

# TRUNK LINES

SPRING 2021

 **THE ELEPHANT  
SANCTUARY**  
IN TENNESSEE™



Dedicated To



**Shirley**

1948 - 2021

**MINNIE & RONNIE**

## Inside The Sanctuary

As we enter our 26th year of providing Home and Herd to elephants retired from performance and exhibition, all of us at The Sanctuary look forward to continuing to develop new innovations in elephant care — from expanding habitat areas to give the elephants additional room to roam to finding creative husbandry and veterinary solutions to maintain the health and well-being of elephants as they age in place. We continue to take our cues from the elephants who remind us to make the most of every day — to never stop exploring, that trust is the key to successful relationships, and that spending time with your herd is second to none.

African elephant **Sukari** has begun to showcase her budding confidence by initiating play sparring with habitat-mate, **Tange**. Asian elephants **Minnie** and **Ronnie** bask (and nap) under the warm, spring sun. And African elephant, **Nosey**, finally a permanent resident, continues to learn that Sanctuary affords her the opportunity to simply be an elephant.

Together with habitat-mates **Tarra** and **Sissy**, Sanctuary Staff and supporters all across the world mourned the passing of 72-year-old elephant **Shirley** in February. Shirley leaves an enduring legacy. We learned so much about elephants aging in captivity through caring for Shirley for 21 years, and we will continue to apply this knowledge to help care for all current and future residents as they age.

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Additional updates on all the elephants living at The Sanctuary are included inside this spring issue of *Trunklines*.



Observe the elephants via  
The Sanctuary's live-streaming  
EleCams at [elephants.com](https://www.elephants.com).



The Elephant Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, licensed by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, and certified by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

**Financial statements are available for review at [elephants.com](http://elephants.com).**

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#### **OUR MISSION**

Founded in 1995, The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee is the nation's largest natural-habitat refuge developed specifically around the needs of Asian and African elephants retired from performance and exhibition. It operates on 2,700 acres in Hohenwald, Tenn. — 85 miles southwest of Nashville.

#### **With Your Support, The Elephant Sanctuary:**

- Provides captive elephants with individualized care, the companionship of a herd, and the opportunity to live out their lives in a safe haven dedicated to their wellbeing;
- Raises public awareness of the complex needs of elephants in captivity, and the crisis facing elephants in the wild.

**As an accredited sanctuary, the habitat where the elephants live is not open to the public.**

To learn more about The Elephant Sanctuary and its resident elephants, connect with us online at [elephants.com](http://elephants.com).

## LETTER FROM OUR **CEO**

### **Dear Friends,**

We invite you to join us in **celebration** of a new year and a new season. It is spring, a time for renewal and growth; we leave behind a very challenging year and move into 2021 with hope and anticipation. We move forward empowered by the stories of the elephants we are so fortunate to have cared for during 25 years of Sanctuary.

We look to the future in celebration of each and every one of the **28** elephants that have come to Sanctuary to find safe haven, companions, and full-time care. We are sustained by the many lessons the elephants have taught us about resilience in the face of adversity, the importance of trust in all our relationships, the significance of finding your herd, and the value of freedom of choice in establishing our autonomy.

In this issue of *Trunklines*, you will read the stories of the 10 elephants we share each day with. You will learn how **Sukari** has begun expressing her independence, about the preparations to introduce **Nosey** to her herd-mates, and how elephant birthdays become special celebrations for all in Sanctuary.

From our hearts, you will find a very special tribute to the “magnificent” **Shirley**. We invite you to join us in celebration of her remarkable life. The Sanctuary is deeply honored to have provided care for Shirley for 21 years, and it was with great sadness that we said our goodbyes in February. We each have our special memory of Shirley — when we first saw her, where we first heard her story, and what she taught us about endurance and resilience. Her legacy is a true expression of a life fully lived, a life that touched so many, and shines a light that will glow for all time.

We thank each of you who expressed your grief upon learning of her passing. We thank you all for sharing the empty space that Shirley has left in Sanctuary and in our hearts. We appreciate the many memories and thoughts from around the world that have been left on Shirley's tribute page at [elephants.com](http://elephants.com). “She taught love, forgiveness, and trust,” said Jennifer C. “She will be missed and never forgotten,” wrote Susan C. “She inspired me to endure and to hang in there,” said Mary H. We treasure each of you as a member of Shirley's herd.

Thank you for celebrating with us the year ahead and sharing our grief in the loss of Shirley. From Shirley, we have all learned to never stop exploring the world around us, to bring our best selves forward each day, and to never ever eat the black jellybeans!

We wish you all the very best.

