

example in overcoming her fears at her own pace! It takes a strong individual to come back from such loss and suffering as experienced by Billie, who for nearly ten years was held like a criminal, feared by her captors and treated like a killer.

In honor of Billie's life and courage and her willingness to try and trust people again, we bring you into Billie's life, up-close and personal, so you can see for yourself what an amazing transformation she has made so far.

Billie, we love you. This one is for you!

Billie's Day

Eleanor and Andy, sleeping comfortably on their recently donated beds, mimic Debbie and Ronnie's gentle rhythmic breathing as they too, in deep slumber, sleep. The entire barn population—canine, feline and pachyderm—breath a synchronized inhale and gently exhale. Someone is dreaming, emitting dreamy bursts of distant trumpets, gently vibrating off the walls and ricocheting between corral pipes. Andy, having been brought out of his dream state, hesitantly opens one eye, scanning the area in his immediate view, not sure if he is ready to rise and begin the day. Eleanor, responding to something sensed by Andy, lifts her head, revealing the sagging lip that brings so much character to her Bassett Hound face.

The barn itself feels as if it is in the wakening state. Lizzie fluffs her last few coveted trunkfuls of hay, then freezes at the appearance of Andy and Eleanor who have entered her stall to quietly rummage through the loose hay, sniffing for any discarded tidbits of produce. Lizzie knows the routine; she perks up, head held high, eyes wide open in pleasant anticipation of the buzzing activity that will soon fill the barn. Still, Debbie and Ronnie sleep. Queenie is leaning her ample buttocks on the corral pipe, standing only feet from Lottie. Both have their eyes closed, trunks dangling limp, the ends curled snake-like on the ground underneath them, their minds no doubt far, far away from this earthly plane. Billie is absorbed with gently dragging a short branch of hickory across the face of a mess gate, creating her own original piece of music that only a mother could appreciate.

Billie

This past New Year's Eve, Sanctuary members who participated in our online virtual New Year's Eve party were asked the question: Which Sanctuary elephant do you identify with most and why? The responses were heartwarming and exceedingly insightful. The ways that captive elephants impact people's lives is varied, personal and many times life-changing. Some who responded to the question shared that the connection they felt with one of the Sanctuary elephants had actually saved their lives. It was not surprising that several Sanctuary supporters chose Billie as the elephant that they most identified with, remarking that they loved her courageous

Elephant Sanctuary

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Our Mission

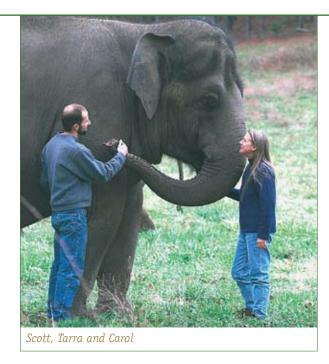
The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, founded in 1995, is the nation's largest natural-habitat refuge developed specifically for endangered elephants. It operates on 2,700 acres in Hohenwald, Tennessee—85 miles southwest of Nashville.

The Elephant Sanctuary exists for two reasons:

- To provide a haven for old, sick, or needy elephants in a setting of green pastures, hardwood forests, spring-fed ponds, and heated barns for cold winter nights.
- To provide education about the crisis facing these social, sensitive, passionately intense, playful, complex, exceedingly intelligent, and endangered creatures.

To learn more about The Elephant Sanctuary and all of the resident elephants, visit:

www.elephants.com



Directors' Voice

We are in the glorious season of storms; wild gusting winds howling through the treetops, toppling many, sparing even more. After months with no rain, we are finally receiving a welcome return of exhilarating rain showers accompanied by what we believe to be the most spectacular lightning shows on the planet.

The peepers are already out announcing that the world of frogs is alive and about to burst into full chorus. When we glance back at 2007, we are ever thankful for so many things, but most especially for the blessings bestowed upon us by our avid supporters, our thriving families of elephants, and the promise of a blindingly bright future. All of our hopes and dreams would be near impossible to manifest without all of the wonderful people who care about the welfare of captive elephants.

As we write these words our sweet Delhi rests comfortably in her bed of shavings with her family attentively watching over her. Delhi is dying. Caregivers and elephants alike feel her slipping away, but there is no sadness here, only joy, for the gift of knowing this magnificent Being. Delhi is 62 years old and has lived a full life. She is making this sacred journey with such grace, continuing even now to bestow her gifts of wisdom upon us. It is our great privilege to care for Delhi until it is her time to go. \gg

Namaste dear Delhi, Carol & Scott



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Billie's Day (cont.)

