual personality and needs. Something as small as petting her backside to reinforce a behavior could set me back several points as Tarra did not view this as a reward coming from me. Over time I learned that when I focused on what was best for Tarra, rather than what worked with the other girls or what worked best for me, it became easier to take care of her. I also began to notice that her positive response to this approach reinforced me to continue to hone my awareness skills. I began to think about my every action and thought and how each impacted Tarra.

I began to know and accept Tarra as an individual and to work with her on her terms. In return, she began to accept me as a caregiver. The rewards from taking this kind of time to develop a relationship present themselves on a regular basis.

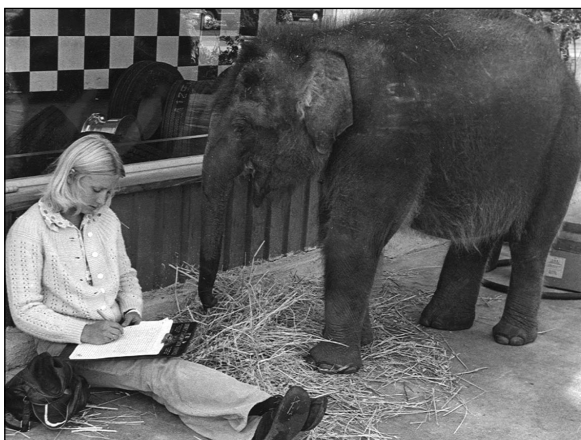


*Tarra and Joanna*

Tarra has taught me what it means to truly respect another. The skills that I have begun to develop through my relationship with Tarra have become the foundation for the way I serve each elephant in our care. The time that I have spent with her has helped define my role both in and outside the Sanctuary.

I would say that “in the end” Tarra has taught me not only how to serve, but also how strong relationships can be when we let go of our own desires, expectations and agendas. Still, I realize that these two years of learning from Tarra do not represent “an end,” but just the beginning.

Thank you, Tarra



*Young Carol and Baby Tarra*

### ***Children's Book: Tarra's Travels***

As promised, *Tarra's Travels*, a children's book about Tarra's life, will be in bookstores and available from our on-line gift shop this summer. The editors were thrilled with the fascinating account of Tarra's life. The story and photos follow Tarra from Asia to America and her solitary life in the back of a delivery truck at a tire store. You will learn how she and Carol met and how she became Carol's mentor and inspiration for the creation of The Elephant Sanctuary. You will share their adventures and heartbreaks and learn to appreciate why all baby elephants should remain with their mothers. Visit our web site to purchase a signed copy of *Tarra's Travels* at: [http://www.elephants.com/videos\\_online.htm](http://www.elephants.com/videos_online.htm)

## Elephant Update

Our herd continues to grow closer with Tarra finally joining as a full-fledged member. Since Barbara's passing last May, Tarra has exhibited a desire to spend the majority of her time with the other elephants. Imagine our surprise to see Tarra sleeping side by side with Jenny, Shirley and Bunny. Tarra's new found appreciation for family life has positively affected her sense of self and brought her a joy not observed since she was a calf. She is completely comfortable with the other elephants, whether they are actively foraging, climbing or just standing together dozing. Tarra has discovered the simple pleasure of being in their company.

Shirley continues to be the glue that binds them all together, but Sissy is the one who mends sore feelings. Sissy has been observed bridging the trust gap experienced between Winkie and the others. Winkie responds to fear with hostility and the other

the other elephants and then turns to follow Sissy. We anticipate that one day soon Winkie will trust enough to allow all of the elephants to openly show their affection for her. Much credit should be given to Sissy who seems to be able to read the moods, fears, apprehensions and excitement of all of her fellow herd members. Her sensitivity to her family is a testimony to her compassionate nature.

Bunny continues to amaze all of us. She behaves as if she has lived in a herd situation all her life. She is a viable member of the herd, participating in every decision and sharing every group adventure. When the herd returns to the barn at night, Bunny makes a game of pretending that she is going to stay outside alone. She thrives on the special attention she receives when a caretaker steps outside the barn with a handful of produce and gives her a personal invitation to come in for the night. With a high pitch



*Shirley, Jenny, Bunny and Tarra*

elephants respond by avoiding Winkie. Sissy is the one who greets the others with sensitivity and without intimidation, opening the door for her best friend, Winkie, to approach.