  
Janice Zeitlin, CEO



**Thank you for supporting our mission!**



**BILLIE**





NOSEY

## » Nosey Updates

In November 2017, **Nosey** was seized by Lawrence County Animal Control in Moulton, AL, after concerns for her care and well-being were raised by the public. The Sanctuary was contacted to provide emergency care, and Nosey arrived in Tennessee soon after. Since Nosey first arrived at The Sanctuary, Alabama courts have affirmed the County's actions, setting the stage for Nosey's permanent residence at The Sanctuary, which was granted in early December 2020. The Sanctuary extends a very special thanks to the many individuals and animal rights groups who spoke out on behalf of Nosey!

Due to Nosey's history of exposure to tuberculosis (TB), which has been noted in her health records since 2012, Nosey remains separated from other African elephants at The Sanctuary who have no history of exposure to TB. Nosey currently has the ability to socialize with Tarra and Sissy across a 25-foot buffer zone. Caregivers often observe the elephants rumbling to one another, with their ears out, listening attentively. Our Husbandry Team is creating more opportunities for Nosey to socialize with her Asian elephant neighbors, starting with allowing introductions to occur safely over a fence line. We will keep supporters up-to-date as future plans are made.

Throughout the winter, Nosey worked regularly with Care and Veterinary Staff on tusk presentation behavior. Nosey's tusks are the longest of the four African elephants living at The Sanctuary. The ends are thin and delicate, and Nosey has a history of fracturing tusks — she fractured her right tusk several years prior to arriving to The Sanctuary, and she fractured her left tusk shortly after her arrival. Nosey also seems to lack an understanding of how to use

her tusks safely, likely because for many years, she wasn't allowed to freely interact with her surroundings. At The Sanctuary, when Nosey uses her tusks to debark a tree or interact with enrichment, she uses the side of her tusks rather than the ends, so they have worn down in an unnatural manner, putting her at risk of fracturing them again.

Like our teeth, elephant tusks contain an internal pulp cavity covered in enamel, a hard, resilient material. The portion of the tusk farthest from the elephant does not contain a pulp cavity, so normal tusk wear doesn't present any health concerns, but abnormal wear or breakage close to the pulp cavity could cause pain and lead to infection.

Our Veterinary Team made the decision to trim Nosey's tusks to help prevent future breakage, forming them into a more useful shape that should encourage her to use them more naturally when interacting with her surroundings, and making it safer for her to potentially interact with other elephants in the future. A lot of preparation went into this procedure, beginning with Staff desensitizing Nosey over several months by training her to present her tusks for radiographs, touching her tusks, and slowly introducing a mock wire to mimic trimming. Staff also had to train themselves by practicing with resistance bands to build muscles and stamina for the actual trim. With several team members working together, Staff were able to trim one tusk in five minutes. Throughout the trim, Nosey was incredibly cooperative and calm, enthusiastically accepting food rewards for a job well-done. We look forward to Nosey being able to utilize her tusks more naturally in her habitat and hope for increased social opportunities for her in the future!





SUKARI & TANGE

## » Africa Habitat & Barn

The African elephants have been busy this spring, downing trees, wallowing in the mud, and traversing the vast habitat. For the most part, **Sukari** and **Tange** have been inseparable, with **Flora** sometimes joining them or choosing to adventure independently. Lately, Sukari and Flora have been play-sparring over the fence line. Sparring is a natural African elephant behavior during which the elephants push against each other with their heads and tusks and touch each other's faces with their trunks. This behavior allows them to test one another's strength, socialize, and release playful energy. In the past, Flora, the more strong-willed of the two, has initiated these sparring sessions, but in recent months, Sukari has gained enough confidence to initiate sparring herself. Tange is usually not far away grazing, as if she is ready to mediate if needed.

At The Sanctuary, we revel in these moments in which the elephants demonstrate natural behaviors, appreciating their ability to be as "wild" as possible due to the expansive habitat that allows for it. Care Staff recently discovered a large fallen hardwood deep in the habitat that the elephants had debarked with incredible tusk markings.



FLORA





African elephants naturally carve into tree trunks with their tusks and tear off strips of bark, which provides nutrients and often aids in digestion. During the dry season on the savanna, wild elephants can even use bark to quench their thirst, as certain tree species are known to store enormous amounts of water within their trunks.



When the elephants are not out exploring the habitat on chillier spring days, The Sanctuary's Veterinary Team takes advantage of their presence at the barn to implement many of the preventative health and routine diagnostics that are part of each elephant's individual care plan. The Vet Team works collaboratively with Care Staff to establish goals and training plans for each elephant and with the Facilities Team to ensure the barn has the infrastructure needed to accomplish these goals. "We all work hard to ensure that the elephants receive gold standard medical care, but in a manner that prioritizes their autonomy, comfort, and dignity," says Dr. Lydia Young, Veterinarian. These care plans include everything from foot and tusk radiographs to regular weight checks to vaccines.