Julia has arrived on grounds; the engine vibration of her car reaches into the subconsciousness of all the critters in the barn. Most shift and stretch and slowly wake, but Debbie and Ronnie remain asleep, back to back, in their own dreamland. The dogs are first to greet their human companion who they know will hand out pets and breakfast to them first. Julia does her best to keep the canine chatter to a minimum so as not to disturb any slumbering pachyderms. But this morning Chloe cannot contain her excitement and Higgins is feeling full of energy, demanding he gets first pets. The shift in energy and noise level draws the elephants further from their slumber. Minnie rises, but not before she takes one huge deep breath and expels a long trumpet in a perfect C pitch! Billie's solo percussion concert burst into full volume, complete with gate rattling and drum-like pounding. Billie is a master at this art form.

Breakfast is served as Julia wheels the food cart into the barn and pushes it along the front of each stall. The girls anticipate their individualized container of grain and produce laced with nutritious supplements, each diet specially mixed for each elephant. The girls are focused on their food, mixing the fresh hay with the molassesdripping grain to make tasty grain sandwiches. Billie mixes everything together: the grain, bits of hay, whole apples and bananas. The oranges are pushed to the side and eaten only after she has successfully cleaned the floor of even a drop of molasses. With a swift, smooth motion, she plops the oranges into her mouth in quick succession and chews absentmindedly. Billie is given her plastic treat container, (her favorite toy), filled with small bits of cut up apple and carrots, which keeps her occupied as Frieda and Lizzie finish their breakfast in peace.



Billie is in a playful mood. Joining Liz and Frieda in the adjacent stall, she greets her dear friends with nonstop chirping. She has only been separated from her friends for five minutes, but to these girls, a minute of separation can feel like a year. With the exception of meal time, separation from loved ones is never a welcomed experience. Billie glides across the stall, pirouettes, gently landing against her two best friends, waving a small pine branch in her mouth. All three erupt into spinning tops of squeaks and high pitched singing, and then suddenly freeze, facing the outside gate. The overnight temp was chilly and the overhead doors were closed, insuring a toasty warm barn for the threesome, but at 7:30 a.m. it is a gorgeous winter morning. With the gentle announcement "I'm opening the door, ladies," Julia activates the overhead door, which instantly and nearly silently rises, exposing what the skylights promise—a bright sunny morning. As Julia pushes open the gate at the end of the outside alleyway, Billie squeaks and ever so gently squeezes her bulk between her two friends and the access door so that she is first to taste the morning air.

Simultaneously, from a distance of a mere mile, Delhi places herself to be first out into the sunshine. She stares at the overhead, willing it to open, and as she fully expected, it rises silently as Kat's voice announces the dawn of a new day. Delhi's face is inches from the gate as the locking pin is released, and the gate that divides her from the freedom she thrives on glides open. Slowly, carefully and with much anticipation of what she is assured will await her, Delhi leaves the barn as Misty and Dulary trumpet and spin around each other. Silly is their world and animation is their pastime, adamant that they will be right along side their dear friend Delhi as she enters the habitat. Once reunited outside, Delhi stands her ground as her young fans race around her in circles—chirping, trumpeting, and competing for her attention. Nearly an hour ago, Shirley and Bunny slipped off over the hill in pursuit of the perfect napping spot in a wind-protected, tree-lined pasture. They much prefer sleeping on Mother Nature's mattress than on a barn floor any day, no matter how thick the shavings are. Bela has dashed off, chasing real and imagined threats. She takes her job seriously, protecting the love of her life, Tarra, so the two can safely explore their world.

Down the road in Africa, Flora is nearly halfway out the barn door when she stops in her tracks, steps back, and drops her trunk into the automatic waterer, taking one last, long drink before she heads out into her personal paradise—Flora's Acres. With grace and confidence she emerges, dwarfing the barn with her presence. Nonchalantly, she heads in the direction of the nearby dirt pile, but freezes, ears out, trunk raised and eyes

Billie, Frieda and Lizzie

focused. Standing on the other side of her personal earth mound covered in said earth is Tange. For a split second they are motionless and then the air erupts with a blast of trumpets and the indescribable sound of their massive ears slapping against their leathered hides. They raise their heads and race directly for each other. As they get close, Tange does her brain-rattling head shake, ears billowing, twisting almost inside out, and Flora reaches out a friendly trunk touch—a sweet and sensitive greeting. Only minutes before, they were stroking each other through the corral inside the barn, but this is different; they are now outside, acting as if light years have passed, every minute like a new day and every encounter the opportunity to act out and engage anew. Within the blink of an eye, they are both wallowing in the fresh pile of rich Tennessee earth, pushing with determination on the many logs that are scattered around. Zula watches from a distance, reflective, ever observant, calmly munching on some dormant indigenous vegetation.