Nearly every day progress is made in the developing relationships of all of the elephants and Sissy is the instigator. With Winkie following close behind, Sissy approaches the other elephants, accepting their caresses and greetings. She stands shoulder to shoulder between Shirley and Jenny inviting Winkie to approach. This invitation by Sissy is accepted by the other elephants as they tentatively await Winkie's response. For only a moment, Winkie will approach and stand close to the other elephants. After tender physical interactions, and when Sissy senses that the time is right, she slowly walks away. Winkie hesitates for a moment longer, absorbing the acceptance from

squeak more reminiscent of a mouse than an eight thousand pound elephant, Bunny's eyes light up as she moves in the direction of the invitation and goodies. If Bunny's keeper is tardy for her act, she will freeze in mid-step waiting. When the caretaker arrives, the game begins, a game enjoyed by all.

Since Shirley arrived at the Sanctuary Jenny has been enraptured. Thanks to Shirley, she is the darling and focal point of the herd, as a calf would be. That is the relationship shared by Shirley and Jenny, mother and calf. Shirley dotes on Jenny continually and although everyone recognizes that Shirley is the true matriarch, Jenny is allowed to play the boss.

Barbara is gone but not forgotten. There are days when Tarra will sneak away from the herd as they sleep to visit Barbara's gravesite. On these days

*Continued on pg 7*





*Bunny, Jenny, Shirley, Winkie and Sissy*

## **Elephant Update**

*Continued from pg 6*

Tarra does not return to the barn until quite late in the evening, long after the others have entered the barn. When she returns she is always greeted with a profound display of excitement and emotion from the other elephants. Shirley bellows, Bunny squeaks and then lets out an ear-piercing trumpet while Jenny hits the ground with the end of her trunk producing her signature exclamation point. The noise level is deafening and exhilarating. The barn vibrates with their

vocal exchanges followed by exploring trunks gently touching all over each other. Tarra glows in the warmth of their affection. Shirley always makes a big fuss over Tarra, touching her tenderly around her mouth and eyes. They share caresses and melt together into the same space. Their fondness for each other is transparent and heartwarming.

2001 brought profound growth and insight for elephants and caretakers alike. We all look forward to an equally glorious 2002.

## **Elephant Abuse Case**

What started out as animal abuse charges against an elephant trainer, quickly turned into a media circus. It is not often that wounds inflicted on an elephants can be traced to the assailant, but the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office felt it had a strong case. The media crowded the front steps of the courthouse throughout the trial, demonstrating that this case was of significant interest.

The District Attorney's office of Santa Clara County, California, filed charges as result of an eyewitness account of elephant abuse, resulting in breakage of the elephant's skin. In Santa Clara County, such an offence is a misdemeanor and punishable under the law.

A San Jose police officer testified that she observed Mark Gable lunge at an elephant named Asia with a training tool called an elephant hook. When the hook disappeared behind the elephant's front leg, the officer testified, "The elephant lurched forward". The officer testified that a few minutes later she observed a bloody spot on the elephant's side.

Sanctuary co-founder Carol Buckley was called as an expert witness to testify about the use of elephant hooks, the weapon cited in the charges against Mark Gable. Mark is the son of famed animal trainer Gunther

Gable Williams. Mr. Williams spent his entire career in the circus ring, much of that time employed by Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus.

Carol Buckley testified about the use of the hook, its design and its purpose. "The elephant hook is designed to inflict discomfort and pain—that is why it has two metal points on it. When an elephant refuses to respond immediately to the trainer's command, the metal hook is pushed into the elephant's skin. The hook is capable of piercing the skin and inflicting a wound." The jurors listened intently as Ms. Buckley explained that traditional elephant management requires the trainer be physically dominant over the elephant. She explained that this type of elephant management includes the use of negative reinforcement and corporal punishment.

Regardless of the undeniable wound and the eyewitness account from a police officer, the jury found the defendant not guilty. The problem was not proving that the injury had been inflicted. The problem was proving who had caused the injury. With several trainers handling Asia during the performance, it was suggested that another Ringling employee could have inflicted the wound.

## Conservation?

Webster's dictionary defines conservation as the planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction or neglect. One might consider elephants confined to small spaces on exhibit to generate revenue as exploitive. Likewise, chaining elephants over night in bleak, cement enclosures the size of a two-car garage may be viewed as evidence of neglect. Researchers contend that separating mother and calf is destructive of the family unit, the core of elephant society. But these practices remain acceptable in many of today's modern zoos and circuses. So how is it that many zoos and circuses claim to be agents of conservation?

Wild populations of elephants are disappearing. The habitat they require to survive is being transformed into villages and croplands. Even the revered Asian elephant is viewed as a pest in many parts of its own homeland. With no end in sight to the exploding human population, the factor most responsible for the loss of habitat of so many species, how are we to conserve any endangered species, and at what cost?