Like a human or pet, elephants need annual vaccines. In the months prior to the actual vaccination, Caregivers work to desensitize the elephant to touch and light pressure on the future injection site, so that come time for the real injection, the animal is relaxed and looking forward to her "jackpot" reward — a large, tasty fruit such as a watermelon or cantaloupe. This year, all three African elephants received tetanus vaccinations, and Tange was due for her rabies booster.

Another part of creating care plans includes monitoring the elephants' sleep patterns and behaviors overnight, which Caregivers do each day by watching camera footage from the night before. Recently, overnight footage revealed Tange trumpeting through the barn, playing with the recently-installed rubber door flaps. Flora soon joined in on the fun too, until Sukari returned from exploring and everyone went back to eating their hay and relaxing.

The new rubber flaps are just one example of the work The Sanctuary's Facilities Team performs to enhance care for the elephants; the flaps separate inside from outside, allowing the elephants access to the habitat overnight while still keeping the barn's temperature consistent. Upon installation, the elephants tested the flaps by giving them a few tugs and kicks, and to Caregivers' delight, they are even strong enough to be considered "Flora-proof" (her intelligence coupled with her playful energy can make it a challenge to build items that pass the test).







## » Q Habitat & Barn

Celebrations were in order at Q Habitat earlier this year, as all four of the elephants had birthdays! **Debbie** turned a milestone 50 years old, **Minnie** and **Ronnie** both turned 55, and **Billie** entered the final year of her 50s at 59. As always, Caregivers went all out to commemorate each of their big days. All elephants were treated to decorated vegan cakes, flavored with cinnamon, pumpkin, and applesauce, then topped with a pumpkin puree “frosting,” beets, and grapes. Staff placed the tasty treats on “cake stands” made from tires (which were painted with colorful birthday messages) and scattered around orange slices, beets, pumpkins, hay, and bamboo.

Of course, each elephant interacted with her treats in a unique way. Minnie and Ronnie had a joint “party,” where Minnie immediately scooped up her cake with her trunk and then ate all the snacks around the tire. Ronnie shared some of Minnie’s hay before walking over to her own, eating her cake, and gathering all the bamboo to eat in one bite. Minnie eventually walked away to explore, and Ronnie continued to inspect the tires to discover every last bite of hay and fruit.

Debbie watched from afar as Caregivers set up her treat and did not hesitate to walk right over to it as soon as the gate was open.

**MINNIE**







She ate the cake first and then mixed in her oranges with the hay — Debbie usually chooses to mix up her food before eating it. Her pumpkin rolled away, so she attempted to catch it with her back foot and then chased after it, eating a mouthful of hay along the way. Billie ate her cake first too, but opted to include hay and bamboo with each bite. She then gathered up every single orange and banana slice one by one.



Even with all the festivities, the Q elephants have had plenty of time for exploring, browsing, and napping. Caregivers encouraged Billie to spend time outside on a cool day by building her a snowman out of the light dusting of snow on the ground, complete with a melon hat, carrot nose, and grape eyes. She ate the entire head of the snowman at once like a giant popsicle, and then spent a few hours venturing around the habitat.

Debbie, Minnie, and Ronnie were spotted napping all at the same time in the habitat in the sunshine (Caregivers noted they were very careful not to wake them as they drove by the fence line), and both Billie and Ronnie have been utilizing sand piles in the barn to lie down to sleep at night. The incline of the sand pile makes it easier for elephants to lie down and get back up, and the substrate is easier on their arthritic joints than the ground. This is the first time that Care Staff have ever seen Ronnie choose to lie down on the sand.

One night, Minnie cleverly used a set of tires as a pillow. As she turned over on her side, she pulled the tires closer with her trunk and then laid her head on top, sleeping like this for an hour. Whether a sand pile or a tire pillow, we are always excited to see an elephant demonstrate increased levels of comfort and rest!