Back at the Q Barn, a small flock of male and female cardinals swoop down just as Billie passes through the alley. They have discovered the seeds and grain pods from the uneaten hay. As the threesome move in unison down the hill towards the pond, the river otter dives deep and races to the safety of his underwater house, which he wisely built on the opposite side of the pond.

Billie's morning routine is quite different now than even six months ago. Visually fearful upon her arrival, it took Billie many months and endless encouragement, not to mention the installation of additional fencing, to help her feel safe. Billie does seem to attract bullies and in her captive life she has unfortunately been a victim of disgruntled elephants and cowardly trainers. Billie is most comfortable with an escape route and a plan. Prior to the construction of additional fencing to enlarge the section of the habitat that she, Liz and Frieda preferred, Billie spent most of her day perched on a hill behind the barn where she could watch all of the other elephants! With the new expanded corrals around the pond and night yard, Billie confidently leads the way across the pond yard pasture each morning. This morning, Billie walks cautiously as the ground is saturated following an overnight rainstorm. A large herd of whitetail deer scamper to and fro, youngsters playing tag while the watchful adults savor the grain left by the elephants. Billie spins around and blows a caution trumpet towards Miai, Java and Jessie, three of the Sanctuary's rescued canines who, on their morning romp, have caught Billie by surprise. Miai leaps to the side, passing Billie at a respectful distance. Billie raises her head in mighty confidence. The threesome freeze, their ears flared in the direction the dogs have gone. A flock of wild turkeys sprint across the open pasture, silently lifting off into flight and landing several hundred yards away in the black oak trees at the edge of the pasture.

There is a staff meeting in the Q Barn office. The day has warmed and the office windows are slightly open. Julia glances over her shoulder towards the pasture; a smile spreads across her face as she excuses herself from the meeting to bring hay to the threesome. A few minutes later, the meeting is again interrupted; this time it is Sandra and Kat who smile at the familiar sound of elephants being playful as Billie greets Julia. The four-wheeler engine revsthe threesome freeze. A split second later they burst into action. Lizzie in the lead, mock charging, with comrades Billie and Frieda following close behind. The sound of the engine, combined with encouragement from Julia, has become a favorite sport for the girls and a bonding time for all. Lizzie imitates the cheek click of an equine rider while Frieda squeaks and Billie chirps—the resulting harmony is intoxicating. Lizzie is the first to get to the four-wheeler. She gracefully spins around, greeting the others as they catch up with her. They become entwined tails and trunks as Julia drops a fresh bale of hay. When Julia returns to the meeting, Kat and Sandra are sharing stories of their recent elephant vocalization experiences with Tange, Zula and Misty.

Minnie is bored. Lottie and Queenie are sleeping but Minnie is full of energy. She sees Billie, Liz and Frieda close to the fence line and approaches. Today Billie is in no mood to deal with Minnie, even over the fence, so she makes her



Zula & Tange play with a favorite toy

Delhi enjoying her foot soaks

Ronnie and Queenie greet

way to the far side of the expanded yard and up into the trees where she feels reasonably safe from Minnie. Traumatic experiences can leave an indelible imprint on the brain. From Billie's reaction when Minnie approaches, the two must have had some altercation in the past. Or maybe Minnie just reminds Billie of a loud tractor. As Billie retreats, Lizzie approaches Minnie and shares gentle trunk touches. Minnie demands submission and Lizzie obliges her; Frieda stands a fair distance back as the two interact. In search of more stimulating company, Minnie turns and walks away. Once Minnie is a distance away and obviously engaged in other activity, Billie cautiously rejoins her friends. They excitedly touch and talk and slowly settle back into their comfortable afternoon rhythm of napping, sunning and grazing.

Lottie and Queenie wake to find that Minnie has disappeared. Lottie sets out in her frantic search and finds Minnie engaged with a forty-foot long piece of grapevine. Lottie's posture and intensity relaxes. She reaches up to gently touch Minnie's cheek—the affectionate gesture is returned. Queenie comes limping over, squeaking her song, squirming between Minnie and Lottie, soliciting and offering affection as well. Minnie picks up one end of the grapevine and tosses it over her head, catching part of it between her legs while another part lands over Lottie's ear. Queenie takes a few quick steps away and starts grazing on the stemmy vegetation growing along the creek bank.

