the Elephant Sanctuary® in Tennessee

15th ANNIVERSARY

TIME LINE

1995 · 1996 · 1997 · 1998 · 1999 · 2000 · 2001 · 2002 · 2003 · 2004 · 2005 · 2006 · 2007 · 2008 · 2009 · 2010

Construction of first barn completed.

The Elephant Sanctuary is founded in Hohenwald,Tennessee by Carol Buckley and Scott Blais on 220 acres. Tarra, an ex-circus elephant, is the inspiration and first resident.

Barbara became the second elephant to find sanctuary in Tennessee. An ex-circus elephant that had suffered for 15 years from a mysterious wasting disease, Barbara came to us nearly 2000 lbs. underweight. It is most accurate to describe her as the spiritual leader of her adopted family. She passed away May 18, 2001.

Thanks to the emergency "Rescue Jenny Fund," TES was able to save an ailing Jenny from an animal shelter in Nevada before it was too late. Our sweet "Jenny Jelly Bean" soon flourished in her new home with Tarra and Barbara. Gee, what could be better? Read on!

The Sanctuary begins its first internship program.

Time Magazine designates Carol Buckley and Scott Blais "Heros of the Planet."

We're expanding! A brand new, 6-stall Asian barn is completed.

Shirley and Jenny's fantastic reunion. Elephants never forget.

The Ele-Cam goes live on the Web site for the first time.

The first elephant diary entry on www.elephants.com began with Shirley, July 6, 1999.

Bunny retires from the Meskar Park Zoo and wastes no time exploring the open habitat and her newfound freedom. She became our resident "nature girl" and the elephant least likely to be spotted on the Ele-Cam.

Sissy arrives at the Sanctuary from El Paso, TX, shy, abused, depressed, and labeled dangerous. My, what a difference a little freedom and respect make in the lives of all these elephants.

Winkie arrives, also with a reputation for being dangerous. Sissy immediately takes Winkie under her wing and helps her to adjust. In the process they both find friendship, security, and confidence.

The Urban Elephant featuring Shirley and Jenny aired for the first time on PBS Sunday, November 19, 2000. It later won an Emmy Award.

Katy Payne and team conduct a communications research project for use in Africa.

Support begins for International Elephant Assistance Projects in Asia for elephant veterinary care, ranger protection, and to help raise awareness of the plight of captive elephants.

Sanctuary expands to 2,700 acres to become largest in nation.

Tina makes the 3000-mile journey from Vancouver, BC to the Sanctuary. She fought a severe case of osteomyelitis bravely, but an undetectable heart condition took her from us too soon.

New African house is completed. Tange, Zula, and Flora become the first African elephants to live free in Tennessee.

Delhi makes history as the first elephant ever to be confiscated by the USDA. TES is chosen for her rescue, but she must spend nearly 8 months in TB quarantine at our Phase 1 Barn. She did great and amazed us in her determination to overcome her odds of recovery. Delhi joined the rest of the Founding Asian herd.

Sanctuary staff and supporters bid farewell to Tina in a live Web site memorial service.

Elephant Sanctuary celebrates its 10th Anniversary!

State-of-the-art quarantine facilities are constructed, and Lota & Misty arrive from Hawthorn Corp. Sadly, Lota's advanced case of TB was irreversible, She peacefully passed away two months later with Misty by her side.

New Asian Barn and 1200+ acre habitat fencing is complete. The Founding Herd migrates to their new home, freeing up the Phase 2 barn to become a special quarantine facility.

Here come the Divas! In the largest-ever circus elephant rescue, Lottie, Minnie, Queenie, Liz, Debbie, Ronnie, Billie and Frieda arrive in the "Caravan to Freedom," nearly doubling the Sanctuary's number of elephant residents.

In an accident involving Winkie, caregiver Joanna Burke is suddenly lost. New awareness and safety protocols are enacted for elephants who suffer from PTSD.

Misty is released from quarantine and is reunited with her former circus friend Delhi. They are all smiles and form an instant bond.

Award-winning *NY Times* cover article about PTSD in elephants spotlights the Sanctuary, with Bunny on the cover.

Dulary arrives from the Philadelphia Zoo. Her transition to Sanctuary life is effortless, and she quickly becomes friends with Tarra, Misty and Delhi.

Jenny passes away. "Mama" Shirley is heartbroken, but Bunny steps up to lend her support and they become great friends.

Queenie very unexpectedly passes away. Her loss is life-changing for her friend Minnie, whose grief unveils a softer side.

The Sanctuary purchases 2 downtown buildings to be renovated as an Education Gallery/ Welcome Center.

Additional ponds are dug in each habitat, and more wells and automatic waterers are added throughout. Also, all land debt is paid off.

After extended hospice care, our "granny" Delhi peacefully passes away in her sleep.

First phase of Veterinary Lab & Elephant Health & Welfare Institute completed.

ABC's award-winning *20/20* segment on PTSD in elephants airs, featuring the Sanctuary.

USDA confiscates Ned and places him at the Sanctuary for recovery. Ned's health condition was not survivable and he passed away on May 15, 2009

CBS broadcasts a story about the unique friendship of Tarra & Bella, and they become instant YouTube celebrities, spawning book and movie offers. They eventually grace *People* magazine, *Oprah* and *National Geographic Channel*, too

Zula passes away from a heart condition. Tange mourns her loss, then forms a closer bond with Flora.

Sanctuary membership tops 84,000!

After 10 years of sanctuary, Bunny passes away from old age, just hours before Ned.

Phase One construction of downtown Education Gallery is completed.

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www.elephants.com