Zoological institutions and circuses have begun an aggressive effort to breed elephants in captivity. The effort is being labeled as conservation. Few people would question the validity of captive breeding programs, especially when the species is endangered. It seems reasonable that one way to prevent extinction is through captive breeding programs. However, breeding elephants in captivity will not prevent the extinction of the species in the wild. Without preservation of elephant habitat and protection of wild elephants, the species is doomed to extinction.

Because science suggests that the success or failure of captive elephant breeding programs is of little consequence to the status of the wild population, it appears that the sole purpose of breeding elephants in captivity is to produce baby elephants for exhibit in zoos and circuses. The intent is not to replenish or save the wild population but to insure that zoos and circuses continue to have elephants on exhibit. Regardless of their dismal existence, captive elephants remain the number one most popular exhibit animal.

### Panel Discussion Scheduled: Elephants in Captivity

The New York City Bar Association, Committee on Legal Issues Pertaining to Animals, has rescheduled a panel discussion titled Elephants in Captivity for June 19, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bar Association, 42 West 44th Street, New York. This panel session was originally scheduled for October 29, 2001, but was postponed due to the September 11 tragedy. The panel discussion is, in part, in response to proposed legislation that would ban transporting elephants for entertainment purposes. The New York City Bar Association is bringing together a panel of industry experts to discuss the commercial use of elephants in captivity. The topics to be discussed include an analysis of current and proposed state

legislation governing elephants in captivity and an examination of the industry's ability to regulate itself. The panel will also address the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's standards governing elephants in AZA zoos. The standards were adopted in May 2001 and become effective May 2002. The panel is also expected to examine the wide range of professional opinions in the zoo/circus industry regarding human contact with elephants and training methods, explore the possibility of using the Endangered Species Act to protect elephants in captivity and discuss the risks to humans posed by elephants in circuses.

### Prime Time

*Recently, ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings aired an informative piece featuring The Elephant Sanctuary. With the elephants as a live backdrop, the viewer saw and heard video of the deeply emotional reunion of Jenny and Shirley. Over the past ten years, public interest in the emotional lives of elephants has grown. Jenny and Shirley's heartwarming reunion has caused many to think seriously about the possibility that elephants and other animals lead rich, complex emotional lives. Footage of their reunion has been the focus of many television specials, an award winning National Geographic documentary and now, prime time news.*

### Survivor

*You will never guess who our most recent supporter is. He is quite the SURVIVOR. That's right, John Carroll, one of the 16 Americans stranded on Nuku Hiva, in the South Pacific, a contestant on the popular CBS television show "Survivor."*

*After watching Jenny and Shirley in the National Geographic documentary "Urban Elephant," John decided to become involved with our work. He applied and was accepted for an internship at the Sanctuary. We will see which is more challenging, being stranded on a tropical island or in the wilds of Tennessee.*



## 2001 DONORS

*A special thank you to all Sanctuary supporters, including those whose names do not appear here. Every person's commitment brings us closer to our collective goal of a better life for captive elephants.*

## 2001 EXPENSES



☐ Fund raising, 4%  
☐ Management & General, 9%  
☐ Program Services  
☐ Operation & Education, 87%

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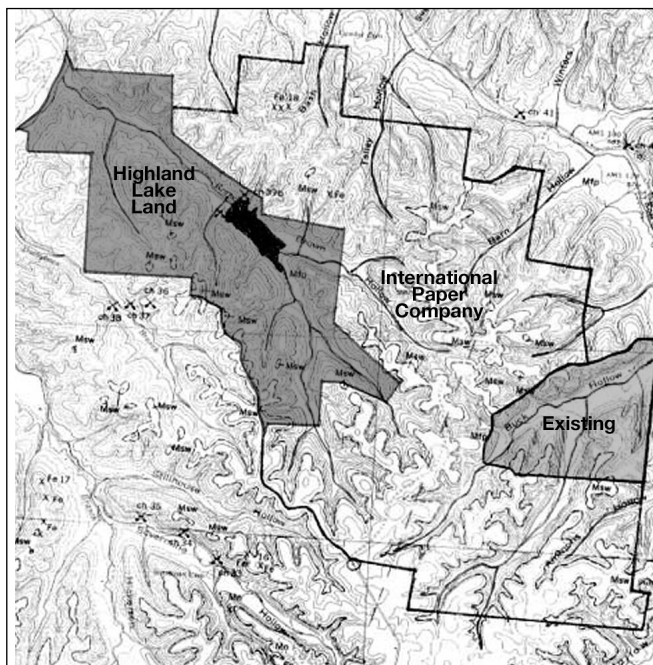
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 William & Elizabeth Kershner  
 Carla Staggs Lawson  
 Ms. Joey Mathews  
 Stacey Oellinger  
 Elizabeth Pedrick  
 Jerry Points,  
 The Outside Source  
 Polly & Jerry Points  
 Deborah Purcell  
 Dr. Ed Ramsey  
 Jeffrey Resnick  
 Mike & Diane Rice  
 Dr. Steve Scott, Hohenwald  
 Hospital for Animals  
 Dr. Lori Tapp  
 Catrina Tonking, That Damn  
 Toy Store  
 D.A. Wall  
 Raymond David Wright