Debbie and Ronnie have wandered up past the castle gate. They are standing in a sun-drenched clearing, soaking up the sun and the privacy. A red-tailed hawk circles overhead and calls out. Ronnie glances up, raising a trunkful of grass skyward as Debbie remains dreamy. Kelly arrives with some fresh hay and Ronnie heads for the four-wheeler. Debbie remains still and waits for the four-wheeler to come to her.

Late afternoon, Julia notices Billie's ears fan out wide. Even the staff can hear the unmistakable sounds of Bunny, her vocalizations floating on the air current from the Asian habitat. Although it seems far away and out of sight, the Asian perimeter is just a mile from the quarantine barn; close for elephants in terms of communicating.

As dusk approaches, a large prehistoric figure sweeps over Billie into the lower pond. It's the local great blue heron, come to fish at his pond. The heron perches on a tree branch stripped bare of leaves and is silhouetted by the setting sun and the shadows of elephants slowly making their way back into the barn.

Kelly reports the elephants' progress returning to the barn and opens the alley gate. Billie hears the clang of the gate and turns towards the barn. Sunset is the trigger for Billie, Liz and Frieda to return to the barn. Interestingly, it is the quality of light as well as the temperature that dictates their migration to and from the barn.



Billie, Frieda & Liz

Two of the Q Barn cats, Monroe and Rusty, who had been soaking up the last rays of sun in the prime sunning spot outside the barn door, quickly scatter. The third barn cat, Cali, sleeps through the commotion on the Q Barn office copy machine, snuggled in a double layer of generously-donated cat beds.

Higgins, the senior member of the Q Barn canine family, reprises his role from "The Urban Elephant" as Frieda and Billie drive him into the alley. When he finally realizes he is directly in the elephants' path, he scampers out of the way, only momentarily interrupted from his search for discarded potatoes, his favorite treat.

Kate is on the phone in the Q Barn office when she hears the familiar sound of Billie's inside stall gate closing. This indicates dinner time and the beginning of a standard routine for caregiver and elephants alike—it runs like clockwork. Usually what follows is a very loud banging coming from Billie's stall, steadily becoming louder and louder and more insistent. The person on the other end of the phone has no idea what the noise is but can easily hear it and asks, "What is that noise?" Kate grins and replies, "Oh, that is beautiful Billie and it must be dinnertime." Billie is the dinner bell, making sure that the caregivers know that it is definitely time for the delicious meal of corn, onions, broccoli, carrots, cabbage, potatoes and grain. The rhythmic banging continues, a nightly ritual, and then abruptly stops. Kate is able to complete her conversation in relative quiet until she hears the gentle sound of an empty plastic food bin. Billie is pushing hers around, flipping it over and over with her trunk to extract every last morsel. Then, the banging starts again; dinner is over and Billie wants to rejoin Liz and Frieda. But on this particular evening, nothing is normal since Lizzie decides to stay outside when Billie and Frieda come inside for dinner. Billie's dinner bell ringing begins as anticipated. At first thought, the trumpeting that follows sounds like play,

Billie's Day (cont.)

but when Billie picks up her stall toys and throws them around the stall and the noise increases to a fevered pitch, it's clear Billie is anxious. Liz is not in the barn and Billie is obviously uncomfortable with the situation. Julia opens Billie's stall door. Before it is even completely open, Billie dashes into Frieda's stall, frantically touching her all over. By this time, Billie's vocalizations are nearly hysterical. After just a short reassuring hesitation with Frieda, Billie spins around, and, with Frieda on her heels, runs out of the barn and down the alleyway, trumpeting loudly in search of Lizzie.

She and Frieda run into the night yard and frantically make their way out to the clump of trees where Liz is recovering from an upset stomach. Ele-cam viewers get a rare opportunity to watch Billie at close range and memorize the bump on her trunk, her light colored skin and the distinctive shape of her ears. Billie slowly approaches Liz and gently touches her all over, including around her tummy. Reassured, Billie begins to graze. How amazing this is—Billie, who used to be scared of her own shadow, is now outside in the dark at 6:30 p.m.—driven by the love and concern for her family.

As the darkness deepens, a pack of coyotes breaks into song—Minnie, Lottie and Queenie join in. Queenie starts with her signature nonstop squeaking, the rhythm section, which draws you in while Minnie belts out a serious trumpet solo. Lottie ties the piece together by interjecting her feather light chattering, moments of silence followed by more chatter. Far in the distance, in an almost eerie type of continuum, Tange, Zula and Flora can be heard adding their voices to the chorus. The resulting compilation is a wildlife symphony extraordinaire.