DEBBIE



MINNIE & RONNIE



RONNIE







SISSY

## » Asia Habitat & Barn

The Sanctuary celebrated **Sissy's 59th birthday** in January and **Tarra's 47th birthday** in February. Caregivers threw an enrichment party for the two, who have now been in Sanctuary for 21 and 26 years, respectively. Each received a vegan cake topped with strawberries and Cheerios, but in true Tarra-fashion, Tarra ate both cakes while Sissy was focused on the watermelon, honeydew, and strawberries spread throughout their regular hay diet. Even our African elephant residents had a hand in Tarra and Sissy's celebration — Staff created "decorations" out of logs that the Africans had stripped the bark from in their own habitat (stripping bark is a natural African elephant behavior). Tarra and Sissy both seemed especially fond of the melons, possibly because honeydew is a special treat that they do not receive often! Caregivers ended the party by singing "Happy Birthday" as Tarra munched on bamboo and Sissy walked off to explore the habitat for additional treats, popping her trunk in excitement.

TARRA



The Sanctuary is still deeply feeling the loss of Shirley, the matriarch of the Asian herd who passed in late February (see **Pages 10-11** for Shirley's Memorial). At 72 years old, Shirley defied all odds as one of the oldest elephants in captivity, and lived well beyond the life expectancy for a captive Asian elephant.

Shirley was The Sanctuary's oldest elephant and, at the time of her passing, held the record for the second oldest elephant in North America.

Due to Shirley's slower pace at 72-years-old, Caregivers often gave her time to herself throughout the day to graze and explore the habitat for hay and other treats, but she always had the opportunity to interact with Sissy and Tarra, which she often chose to do. One day in early February, when all three elephants were sharing habitat space, Tarra was so excited to be with Shirley that she stuck by her side all day, venturing off only once to find a hay-stuffed enrichment tire that she immediately picked up and brought back to share with Shirley.

After an elephant passes, herd-mates are given the opportunity to visit and mourn. In a familiar ritual observed by Care Staff, Sissy and Tarra visited Shirley, both elephants carefully touching their long-time companion with their trunks. While Sissy moved away quietly, Tarra chose to spend the early morning hours by Shirley's side. Staff respectfully left the barn, acknowledging the time needed for all present to mourn their loss.

In the week following, Tarra and Sissy spent most of their time near one another and close to the barn, receiving extra special attention from Caregivers.





## » International Partners

The Sanctuary is pleased to provide support to organizations working in range countries where elephants face threats related to industry and labor, habitat loss, tourism, human-elephant conflict, entertainment, and poaching.

The Elephant Sanctuary's Board of Directors reviewed global projects and proposals for elephant conservation and welfare in 2021 and has awarded gifts to the following organizations doing work on four continents — Africa, Europe, Asia, and South America.



## Have You Herd?

The Elephant Discovery Center in downtown Hohenwald is currently open **Tuesday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** by appointment only! Our Education Team also offers Distance Learning programs to teachers, classrooms, and community groups year-round.

For more information, visit:

[elephants.com/distance-learning](https://elephants.com/distance-learning)

### » VIETNAM

#### **Animals Asia Foundation**

Provide a model for retirement of elephants in the tourism industry in Dak Lak province, Vietnam.

[animalsasia.org](https://animalsasia.org)

### » AFRICA

#### **ElephantVoices**

Launch of a searchable database, **The Elephant Ethogram: A Library of African Elephant Behavior**, documenting the complex and diverse repertoire of African savanna elephant behavior and communication.

[elephantvoices.org](https://elephantvoices.org)

#### **Elephants Without Borders**

Supporting continued care of four orphaned elephants as they transition to a fully natural environment in the elephant range in preparation for eventual release into the wild.

[elephantswithoutborders.org](https://elephantswithoutborders.org)

#### **Stellenbosch University**

Continued assistance for research to improve the health and welfare of African elephants.

#### **Utopia Scientific — Caitlin O'Connell — African Elephant Society**

Supporting fieldwork to gather data and demonstrate that male African elephants form stable bonded groups.

[utopiascientific.org](https://utopiascientific.org)

### » EUROPE

#### **Elephant Haven**

Purchase of a backup generator for Europe's first sanctuary dedicated to elephants.

[elephanthaven.com](https://elephanthaven.com)

### » BRAZIL

#### **Global Sanctuary for Elephants**

Expansion of Global Sanctuary Brazil to meet the needs of elephants identified for transfer to sanctuary.

[globalelephants.org](https://globalelephants.org)

### » INDIA

#### **Wildlife SOS**

In support of the Chhattisgarh Elephant Safety project to analyze GPS data and lead community work to mitigate human-elephant conflict for the protection of wild elephants.

[wildlifesos.org](https://wildlifesos.org)

### » EAST MALAYSIA

#### **Wild Welfare**

To improve the care and welfare of captive Bornean elephants at Lok Kawi Wildlife Park in Sabah, East Malaysia.