## Acres for Elephant Expansion Project...You Can Help Us Grow



You, or your group, can help us reach our goal of "Room to Roam" by "purchasing" one or more Square Elephants—the space necessary for an elephant to stand at rest from trunk to tail (approximately 6 ft X 12 ft)—for a mere \$2.00 per square. For those wishing to contribute to relaxation, Sleepy Square Elephants—the space necessary for an elephant to lie down and take a nap (approximately 9 ft X 14 ft)—can be purchased for only \$3.00 each. For those wishing to contribute more space, we offer a Dumbo—20 SqE, or 1440 square ft, which is house size, for only \$35. Also available is a Jumbo—151 SqE, or 1/4 acre, for \$246 and a Mammoth—1 acre, for \$984.

You can be the first in your group, neighborhood, classroom, or office to "purchase" real estate and help the Sanctuary provide a safe, comfortable refuge for retired Asian elephants.



This additional 2500 acres will provide diverse habitat for as many as 100 elephants from circuses and zoos. The 25-acre lake will be the focal point of elephant social activity and non-invasive elephant research.

To learn more about our expansion project, visit <http://www.elephants.com/expansion.htm> or call the Sanctuary office, 931.796.6500.

\_\_\_ SqE  
@ \$2.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ SSqE  
@ \$3.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Dumbo  
@ \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Jumbo  
@ \$246 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Mammoth  
@ \$984 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$**

### Acres for Elephants Order

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one: ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment can be made via phone: 931.796.6500 or fax: 931.796.4810 or  
e-mail: [elephant@elephants.com](mailto:elephant@elephants.com) or:

A personalized Habit Rescue  
Certificate is issued for purchases  
of \$35 or more.

US Mail: The Elephant Sanctuary  
PO Box 393  
Hohenwald, TN 38462  
<http://www.elephants.com/expansion.htm>

Please make checks payable to: **The Elephant Sanctuary**

If your contribution is in honor or memory of someone, please complete the following:

☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgment of this contribution should be sent to: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Update on Lota

Many of you continue to ask about Lota's situation and whether she is going to be released to the Sanctuary. We would love to be able to offer better news, but it seems Lota is destined to remain in a situation that is taking a remarkable toll on her health.

The USDA is the sole federal agency responsible for monitoring the welfare of performing elephants. Lota has been the subject of many inspection reports over the years. Her health problems began after her transfer from the Milwaukee Zoo to John Cuneo's Hawthorn Corporation, a company that rents elephants to circuses. Lota's health deteriorated when she was sent on the road to perform in the circus.

After losing hundreds of pounds and becoming increasingly frail, she was finally diagnosed with the human strain of tuberculosis, a non-curable, life-threatening disease. Lota spent nearly two years under treatment to control the disease and, surprisingly, was then sent back on the road to travel and perform. Recently the Sanctuary learned of a USDA inspection report indicating that Lota is once again in very poor physical condition. She has lost hundreds of pounds and has been returned to winter quarters.

We will continue to monitor Lota's condition as much as is legally possible. But as long as she is considered a mere piece of property and her owner's actions are protected under the law, there is nothing The Elephant Sanctuary can do to help her.

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### *An October 2001 USDA inspection report follows.*

United States Department of Agriculture  
Inspection Report Date: OCT-11-2001  
THE HAWTHORN CORPORATION Certificate:  
33-C-0053  
Inspection Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION D-  
+ Section 2.40(b) - "

---

"Lota" is very thin. She has a large mass / ? fluid filled mass on her left hip that extends down to approximately mid-thigh. No records were available for review concerning "Lota's" condition; but, the property manager indicated that the attending veterinarian had been out to examine "Lota" but she could not remember when he (the attending veterinarian) was out to check on her. The property manager did not know whether "Lota" was under any treatment at the time of this inspection. The trainer/caretaker was not available at the time of this inspection --- on 11 October 2001.

