

The Elephant Sanctuary (TES) would like to respond to concerns expressed by AZA spokespersons and AZA member institutions.

#### **Vet Care**

As a USDA, APHIS permit holder, The Elephant Sanctuary is required by law to abide by regulations established and enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Care. The USDA's regulations mandate requirements for vet care, diet, housing, management, transport, record keeping, etc. Upon inspection by the USDA over its nine-year existence, the Sanctuary has always been in complete compliance with the law and has never had a noncompliance issue. The public would be surprised to discover that few if any zoos have the same clean record.

#### **Financial Stability**

The Elephant Sanctuary has a solid record of annually increasing revenue and financial support from its member base, which currently stands at 35,000. The budget for 2004 is \$1.5 million. Current revenue to date has exceeded our 2003 revenue by 182 percent. Our finances are audited annually by an independent audit firm and available to the public upon request. The Sanctuary experiences a stable and increasing funding base allowing it to continue its mission to assist sick and needy elephants.

#### **Weather**

*Elephants come from habitats where the temperatures range from 30 to 110 degrees F.* Data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows that in **January 2004, our coldest month of the year, the average high was 48.5 degrees F.** Two days were in the 70s, three were in the 60s, ten were in the 50s, and the rest were in the 30s and 40s. **Our average high in February was 50.3 degrees F.** We started the month at 55 degrees and ended it at 66 degrees. As anyone who has visited central Tennessee knows, the rest of our calendar year ranges from mild to hot.