The tractor engine fires up as Julia prepares to bring the manure spreader up to the barn. In the past, Billie might startle, even run for cover to the nearest wooded area, but today, she glances confidently in the direction of the familiar noise. Watching her reaction now, we are relieved and grateful for her lack of fear. Whatever abuse was brought upon her to cause such fear of tractors had to have been unthinkable. Rumors abound about the vile way in which Billie was treated before coming to the Sanctuary; if any are true, Billie has every right to be frightened by the sound of an approaching tractor. Fortunately, over the past two years, Billie has had much opportunity to see and hear tractors without experiencing pain and as a result is no longer frightened by them. Slowly she saunters towards the barn, trunk hovering centimeters above the ground, sniffing for tidbits of surprise treats along her path. She stops, digs her trunk deep into the center of

a patch of briars and plucks a tiny berry, pops it into her mouth with tremendous precision, and proceeds on. The shadowy silhouette of Liz and Frieda float like mighty ghosts, silently following in Billie's footsteps. All three reach the alleyway to the barn and Liz makes her move to slide in front of Billie. But Billie savors the lead and effortlessly edges Lizzie out—maintaining her control with a twinkle in her eye and that endearing Beauty-Billie grin on her face.

Scott is in the Q Barn repairing a locking mechanism on one of the inside gates. Billie spots him and immediately lets out an excited chirp. Scott responds in his soothing, attentive way and Billie melts. Although they don't see each other often, Billie has a special fondness for Scott. Perhaps it started when Scott first met her at the Hawthorn barn during the tragic time when Sue died. Scott stayed with Sue night and day for two weeks, working tirelessly with Dr. Mikota trying to save Sue's life. Billie was confined in a tiny cage during the whole ordeal, watching her sister fight for her life. Scott's compassion not only for Sue but for Billie and all of the elephants was apparent and did not go unnoticed by the elephants who were most frightened in that environment. Billie did not forget Scott's kindness.

It's 9 p.m. and the Q barn is peacefully quiet except for one playful elephant. First, there is gate banging, then silly squeaking, followed by the sound of the suspended tire toy sliding down the overhead track and smacking into the opposite wall with a thud. Angela is on the second shift. She checks to be sure everyone has ample hay and confirms what she already knows; it is Billie having a blast slamming her suspended toy back and forth across the stall.

Billie has taught us a great and valuable lesson; time truly can heal all wounds. \Leftrightarrow



Billie playing with Minnie's toys

Elephant Health & Welfare Institute

Under the supervision of Dr. Susan Mikota, this year the Sanctuary acquired equipment to begin setting up the lab for its newly-formed Elephant Health & Welfare Institute. The purpose of this endeavor is to develop better diagonostics and treatments for diseases that plague captive elephants.

Thanks to many donations from underwriters, we were able to obtain cabinets, a microscope, and many other much-needed items including the generous loan of a VetScan Chemistry Analyzer from the Abaxis Company. This latest acquisition has enabled Dr. Mikota to make the Institute fully functional. Stored samples from our elephants at all three barns have now been collected and organized in a central inventory. These banked samples (mostly serum) are very important and can be used for various studies to learn more about elephants and the problems that affect them, including, but not limited to, tuberculosis.

In addition, what began as a product demonstration of portable digital x-ray equipment is now a permanent part of the Elephant Sanctuary's health care equipment. This portable, state-of-the-art machine allows us to x-ray all of the elephants' feet, even when they are out in the habitat. Foot problems and arthritis remain one of the most serious problems for captive elephants today. This x-ray equipment will let us detect problems that are developing even before an elephant shows symptoms and can enable us to begin treatment earlier.

There are obvious benefits to creating the Elephant Health & Welfare Institute. While this on-site resource is invaluable in facilitating the non-invasive monitoring of the health of our elephants, the efforts of this Institute will actually be much more far reaching. Knowledge gained from some of Dr. Mikota's research is already being shared in the diagnosis and treatment of other elephants worldwide. We are very excited about the prospects for improved captive elephant health and the contribution our program can make. \gg

New TB Test Now Licensed by USDA

In August 2007 the USDA licensed the Elephant TB-STAT-PAK[®] Assay, a serological test that detects antibodies to TB. This is a screening test that can be confirmed by the Multi-Antigen Print Immuno Assay (MAPIA). (Lyaschenko 2000 and www.elephantcare.org).

