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Hohenwald, TN 38462
P.O. Box 393
in Tennessee
the Elephant
Sanctuary



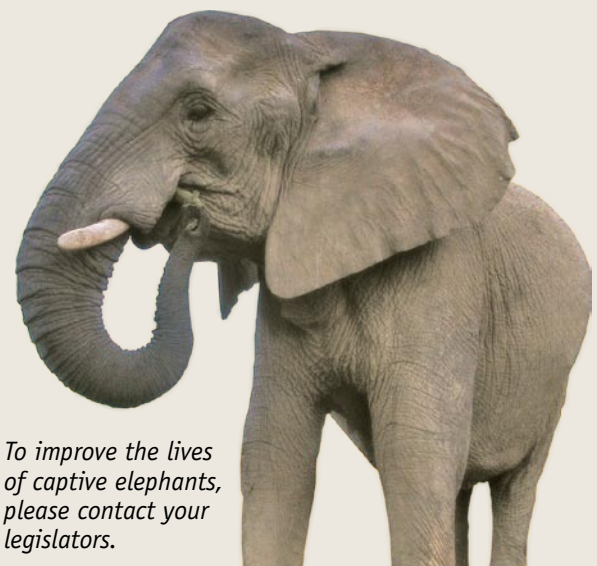
“Zula’s grain bucket was always half full, never half empty. She took the positive way in life. If she couldn’t climb that hill today, she would try it again the next day. The last year Zula has climbed hills with amazing grace and ease. She would never give up and knew that one day she would climb any hill she wanted to.

We should honor her by trying to climb our hill of acceptance, because we know that’s what she would do. It’s not easy, as it still hurts so much. But with little steps and the elephants as our teachers, we too will climb that hill with grace.”

—Sandra de Rek, Lead Caregiver, African Elephants

To make a donation in Zula’s memory, please visit

www.elephants.com/endowments.htm



To improve the lives of captive elephants, please contact your legislators.

Zula

1975 - January 11, 2009

“...For just a moment she took the viewer to Africa and became one of her cousins - with quick, agile movements, a high lift to her head, always looking for new challenges. Now we are challenged with her loss.” —lhall, Sacramento, CA

“...We owe them the right to share this planet with their own families, have their babies in the fellowship of their own herds, and grow old and die in dignity together. There is really only one true sanctuary that an elephant longs for... family.” —Beverly, Simpsonville, South Carolina



“As an elephant biologist I feel immense sadness when one passes away. It is like you’ve lost a member of your own family. Time is a great healer, in this mortal world, and I hope that as time passes Tange and others at the sanctuary will be left with much good memories of Zula.”

—Christy Williams, Assam, India

“Zula.... Each of you wonderful animals teach us that real strength comes not from our bodies, but from our souls: from patience, tolerance and acceptance, from friendships, from gentleness, and specially, from being able to forgive those who have done us harm, to be able to enjoy the moment fully, without bitterness for our past, or what we may have lost along the way.” —Angel, Denver

the
Elephant
Sanctuary®
in Tennessee



*“...we are the lucky ones to have known you.”
—Karen, MN*



Tribute to Zula

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization

ELEPHANTS.COM

WINTER 2009

Zula was born in 1975 in the wilds of Africa. She was orphaned as result of a culling [mass killing] of all the adults and sub-adults in her family. On June 1, 1978 Zula arrived, along with another wild caught elephant named Tange, at the Chehaw Wild Animal Park in Albany, Georgia. Zula and Tange spent their entire lives, prior to the Sanctuary, entertaining zoo patrons who visited the Chehaw Wild Animal Park.

Early on, Zula shared her tiny barn with Tange and a full grown Asian elephant named Dottie. In 1985, Dottie was sold to a circus trainer and Zula and Tange remained. Zula was known as the calmer, more manageable of the two elephants and was used more often for special events and off grounds promotions. Over the years, she developed digestive problems and had tooth and tusk surgery. Additionally, she sustained a soft tissue injury to her left hip which continued to cause her discomfort at times.

On February 19, 2004, Zula became the eleventh resident and second African elephant to retire to The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee. Zula disembarked from the transport trailer seconds after Tange did. In addition to being the Sanctuary’s first African residents, they were also the first elephants to be retired and transported as a pair. A month later they received a surprise they had not seen in decades: another African elephant

arrived to join them—Flora, also wild-caught and an ex-circus performer.

