



## Sharing Sad News – A Resource For Teachers and Parents

### Answering Questions from Children about Bella's Death



*Tarra and Bella were adored by so many children. Children learned much from Tarra and Bella's example of loving and respecting one another, despite their differences. Now that Bella is gone, many may wonder and worry about Tarra, and have questions about Bella's death. It may make your child feel better to create a piece of artwork of Bella or to write Bella a letter on her [Tribute page](#).*

#### *How did Bella die?*

Bella's vet, Dr. Scott, thinks Bella may have been killed by other animals, probably coyotes.

#### *Why didn't Tarra chase away the coyotes?*

She may have been sleeping, or Bella might not have been with her when the coyotes first came. But we think she did find them and chase them away! Tarra was a very protective friend to Bella. She did her best to try and save her. After the accident, Tarra carried Bella back to the barn with her trunk.

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*Don't you worry about the coyotes killing an elephant?*

No. Elephants are too big and coyotes too small. Coyotes would not try to or be able to kill an elephant. The elephants would chase them away.

*How old was Bella?*

Bella was full grown when The Sanctuary found her, so we're not sure. Dr. Scott thinks she was between 10 and 13 years old.

*How long have Tarra and Bella been friends?*

Tarra and Bella have been friends since 2003! Bella was a stray when we found her. She needed a home. Bella liked to guard big, noisy things. She guarded a bulldozer and a 4-wheeler, then she started guarding Tarra the elephant! She and Tarra have been friends ever since. They spent many years together exploring their home at the Sanctuary.

*Will The Elephant Sanctuary get another dog for Tarra?*

Tarra might make friends with the other dogs we have at the Sanctuary. There are many she can choose from! But we hope and think that Tarra will become even closer and better friends with her elephant sisters. Elephants like Shirley, Sissy, and Winkie have all been spending lots of time with Tarra since Bella died. They are doing their best to make Tarra feel better.

*How is Tarra doing?*

Tarra is sad, but her Caregivers are watching out for her. They have been checking on her a lot and feeding her favorite treats to try and cheer her up. Tarra's elephant sisters have been sharing with her, too, and reaching out to make her feel better.

*Who will be Tarra's best friend now?*

We think Shirley will, but Tarra has many other elephant friends, too, like Sissy and Winkie. We think becoming even better friends with Shirley will make Tarra feel better, even though she will always love and miss Bella!

For more resources visit [When a Pet Dies](#) by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry or the Clinical Center National Institutes of Health Patient Information Publication ["Talking to Children about Death."](#)

To learn more about Tarra and Bella's life together or to leave a tribute in memory of Bella or a message to Tarra visit Bella's Tribute page at [www.elephants.com](http://www.elephants.com).

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