Upon "Lota's" return to the Illinois facility, the property manager stated that she had never seen "Lota" so thin. The property manager stated she thought that "Lota" was doing better, she thought she had gained a lot of weight back. The last recorded weight known to this inspector was made in 1997; "Lota's" weight was recorded at 3100 kg (approx: 6,800 lbs).

"Lota" needs to be weighed to obtain a baseline weight and should be weighed at least monthly to aid in her ongoing health assessment. The property manager stated that the mass on "Lota's" left hip was present at the time when she came back to the home facility approximately two months

ago. The property manager stated that the mass was smaller, higher on the hip, it was round, raised, and appeared to be "harder" at the time of her arrival. The mass while getting much larger has also developed a pendulous, sack-like filling on the ventral aspect of the mass ... appearing that it is fluid filled - [? an abscess ?]. The property manager stated that "Lota's" trainer/caretaker would be available on 12 October 2001. The property manager did not know what the attending veterinarian's plans were for "Lota's" treatment.

"Lota's" condition was discussed with the trainer/caretaker on 12 October 2001. He stated that he had never seen "Lota" so thin as when she came back to the Illinois facility approximately two months ago. He was asked whether "Lota" has been weighed since her arrival?; he said, "No."

He was asked whether the mass on her side was there upon her arrival? he said, "Yes." He indicated that it has been progressively getting larger and it appeared as though it was ready to break open. He went "Lota's" left side, placed his hand on the lower aspect of the mass \_ and stated that the mass was hot to the touch. "Lota" attempted to move her back end away from the trainer's touch indicating that the area of the mass was painful.

The trainer stated that he agreed that "Lota" was showing signs that the area of the mass was painful to the touch. He indicated that the attending veterinarian was supposed to come to the facility this morning (12 October 2001) to examine "Lota" again. [Dr. Kolpanen and the undersigned stayed at the facility until at least 12:30 PM but the attending veterinarian did not arrive at the facility during the time that we were at the facility.]

The trainer was asked whether "Lota" was on any treatment?; he stated that "Lota" was being given Isoniazid and Rifampin as a preventive treatment. [Misty, Queenie, Minnie, and Lottie were all being treated with Isoniazid and Rifampin as a result of the DNA probe results of a trunk wash specimen from Misty. They have been treated with this product since 6 July 2001. Trunk wash result from their July 2001 specimens were negative for tuberculosis.]

Written treatment records were not being kept. Appropriate medical treatment records were discussed with the trainer.

The attending veterinarian did not come to the facility until the morning of 15 October 2001.

A schedule for treating "Lota's" open abscess was provided. Spray and flushing products (topicals) were labeled with written instructions for the use. The mass on the left side of "Lota's" hip/thigh had diminished dramatically. The elephant trainer stated that the mass was not as hot to the touch and that "Lota" does not react as being painful.

If you are interested in inquiring about Lota's condition, you can contact the United States Department of Agriculture at the following address:

USDA/APHIS/AC  
4700 River Road  
Unit 84  
Riverdale, MD

Tel: (301) 734-7833  
Fax: (301) 734-4978

- *National Geographic World* magazine will feature an article about the Sanctuary in their April publication.
- *Redbook* magazine will feature The Elephant Sanctuary in their May issue, which comes out the beginning of April.
- *PARADE* magazine postponed their feature story about the Sanctuary following the September 11, 2001 tragedy. The article that had been scheduled to appear in October ran in the February 24, 2002 edition of *PARADE* magazine, which is distributed in the Sunday edition of 339 newspapers with a readership of 78 million.

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**Fame**

Once  
After a hard day's forage  
Two bears sat together in silence  
On a beautiful vista  
Watching the sun go down  
And feeling deeply grateful  
For life.

Though, after a while  
A thought-provoking conversation began  
which turned to the topic of  
Fame.

The one bear said,  
"Did you hear about Rustam?  
He has become famous  
And travels from city to city  
In a golden cage:  
He performs to hundreds of people  
Who laugh and applaud  
His carnival stunts."

The other bear thought for  
A few seconds  
then started  
Weeping."

From *The Gift* by Hafiz, a Persian Sufi poet from the 1300s.

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P.O. Box 393  
Hohenwald, TN 38462

Please visit  
<http://www.elephants.com/expansion.htm>  
to learn about our expansion project to  
acquire 2500 acres of additional land,  
complete with a 25-acre lake.