In the coming months and years, Zula’s personality revealed her to be wise, regal and extremely kind. Her friendship with Tange remained her focus, while her bond with Flora continued to grow, despite their occasional rivalries for the role of herd matriarch. Each year, Zula and Tange would expand their explorations even further into their vast habitat—eventually breaking their old zoo habits of returning to the barn every evening and choosing to spend nights under the stars instead.

For almost 5 years, Zula flourished at the Sanctuary, enjoying the space and richness of her environment in the company of her best friend and ardent admirer, Tange. Zula became a confident individual, content to set out on her own from time to time. In 2006, Zula proved her independence. After climbing a hill that she was not confident to descend, Zula spent the night away from Tange, but she was not alone; her caregiver strung up a hammock and slept under the stars with Zula. Known as the queen of mud, Zula loved to spend time in any form of mud, and was highly skilled at manufacturing mud wallows.

In the evening of January 11, 2009, Zula passed away very suddenly. She was in the company of Tange and her caregivers and veterinarian. Her absence is deeply felt, but we will forever celebrate Zula’s remarkable life and her proud, gentle soul that touched us all.

African Elephants: A challenge to survive no matter where they live.

Shortened Lifespans in Captivity

Researchers analyzed data from over 4500 elephants to show that animals in European zoos have about half the median life span of conspecifics in protected populations in range countries. “We suggest stress and/or obesity as likely causes of zoo elephants’ compromised survivorship.” (R. Clubb, G. Mason et al. 12/12/08) **The median life span for African elephants in European zoos was 16.9 years, compared with 56 years for elephants who died of natural causes in Kenya’s Amboseli park.**

Zoos require:

AZA Elephant Management and Care standards state that a minimum of 400 sq. ft (37.2 sq. m) is required for single animal, (a 20-by-20-foot square), which is less than a small two car garage. Note: Institutions can petition for a variance from the current minimum indoor or outdoor space standards, allowing them to keep elephants in even smaller spaces.

Poaching and Culling

According to researchers at the University of Washington, as reported in sciencedaily.com, the negative effects of poaching persist for decades after the killing has ended. The researchers say it is unclear how long the effects will persist, especially in light of the recent increase in illegal ivory trade. But one thing is certain: poaching continues to introduce major disruptions in the African elephant’s family tree at a substantial cost. “Elephants are very long-lived animals. They are extremely social, and there’s a tremendous amount of group integrity and competitive ability,” said Researcher Sam Wasser, Ph.D., director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington. “It’s been nearly 20 years since the ivory ban and there are still incredibly persistent impacts of illegal culling on these populations.”

Population plummet

In the last century elephant populations

massively declined due to habitat destruction, increased agriculture and the bloody ivory trade. Rampant ivory poaching from 1979 to 1989 halved Africa’s elephant population from 1.3 million to 600,000. Today numbers may be as low as 450,000.(bornfreeuk.org)

Ivory ban enforced

After the 1989 ban, the price of ivory crashed and markets in Europe and USA closed down. But some African countries called for a resumption of trade with Japan. In 1997, CITES approved the sale of up to 60 tons of ivory from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe to Japan. (bornfreeuk.org)

Conservation Status

Poaching escalated and, according to Born Free’s evidence, showed at least 6,000 elephants were killed and 17,000kg of illegal ivory was seized by customs in 1998-1999. Born Free estimated this represented just 10-20% of the total slaughter. In 2000, CITES agreed ‘no more trade’, but in 2002 gave Botswana, Namibia and South Africa permission to sell a further 60 tons of ivory stockpiles to Japan. In 2004 a proposal to further relax current restrictions on trade was put forward. (bornfreeuk.org)

Africa’s elephants
1900 – 10 million
1979 – 1.3 million
1989 – 600,000
2007 – 400,000 status: ‘Vulnerable’

May 2008 South Africa has lifted a 13-year ban on elephant culling, to reduce the pachyderm population.

Hunting elephants in Zimbabwe-2008

According to the Times of London, British hunters have been paying the Zimbabwean authorities thousands of pounds each to take part in a mass elephant cull. They are among groups of hunters who have been permitted to track and kill whole herds, including their calves, before taking

photographs of themselves with the carcasses. Rumors that Zimbabwe was culling its population of 80,000-100,000 elephants have been circulating for some time, but definitive proof that foreigners have been paying to be involved has emerged only now. Elephant culls are highly controversial. They typically involve killing every animal in a herd, usually about a dozen strong, and they are condemned as brutal and unnecessary by many conservationists.