[wildwelfare.org](https://wildwelfare.org)

### » AFRICA & ASIA

#### **Working Dogs 4 Conservation**

To enhance technology and implement artificial intelligence networked cameras in sites where dogs are deployed to rapidly identify, track, and stop poachers in elephant range countries.

[wd4c.com](https://wd4c.com)



# Remembering Shirley



## » BEFORE THE SANCTUARY

Born in Sumatra in 1948, Shirley was captured from the wild and sold to a traveling circus, entertaining audiences for more than 20 years. In addition to the immense hardship of a life in performance, during her time in the circus, Shirley survived capture by Fidel Castro's forces as well as a highway accident that killed two other elephants. In 1963, the circus ship Shirley was traveling on caught fire and partially sank, leaving Shirley with burns on her back, side, and feet and causing her to lose part of her right ear.



SHIRLEY (LEFT) ON FLEURUS CIRCUS SHIP IN NOVA SCOTIA, 1963



SHIRLEY (CENTER) PERFORMS IN THE SHRINE CIRCUS, 1967

## » HOME & HERD

When she arrived at The Sanctuary in 1999, Shirley had a loud and joyous reunion with another Asian elephant, Jenny — nearly bending the bars of their barn stalls to be near to one another. It was later discovered that the two performed together in the circus 24 years earlier. For the next seven years, Shirley and Jenny were inseparable in a relationship resembling one of a mother and daughter.



SHIRLEY & JENNY

In 1974, Shirley suffered a broken leg during an altercation with another elephant. As a result of her injury, in 1977, she was transferred to The Louisiana Purchase Zoo and Gardens, where she was the sole elephant resident for 22 years. As Shirley aged, the zoo staff decided she needed more space and the companionship of other elephants. Her primary caretaker, Solomon James, accompanied Shirley on her journey to The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee.



During her time at The Sanctuary, Shirley emerged as the matriarch of the Asia herd, a leadership role reserved for the most respected and admired elephant in the group. A short time after Jenny's passing in 2006, Shirley began to develop closer bonds with her other herd-mates — Tarra, Sissy, Winkie, and Misty. Each year at the first signs of warming weather, Shirley would be the first elephant to make the miles-long trek to The Sanctuary's 25-acre lake, a signal to Care Staff and other elephants that spring had arrived. In recent years, Sissy and Tarra often joined her in this adventure.



As Shirley aged, we recognized greater susceptibility to many of the issues that face aging, captive elephants. Years of traveling and standing on hard surfaces contribute to arthritis and chronic foot issues in captive elephants. In addition to foot treatments, Shirley's individual care plan included preventative TB medications due to her known exposure to TB, as well as daily arthritis supplements, anti-inflammatory medications, and multi-wavelength cold laser therapy to reduce discomfort associated with arthritis and other joint conditions.

## » SAYING GOODBYE

The Sanctuary's Care and Veterinary Teams were closely monitoring Shirley over several weeks, as they began to observe gradual changes in her mobility and mentation. At 72 years old, Shirley continued to impress us all with her resiliency and zest for life. Many mornings when Staff arrived at the barn, Shirley appeared bright, alert, and responsive, but into the afternoon would show increased signs of weakness, fatigue, and discomfort. Veterinary and Husbandry Staff worked around the clock to ensure best-care and comfort — physically checking in on Shirley at 10 p.m. and 2 a.m., in addition to barn camera checks throughout the night.

Care Staff doted on Shirley daily, and Shirley seemed to seek increased affection in these final weeks. Long-time Caregiver, Sarah F., often sang to Shirley in the barn, Shirley listening with rapt attention. And Care Staff made every effort to ensure that everything was done exactly to Shirley's liking — which was quite particular. Shirley would present her feet for foot care in a particular

sequence, and never out of order. Jelly beans, a favorite treat, were offered with regularity recently. Knowing that Shirley loved all but the licorice-flavored beans, Staff would carefully pick them out from the bunch.

On Sunday, February 21st, Shirley had been alert and participating in her care all day, and was eating and drinking. Shortly after night feed at 10 p.m., Shirley lay down in the barn. Veterinary and Husbandry Staff were alerted, and when they arrived a short time later, Shirley was recumbent, her breathing shallow, and she showed no interest in getting up. All indications were that her legs would not support her standing or moving. Everyone agreed that, as always, Shirley was communicating her needs and wishes — that her time had come. Medications were given for comfort and to ease the transition. Shirley passed away peacefully in the early hours of Monday morning, surrounded by her loving Caregivers. Afterward, Sissy visited Shirley briefly and Tarra spent the early morning quietly by Shirley's side.



