

# the Elephant Sanctuary<sup>®</sup> in Tennessee

## Elephants.com

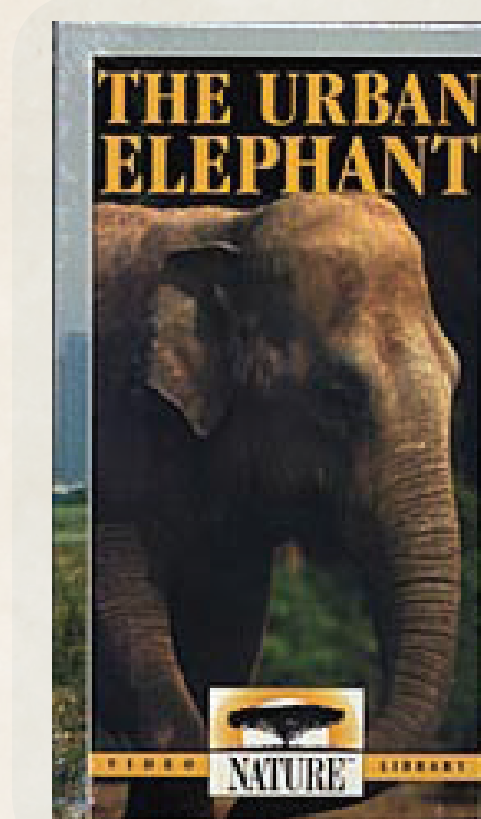


The **Elephant Sanctuary** is founded on 220 acres in Hohenwald, Tennessee by Carol Buckley and Scott Blais. **Tarra**, a former performing elephant, is the first resident.

Construction of the **first barn** is completed.



A brand-new, six-stall barn is constructed to care for **Asian elephants**.



Labeled a dangerous elephant, **Sissy** arrives at The Sanctuary after a public outcry regarding her treatment at the El Paso Zoo.

Elephant **Winkie** arrives, also with a reputation for being dangerous. Sissy takes Winkie under her wing and helps her adjust to life in sanctuary.



PBS airs **The Urban Elephant** featuring Shirley and Jenny's reunion story. The piece is later awarded an Emmy and goes viral on YouTube.com



Upon completion of a barn and fencing for African elephants, **Tange**, **Zula**, and **Flora** are the first Africans to retire in Tennessee. Zula passed away on Jan. 11, 2009.



Elephants **Lota** and **Misty** arrive at The Sanctuary after USDA orders their transferal from the Hawthorn Corporation, a company that leased animals to circuses. Lota passed away from advanced tuberculosis on Feb. 9, 2005.



Elephant **Dulary** is retired to The Sanctuary from the Philadelphia Zoo, and makes fast friends with Tarra, Misty, and Delhi. Dulary passed away on Dec. 23, 2013.

The Elephant Sanctuary acquires two buildings in downtown Hohenwald, Tenn. to renovate for administrative office space, as well as a Welcome Center and **Education Gallery** for the public.

The Sanctuary **pays off all debt** on its land, adds additional ponds and wells.



CBS News airs a story on the unique friendship between elephant **Tarra** and her loyal canine companion, **Bella**. The story goes viral on YouTube.com. Bella passed away in 2011.