This test is designed to rapidly (under twenty minutes) detect tuberculosis (TB) in both Asian and African elephants. Guidelines for the Control of Tuberculosis in Elephants were first developed and accepted as a policy by the USDA in 1998. The only available diagnostic test for TB in elephants was mycobacterial culture of trunk wash specimens, a procedure similar to obtaining a sputum sample for TB in humans. There is considerable evidence that this method has poor sensitivity and may only identify animals with extensive shedding of the organisms which typically occurs late in the disease. Recent published studies indicate that the MAPIA serology is able to detect TB in elephants as much as four years prior to a culture of TB from trunk washes. The current 2007 proposed Elephant TB Guidelines, under review by the TB subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA), recommend incorporating this test as an integral component in monitoring and managing TB in the US elephant population. (Chembio, Dec 1, 2007) \gg

Education Gallery & Welcome Center Update

In May of 2007, The Elephant Sanctuary purchased two buildings on Main Street in Hohenwald, TN, for the purpose of creating a downtown Welcome Center—Phase I in the development of The Elephant Sanctuary's Learning Center. This Welcome Center will contain educational exhibits, a visitor's center, small theatre and a gift shop, as well as the Sanctuary's new administrative offices.

For this project, the Sanctuary has partnered with the city of Hohenwald to help revitalize their downtown district, helping to preserve its historical features while attracting new visitors and commerce. Through this partnership, Manuel Zeitlin Architects has not only designed an innovative space for our Center, but has provided complimentary plans for a facelift of the city's public parking lot and public arcade. The city will be financing their renovations which are both adjacent to our proposed facility.

A groundbreaking event took place in October 2007 to announce our plans, and we were thrilled to see such a wonderful community turnout. It is heartening to see attitudes begin to shift, with more and more people realizing that "seeing" an elephant has clearly not been successful in either public education or species conservation in the wild. Our challenge with the Education Gallery & Welcome Center is to create an experience where visitors and supporters will walk away with a greater understanding and respect for elephants, without having compromised the freedom of one single elephant.

In accordance with our respect for nature, we are pleased to be designing this Center with "green" values in mind, using recycled and energy-efficient materials wherever possible. If all goes well, we hope to become the first "LEED" (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified facility in both the city and county. Construction and a major capital fundraising campaign will begin soon, with plans to have the new facility open and operational sometime later this year. The Sanctuary is currently seeking corporations and organizations interested in helping to underwrite this project. Please contact us if you would like to become a sponsor. ≫

Many Organizations Fight for the Welfare of Captive Elephants

Maggie



Maggie at PAWS

Photo: Ed Stewart

Maggie a twenty-five year old African elephant, the sole elephant at the Alaska Zoo, found Sanctuary in November 2007 at PAWS in California. After going down twice in her stall in May 2007, and with mounting public pressure, the Alaska Zoo finally retired Maggie. According to PAWS website: *After weeks of preparation and training, at approximately 1:00 pm on Thursday, November 1st, Maggie walked calmly into her specially designed crate, the doors were closed behind her at 1:30 pm, and the crate with its precious cargo was lifted by a giant crane onto the truck that would take Maggie to her special Air Force plane for her flight to California. Maggie trumpeted farewell as the truck pulled out of the back of the zoo. Follow up reports regarding Maggie's recovery can be viewed on PAWS website. www.pawsweb.org \gg*

Lucy

According to Zoocheck Canada, in 2006, on Zoocheck Canada's behalf, Kenyan elephant biologist Winnie Kiiru conducted an inspection of all elephant facilities in Canadian zoos. While Ms. Kiiru reported that all of the elephants she observed were living in conditions that failed to satisfy a full range of their biological and behavioural needs, she identified Lucy and Samantha at the Edmonton Valley Zoo as being in the most problematic situation. Her conclusion was based on the fact that Edmonton's climate is unsuitable for elephants, their social environment was entirely inappropriate, there was insufficient space for the elephants to express natural movements and behaviours and their physical state appeared poor.

Upon receiving Ms. Kiiru's completed report, Zoocheck initiated a campaign, in association with Edmonton's Voice

for Animals, aimed at bringing the plight of Lucy and Samantha to public attention and to convince the zoo to transfer both elephants to an elephant sanctuary in the United States.

During this campaign, medical records were obtained from the zoo through the Freedom of Information process. Lucy, the female Asian elephant captured in Sri Lanka in 1975 and probably born that same year, was found to be suffering from chronic arthritis and foot problems—a leading cause of death in zoo elephants. Zoocheck's observations also revealed that she was lethargic and exhibiting pronounced stereotypic behaviours, such as swaying and rocking typically a sign of frustration, boredom and stress.