Elephants Communicate over Long Distances

“It’s believed that elephants can hear storms as much as 100 to 150 miles (160 to 240 kilometers) away,” said Michael Garstang, a meteorologist at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, quoted in the National Geographic News. “When culling was being done in some of the parks, the elephants could clearly detect and identify the thump-thump-thump sound of the helicopter blades from 80 to 90 miles (130 to 140 kilometers) away, identify it as danger, and take off in the opposite direction.”

Solutions

According to a collaborative group of researchers collectively called The Elephant Contraception Project, to control the size of elephant populations, wildlife managers have tried translocating groups of animals, but this is expensive and often ineffective. Attempts to disperse concentrations of elephants along major rivers by providing additional waterholes elsewhere have met with limited success because forage is not available. (elephantcare.org)

A long-lasting, single-dose contraceptive vaccine could become a powerful management tool for the non-lethal, humane control of elephant populations. Researchers have developed a vaccine that has delivered multi-year contraception in several species of deer, seals, and horses. They are currently scheduling field tests in South Africa and Botswana to verify whether this technology will provide long-lasting contraception for African elephants. (www.elephantcare.org/culling.htm)

*Zula was born in
Africa in 1975.*
(stock photo)



An orphaned Zula was shipped to the U.S.

*In 1978, Zula was sent
to Chehaw Wild Animal
Park in Albany, GA with
Tange, also an orphan.
They were put on
exhibit for 25 years.*

Her family was culled when she was an infant.
(stock photo)



*In 2004, Zula (and Tange) arrived
at The Elephant Sanctuary.*

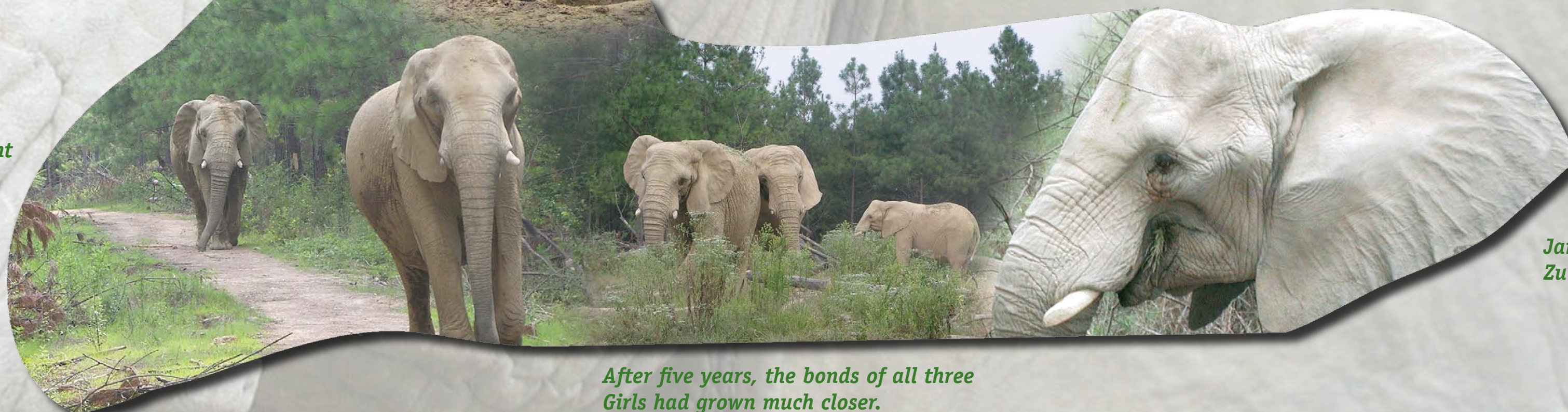
With 300 acres, there was plenty to explore!

*When Flora arrived to make it a threesome, Tange assumed
the role of the good natured go-between, while Zula and Flora
both eyed the role of herd matriarch.*

Zula was a master at digging mud wallows!



*Each day brought
new adventures.
Wandering
further from
the barn;
reconnecting
with their wild
beginnings.*



*After five years, the bonds of all three
Girls had grown much closer.*

*January 11, 2009
Zula passed away.*