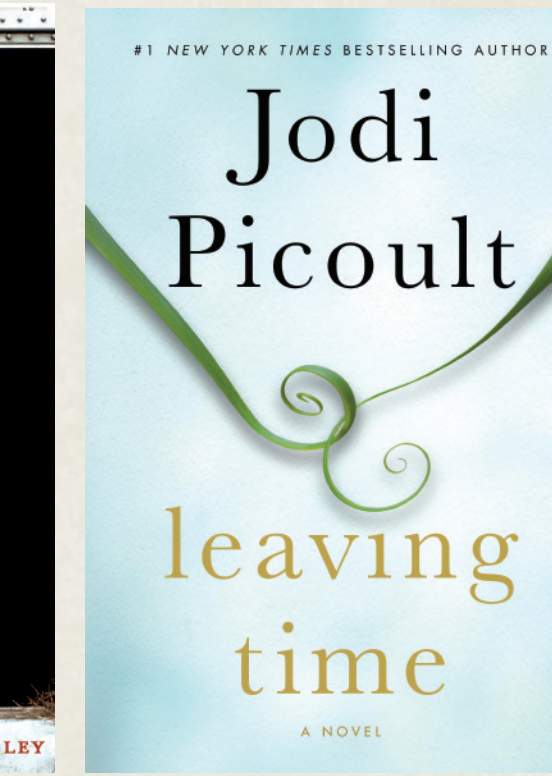


Fourteen new cameras are mounted throughout Sanctuary grounds, offering live-streamed video of all three elephant habitats via the **EleCam** platform at elephants.com.



Elephant **Billie** allows care staff to remove the last remnant of circus life from her body: a chain around her ankle.

The documentary film *One Lucky Elephant* is released in theaters, featuring the story of Sanctuary resident **Flora**.



Carol Bradley publishes her non-fiction book focusing on Sanctuary resident Billie, **Last Chain on Billie: How One Extraordinary Elephant Escaped the Big Top**.

New York Times-bestselling author Jodi Picoult releases **Leaving Time**, a novel that describes a fictional sanctuary whose elephants are based on the true stories of those residing at The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee.

1995

1996

1998

1999

2000

2003

2004

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

2011

2013

2014



**Barbara** is the second elephant to find sanctuary in Tennessee. A former circus elephant with many health issues, Barbara passed away on May 18, 2001.



Thanks to an emergency fundraising campaign, elephant **Jenny** is brought to The Sanctuary from a Nevada animal shelter. Jenny passed away on Oct. 17, 2006.



Elephant **Shirley** arrives on July 6, 1999. After 25 years apart, she and Jenny immediately recognize one another from their previous lives as circus elephants.

The first **EleCam**—a live-streaming video feed from the elephants' habitat—goes live on elephants.com.



The **EleNote** blog/diary platform for Sanctuary news launches on elephants.com.

Elephant **Bunny** retires at The Sanctuary from Meskar Park Zoo. Bunny passed away on May 14, 2009.



The **Sanctuary expands to 2700 acres**, making it the largest natural-habitat refuge for captive Asian and African elephants in North America.

Elephant **Tina** journeys 3,000 miles to The Sanctuary from Vancouver, B.C. Tina passed away on July 21, 2004.



**Delhi** becomes the first-ever elephant to be confiscated by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Upon arrival at The Sanctuary, she spends eight months in quarantine while undergoing treatment for tuberculosis, then joins the founding Asian herd. Delhi passed away on March 11, 2008.



A new **Asia barn** and fencing for **1200-acre habitat** is constructed; the founding herd of Asian elephants migrates over to Asia. The Phase II barn is then converted to a full Quarantine facility (Q) to accommodate members of the Hawthorn herd—all of which arrive having been exposed to tuberculosis.



USDA ordered the Hawthorn Corporation to retire **Lottie**, **Minnie**, **Queenie**, **Liz**, **Debbie**, **Ronnie**, **Billie**, and **Frieda** in the largest-ever government-sanctioned transferal of circus elephants.

In a tragic accident, caregiver Joanna Burke is killed by an elephant.



USDA confiscates elephant **Ned** and places him in sanctuary to recover from his medical ailments. The first and only bull elephant at The Elephant Sanctuary to date, his health condition is not survivable and he passes away on May 15, 2009.

**Queenie** passes away suddenly on March 29, 2008 at the age of 49.



The **Welcome Center** on Main Street in Hohenwald opens to the public. Administrative staff moves into office space built to LEED standards.



**Lottie** passes away suddenly on Oct. 10, 2010.



The third-oldest Asian elephant in North America, **Shirley** turns 65. The Sanctuary throws her a birthday party—celebrated jointly via the Internet with those who knew her in Monroe, Louisiana (her former zoo home).

**Celebrating 20 years**  
of providing natural-habitat Sanctuary [herd, home, rest, refuge, individualized care for life] to retired captive elephants in North America.

**2015**