Zoocheck Canada further reported that after reviewing the 2005-2006 Environment Canada climate records for Edmonton, they estimate that Lucy and Samantha were locked indoors more than 75% of the time. This estimate is based on the zoo's own policy of only allowing the elephants outdoors when the temperature rises above 10° C, and the fact that the elephants are kept indoors during non-visitor hours.

In April 2007, Zoocheck and Voice for Animals conducted a two day behavioral study of Lucy and Samantha. Using a behavioral checklist, the study found both elephants spent the vast majority of their time standing. Lucy remained relatively inactive and stationary, except for a one period in which zoo staff walked her through the zoo grounds.



Lucy at the Edmonton Zoo in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

During the observation period Samantha made many attempts to socialize with Lucy to no avail. Representatives of Zoocheck and Voice for Animals met with a number of City of Edmonton councillors, as well as other residents of Edmonton, to discuss concerns about Lucy and Samantha. Those talks are ongoing. According to Zoocheck Canada, in the spring of 2007, the Valley Zoo announced that they will be sending Samantha to the North Carolina Zoo on a breeding loan. She may be away for five years or more. Samantha left the zoo by truck on Tuesday September 25th. Zoocheck (www.zoocheck.com) and Voice for Animals is continuing to highlight the plight of Lucy and will do everything possible to facilitate her relocation to spacious, natural conditions at The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee. The Edmonton Humane Society is responsible for enforcing the regulations assuring the elephant's social and other needs, and the City of Edmonton owns the Edmonton Valley Zoo. \gg

Tina & Jewel

According to In Defense of Animals (www.idausa.org) Tina and Jewel are Asian elephants in their early forties who have endured lives of hardship traveling with the circus. They were ordered off the road by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) this past March, following many months of being observed to be looking "gaunt, sick, and broken." The USDA expressed concern at that time that travel would do further damage to their already precarious health and that the public health was potentially threatened by their un-diagnosed condition. They were transported to an unauthorized facility in Leggett, Texas, where In Defense of Animals (IDA) found them in July, in possession of a USDA licensee with a history of violations.

IDA learned in November that the USDA had lifted its travel restrictions on these elephants. Along with a third elephant, Queenie, Tina and Jewel were trucked to New Orleans, LA, where they were giving elephant rides in a parking lot with the Kingford Circus. At IDA's request, Jeff Dorson, director of the Humane Society of Louisiana, inspected them and found "...three downtrodden-looking elephants, at least one of whom was notably underweight, chained under grim conditions at this rundown circus." IDA reports that the current whereabouts of the elephants are unknown. The cause of Tina and Jewel's health crisis was never determined, and that while there may have been some slight weight gain, they are still clearly suffering and in dire need of diagnosis and veterinary care.

IDA claims to have obtained information suggesting that Tina and Jewel, rather than being leased as represented, were actually sold without the required permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), in flagrant violation of the Endangered Species Act, and that the USDA is aware of the illegal sale. The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee stands ready to accept Tina and Jewel. To learn more about the plight of Tina and Jewel, visit www.idausa.org. \gg



Tina and Jewel

Photo: C. Horwich

Lawsuit Filed Against Ringling Brothers/Feld Entertainment

Four organizations—The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, The Fund for Animals, the Animal Welfare Institute, and the Animal Protection Institute—are currently litigating a case under the Endangered Species Act against Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus and its parent company, Feld Entertainment, regarding the circus's mistreatment of Asian elephants. The groups are joined in the lawsuit by a former Ringling Bros. employee, Tom Rider, who worked as a barn man for the elephants for two and a half years.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits any activity that "takes" a species listed as endangered under the Act. This includes acts that "harm, wound, injure, harass, or kill" an endangered species, including those in the wild as well as in captivity. The Asian elephant is currently listed as an endangered species. Elephants—and especially baby elephants— are an extremely popular commercial attraction, and bring in millions of dollars of revenue each year for Ringling Bros. The elephants, who in the wild travel in highly socialized matriarchal herds and walk many miles each day, perform fifty weeks out of every year in the Ringling Bros. circus, traveling in train cars—chained—from city to city.

The lawsuit alleges that the forceful use of bull hooks —large rods with sharp points—to train and control the animals and the constant chaining and confinement of the animals unlawfully "takes" the Asian elephants in violation of the ESA. Carol Buckley, Executive Director of The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee has been asked to be an expert in the case, and expects to testify when the case goes to trial. \gg

Information furnished by Tracy Silverman, Animal Welfare Institute.

Ways You Can Help the Sanctuary



You can contribute in as many ways as you'd like, in your own name or in honor or memory of a friend or family member. Contributions can be on a one-time basis or once a month for as long as you specify.