At 72 years old, Shirley defied all odds as one of the oldest elephants in captivity, and lived well beyond the life expectancy for a captive Asian elephant. Shirley was The Sanctuary's oldest elephant and, at the time of her passing, held the record for the second oldest elephant in North America.

“The Sanctuary is deeply honored to have provided care for Shirley for 21 years. We thank Shirley's many supporters, fans, and friends who have partnered with us through the years to provide individualized, lifetime care and the opportunity for Shirley to know true companionship with other elephants,” said Janice Zeitlin, CEO. “We learned so much about elephants aging in captivity through caring for Shirley, and we will continue to apply this knowledge to help care for all current and future residents as they age. Shirley leaves an enduring legacy marked by a truly remarkable life, and she will be deeply missed by all.”



# 2021 SPRING CAMPAIGN

## YOUR SUPPORT ENSURES A HOME FOR LIFE



NOSEY

**On a sunny day in early 2021, African elephant Nosey was spotted grazing calmly by a pond in her habitat, searching out tasty morsels among the trees and then uprooting sweet grasses at the water's edge.**

Caregivers delight in these moments, which are wonderfully common now, but unimaginable for this regal animal even just four years ago. **It is because of YOU, our supporters, that Nosey's life is drastically different in her Sanctuary home**, where she roams freely in her expansive habitat and expresses natural elephant behaviors, illustrating the transformative powers of rest and refuge. **It is only with your help that we stay prepared to grow our herd and provide safe haven to any elephant in need of lifetime care, while constantly caring for Nosey and our nine other residents in Middle Tennessee.**

Immediately after being taken from her native Zimbabwe in 1984 and transported to Florida at age two — with dozens of other calves sold to an individual in the U.S. after a culling of native herds — Nosey was sold and put to work in performance. She was the lone elephant in a small family circus from age four until the courts approved of her emergency transfer to The Elephant Sanctuary in November 2017, at age 35. Traveling, providing rides, and performing tricks was all Nosey knew, and these decades had taken a toll on her physical, social, and psychological well-being.

After Lawrence County Animal Control seized Nosey in Moulton, Alabama — where the elephant was reportedly chained by her legs in a horse trailer, without adequate food or water — she was transported to safety a couple hours' drive northwest to Hohenwald, Tennessee. There, with less than a day's notice, The Elephant Sanctuary staff took in Nosey and began the long process of her healing, while the legal battles over her custody continued in court. After successful legal battles, Lawrence County transferred custody to The Sanctuary. **And in December 2020, we announced that Nosey was finally, permanently, home for the holidays at The Elephant Sanctuary.**

### *Your support prepares us for the future*

Providing necessary items such as:



\$25

**One bag of Mazuri feed specially formulated for elephants**



\$50

**Fresh, restaurant-grade produce for elephant nutrition**



\$100

**Plumber's camera used for elephant dental exams**



\$500

**Two-way radio system for effective staff communication**



\$1000

**One week's supply of high-quality hay**



MINNIE & RONNIE



## YOUR PARTNERSHIP ENSURES OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR OUR CURRENT RESIDENTS AND THOSE TO COME.

» **Other elephants have come to us** at different times in their lives with different needs and for different reasons than Nosey, and they all receive the best lifetime care from our integrated staff, thanks to the dedication of our donors. We have recently celebrated 15 years with Asian elephants Billie, Ronnie, Debbie, and Minnie — all members of the “Hawthorn herd” with a history of tuberculosis and cramped, lonely living conditions as leased circus elephants up until their transfer to The Sanctuary in 2006. In early 2004, Tange was the first African elephant retired here in Tennessee after the Chehaw Wild Animal Park in Albany, Georgia — where she had lived since 1978, and even survived a record flood — thoughtfully closed its elephant exhibit. Together, Tange and her zoo companion, Zula, who was also imported to the U.S. as a young calf, explored The Elephant Sanctuary’s new Africa Habitat, relishing in mud baths and sleeping under the stars. Retired circus performer, Flora, joined them a short few weeks later.

Providing individualized veterinary and husbandry care for our Sanctuary residents of varied ages and backgrounds requires a constant coordination of resources — healthy foods, medicines, laser therapy, and the ongoing building of trust through Protected Contact management. Also, a full staff effort is **creating the ideal environment, enhancing our expertise, and remaining ready to welcome future elephant arrivals to this refuge.**

Our Facilities team clears trails, digs mud wallows, mends fencing, and expands gates for optimal elephant mobility and exploration of the vast acreage. Generous gifts from individuals and foundations made possible the construction of our state-of-the-art Elephant



**ELEPHANT HEALTH CARE CENTER**

Health Care Center complex, which boasts an improved vet lab and a two-stall, solar-powered elephant barn with an adjacent 3.6-acre habitat. This enclosure features reinforced steel fencing that can accommodate a bull elephant, or any of our female elephants who need close observation.