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee is a non-profit 501(C)(3) corporation. Your donations to any of the programs below are tax deductible.

Use the form on the enclosed envelope to provide information and indicate which giving program you have chosen. Be sure to include the name and address for any "In Honor" gifts so we can send the honoree(s) a certificate and Trunklines.

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Choose your level and become part of the nation's largest natural-habitat sanctuary for old, sick, and needy elephants retired from circuses and zoos. Members receive a certificate and subscription to Trunklines for a year. Give a membership as a gift and you also get an elephants.com sticker for your window.

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Just tell us which elephant you'd like to feed and how often. Every "Feed for a Day" donor receives a certificate and a bio with a picture of the elephant(s) you fed.

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____(# of days) x _____ (# of elephants) = \$_ \$30 x _ \$15 T-shirt ~ (includes shipping/handling) & b/w photo of your favorite elephant :\$

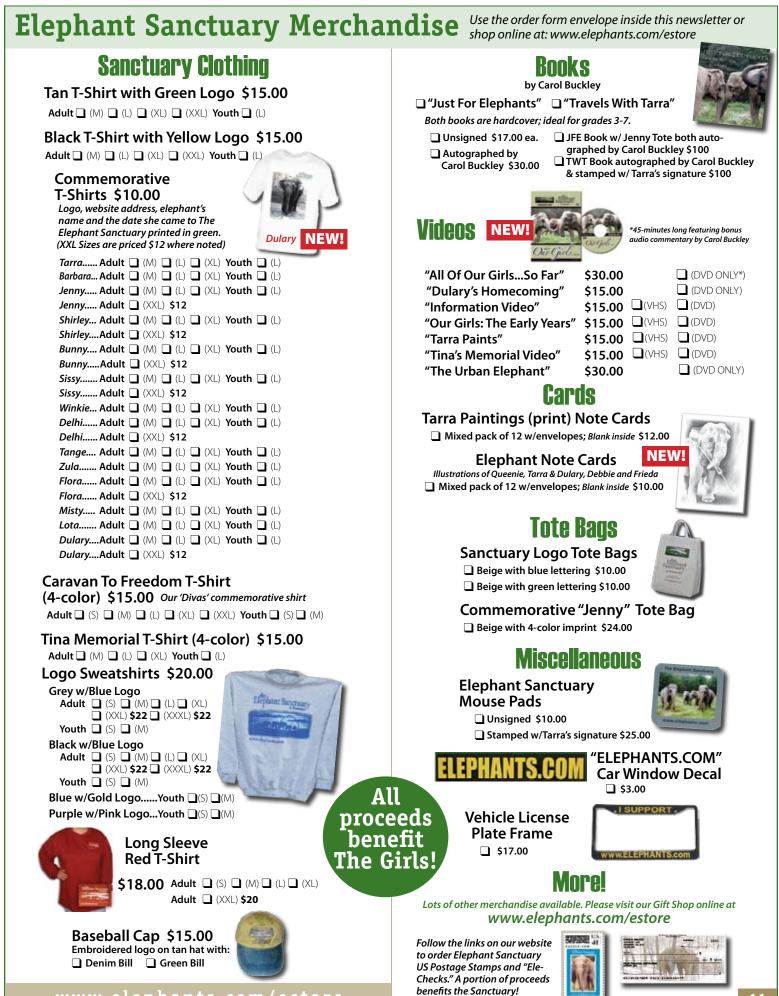
Name of Elephant

*Note: Divas' t-shirt is the Caravan to Freedom design.

Acres for Elephants

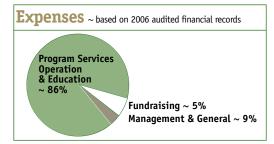
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Spay/Neuter for Lewis County, Tennessee's Canine/Feline Population

We could not love our Sanctuary dogs and cats more, but with over thirty-five rescued companions, we are more than at capacity and the situation of pet overpopulation in Lewis County is serious. The Elephant



Sanctuary and volunteers from the High Forest Humane Society have been meeting for months to form plans for a low cost bi-monthly spay-neuter clinic in Lewis County.

The need is great, as there are many homeless animals. Humane Society representatives have met with Hohenwald mayor Don Jones and County representatives to garner their support. A location has been identified and Dr. Susan Mikota has agreed to provide veterinary services, along with consultation on equipment needs. The Elephant Sanctuary will provide funding for the program. We fully recognize that our formal mission does not include the welfare of dogs and cats, but we are acutely aware of our responsibility to all suffering creatures, especially those in our own community. To help or find out more information, please contact highforesthumane@bellsouth.net

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

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