Whether opening our gates (and our hearts) to one elephant or many, The Sanctuary must remain prepared for what is next. Fortunately, as public sentiment evolves and owners of aging elephants seek the best place for their retirement, The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee exists for this very purpose.

Please make a gift to support this preparedness for whatever and whoever marks the future of The Sanctuary! We, along with Nosey, Sissy, Tarra, Flora, Sukari, Tange, Billie, Ronnie, Debbie, and Minnie, so appreciate your partnership.

### Giving online is easy and secure at [elephants.com](https://elephants.com)

Click “**Donate**” and make a gift to our “**Spring Campaign**”

**BILLIE**







TANGE

## » Support An Elephant

### GIVE THE GIFT OF SANCTUARY

Donations of any amount — investments in our mission from long-standing supporters and brand new Shirley fans, alike — help equip The Elephant Sanctuary with the necessary resources to provide gold-standard care to our resident elephants and those to come. When you make a one-time donation online or by mail, you give the gift of Sanctuary and contribute to the large, sometimes unexpected expenses that come with providing refuge to aging elephants. Every dollar counts in creating the best environment for elephants here in Tennessee and improving the lives of elephants worldwide through expanded education and awareness of their needs.

**Become a Sustaining Donor for as little as \$10+ per month by setting up an automatic, recurring gift to The Sanctuary.** Your dedication to the continued care of captive elephants and the future generations hoping to share a world with elephants makes you eligible to apply for a Volunteer Day. Sustaining Donors also receive a one-year subscription to our triannual newsletter, *Trunklines*.

If you wish to set up a bank draft instead of a monthly credit card payment, please contact Kathy at **931-796-6500 ext. 107**.

### FUNDRAISE FOR ELEPHANTS

Turn your next special occasion (birthday, marathon, wedding, graduation, anniversary, or “just because!”) into a chance to raise support for The Elephant Sanctuary! When you start a peer fundraising campaign — which takes just a minute to set up online with a name, photo and brief “call to action” — you can reach your elephant-loving friends with the mission of The Sanctuary and invite them to participate in changing the lives of the elephants here in Tennessee. Visit [shop.elephants.com/create-a-fundraiser](https://shop.elephants.com/create-a-fundraiser) to get started.

### Dedicate Your Gift:

For a unique gift to celebrate special days or to express sympathy and cherished memories, consider making a donation to The Elephant Sanctuary “In Honor” or “In Memory” of a loved person or pet. Visit [shop.elephants.com](https://shop.elephants.com) to learn more.

### Other Ways To Give:

To learn more about The Sanctuary’s VIP Membership Program and Shirley’s Legacy Program, contact [lorenda@elephants.com](mailto:lorenda@elephants.com) or **931-796-6500 ext. 105**.

### Wishlist:

The Sanctuary maintains an ever-changing wish list to meet the needs of the elephants in our care. Visit [shop.elephants.com/products/wishlist](https://shop.elephants.com/products/wishlist) to see an updated list of needs.

### BECOME A MEMBER

The Elephant Sanctuary provides a sprawling refuge for elephants retired from performance and exhibition — a three-habitat property where they can express natural behaviors, enjoy the companionship of other elephants, and receive a lifetime of individualized care. **Join our herd as a Member with a donation of \$50 or more and receive:**

- A one-year subscription to our triannual newsletter, *Trunklines*
- A one-time 10% discount on Gift Shop apparel
- Monthly *EleNews* email updates
- Eligibility to apply for a Volunteer Day in Hohenwald

### ADOPT AN ELEPHANT

By adopting one (or more) of The Sanctuary’s elephants, you become a partner in our mission to provide the gift of herd, home, rest, refuge, and individualized care for life. **Make a gift of \$50+ to Adopt An Elephant and receive:**

- A Certificate of Adoption and information on your “adoptee”
- Monthly *EleNews* email updates
- Eligibility to apply for a Volunteer Day in Hohenwald
- The latest issue of our triannual newsletter, *Trunklines*

### FEED AN ELEPHANT

Each of The Sanctuary’s resident elephants consumes about 150 lbs. of food each day, which costs approximately \$50 per elephant. To ensure a nutritious and balanced diet for each of these elephants, our Veterinary Team and Caregivers portion out hay, browse, fresh produce, and supplements according to the individual needs and preferences of the aging elephants. **When you help us offset these ongoing costs and give \$50+ to Feed An Elephant, you receive:**

- A photo card with information about elephants’ diets plus access to “ele-inspired” plant-based recipes, updated seasonally
- Monthly *EleNews* email updates
- Eligibility to apply for a Volunteer Day in Hohenwald
- The latest issue of our triannual newsletter, *Trunklines*

**GIVE NOW AT [SHOP.ELEPHANTS.COM](https://shop.elephants.com) OR VIA THE ENCLOSED FORM AND ENVELOPE.**



# Elephant Sanctuary Merchandise



## Adult T-Shirts

**\$24.95**

SM, MED, LG, XL, XXL, XXXL

This worn-in vintage-inspired unisex T-shirt is made in the USA from 100% soft-spun cotton. The Elephant Sanctuary logo is printed on the back.



**Nosey T-Shirt**  
Color: Periwinkle

**Flora T-Shirt**  
Color: Watermelon

**Tange T-Shirt**  
Color: Navy

**Sukari T-Shirt**  
Color: Khaki

**Shirley T-Shirt**  
Color: Ice Blue



**Tarra T-Shirt**  
Color: Brick

**Ronnie T-Shirt**  
Color: Seafoam

**Debbie T-Shirt**  
Color: Wine

**Sissy T-Shirt**  
Color: Royal Caribbean

**Minnie T-Shirt**  
Color: Yam

**Billie T-Shirt**  
Color: Blue Spruce

## Elephants Shape Our World

**NEW!**

These items distinguish you as part of a global herd of elephant lovers!



**Klean Kanteen**  
**\$36.95**

A BPA-free, stainless steel 20 oz bottle with a wide Cafe Cap and a "bonus" Chug Cap! Co-branded with Klean Kanteen, this insulated bottle keeps contents hot or cold for hours, fits in most cup holders.



**Youth T-Shirt**  
**\$18.95**

XS, SM, MED, LG | Color: Light Blue

Made by Gildan, this 100% cotton T-shirt is perfect for playtime.



**Onesie**  
**\$18.95**

SM (6/12), MED (12/18), LG (18/24) | Color: White

Made in the USA from 100% organic cotton, this onesie includes 1/2" 3-snap closure and a satin label so as not to irritate.



**Pura Vida Bracelet**  
**\$12.00**

Show your love for elephants with Pura Vida's Save the Elephants Charm bracelet! Founded in Costa Rica, Pura Vida provides sustainable jobs to artisans worldwide and raises awareness for charities with products that give back. Green wax-coated string with rhodium-plated brass elephant charm. Adjustable from 2-5 inches in diameter.



**Reusable Stainless Steel Straws**  
**\$12.00**

Stainless steel straw set in a custom biodegradable drawstring pouch featuring The Sanctuary's logo. Contains two straight straws, two curved straws, and a cleaning brush.



**NEW!**

**Long Sleeve T-Shirt**  
**\$28.95 | Color: Athletic Heather**

Made by Comfort Colors from 100% ring spun cotton, this comfy long sleeve shirt has The Elephant Sanctuary logo on the chest in white and the URL on the back.



**Boxed Postcard Set + Calendar Card**  
**\$12.00**

Boxed set of 12 cards: 11 (5x7) postcards featuring each of our resident elephants and one bonus card with 2021 calendar included.

Find all your Elephant Sanctuary merchandise at [elephants.com](https://elephants.com), or place your order using the enclosed order form and envelope.





P.O. BOX 393  
HOHENWALD, TENNESSEE 38462  
ELEPHANTS.COM  
931-796-6500



## The Big Payback Returns!

Mark your calendars for The Big Payback — Beginning this year at **6 p.m. May 5** and closing at **6 p.m. May 6**. The Elephant Sanctuary will participate in this 24-hour online giving day hosted by the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, which includes opportunities to vie for monetary prizes. Please join us for the fun! Visit **elephants.com** on May 5 and look for The Big Payback logo on our home page to make your donation.

## Connect with us Online at **elephants.com!**

Stay current on news from The Sanctuary and support the wellbeing of captive elephants through your favorite social networks. You can also sign up to receive our free monthly online newsletter, *EleNews*, which includes information on special events, merchandise, and new posts to our blog.



### Awards and Recognition

Our strong performance as an animal welfare/wildlife conservation 501(c)(3) non-profit is recognized by reputable charity monitoring groups.



Global Federation of  
Animal Sanctuaries

ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee is proudly accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and certified by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

*Trunklines is printed on paper certified by both the Rainforest Alliance and the Forest Stewardship Council. FSC wood products are known to prevent decimation of forests located in or near native habitats for wild elephants.*

Please be a conscious consumer—look for FSC, Rainforest Alliance, and RSPO seals.

