



Do Fence Me In—New Elephant Corral and Fence

After six months of construction, the new elephant corral and perimeter fence are complete. Maury Fence Company of Columbia, Tennessee may not have

known what an elephant corral looked like before this project, but now they do. Creating the 222 acre elephant enclosure appeared to be a project they enjoyed. Over hill and dale and through some

of the most beautiful wooded areas in the country, Maury Fence Company constructed a functional and impressive corral, helping the Sanctuary complete yet another goal for the year 2000.

The corral is built of steel pipe and cable. A welded steel top rail ties the entire fence system together, all 10,000 feet of it. But that is not the entire project. As required by State and Federal law, they also constructed an eight foot high chain link perimeter fence, complete with 3 strands of barb wire to prevent people from coming on grounds. The perimeter fence is 12,000 feet long and is exterior to the corral, giving the elephants an added buffer from human activity. We have to agree with the poet Robert Frost that "Good fences make good neighbors."

The Sanctuary decided not to take this

capital improvement campaign public, but instead contacted a handful of loyal supporters to enlisted their help. What a pleasure to announce that the corral



project is nearly completely funded. Of the \$265,000 price tag only \$64,000 needs to be raised. Our sincere thanks goes to the following people and organizations who generously

contributed to the elephant corral capital improvement campaign.

*Our sincere appreciation for your continued support.
Your support helps us create a better life for captive elephants.*

The Ahimsa Foundation
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Helen Brach Foundation
Bridgestone/Firestone Trust
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Marian Rozychi
Frank & Marilyn Williamson
T & T Family Foundation
Susan West



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Our Mission

The Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, founded in 1995, is the nation's only natural habitat refuge developed specifically for endangered Asian elephants. It operates on 800 acres surrounded by a 3,000-acre buffer zone in Hohenwald, Tennessee—85 miles southwest of Nashville.

It exists for two reasons:
To provide a haven for old, sick or needy elephants in a setting of green pastures old-growth forests, spring-fed ponds and a heated barn for cold winter nights.

To provide education about the crisis facing these social, sensitive, passionately intense, playful, complex, exceedingly intelligent and endangered creatures.

DIRECTORS' VOICE



Another introspective winter followed by the beginning of a glorious spring, but all is not well outside of paradise.

One would assume that the joy of caring for our herd of soulful pachyderms would insulate us from the outside world, and be reward enough, but it is not. Each day we are painfully reminded that we have not done enough to help the others. The curious e-mails asking, "Whatever happened to Lota? Is she coming to the Sanctuary?" "Are you able to help Rhanee in Europe? She has been so neglected." "What about Helen? Is she still with the circus?" brings us to a screeching halt during some of the most powerful moments with our girls. When we look into their eyes, we can't help but question, why you, and not all the others?

Oh, don't get us wrong. We are deeply grateful for the miracle of each new elephant that comes to live at the Sanctuary. Their transformations are individual and profound. Their influence on their keepers and one another is spiritually moving.

But there exists an industry that continues to manage elephants in an outdated, traditional manner. Among other ignorant proclamations, they insist that it [passive control management*] won't work. We quietly laugh, knowing that it already has. But there are so many more to help, many mindsets to expand, and lives to be changed; both human and elephant.

Elephants have suffered greatly as result of human greed, selfishness, and ignorance. Their silent obedience has been misinterpreted. They are a greater species than we; they cooperate when bullied, respond when intimidated, refrain from killing when abused, and show compassion and caring to the very persons who imprison and exploit them. No longer should their compliance be used against them.

Let this be the year of change. Let those with the power find the strength to be instrumental in moving elephant management out of the dark ages and into the light. It will not be an easy task, nor will it happen over night, but with conscience effort and conviction, change is inevitable.

Let this be the year of change.

**Passive Control - A term used to describe a non-dominant technique used in the management of elephants. Passive control can be successfully used in free-contact, protected-contact, and no-contact systems. Punishment, negative reinforcement, and tools of control, such as an ankus, are not used in passive-control management. It is important to note that without the respect and trust of the elephant, a keeper cannot work safely in this system.*

Times are Changing?



Shirley, Bunny, Winkie, Jenny, and Tarra

A keeper is fired from a well respected zoo in the Pacific North West for allegedly mistreating a young elephant.An accredited zoo in the Southwest is found in violation of USDA regulations after an alleged elephant beating that was caught on video tape.A Midwest zoo is under USDA investigation for allegedly beating an elephant sent to them on breeding loan.

What is so remarkable about all three of these situations is not that they have occurred, but that they are NOT being condoned.

Traditional elephant management allows for punishment in the form of physical retaliation by a keeper if an elephant acts in an aggressive manner toward the keeper. In the past these alleged elephant abuse cases would have been viewed as

credible management techniques.

It is important to note that this archaic mentality is not accepted in all zoos. There are a growing number of zoos that refuse to allow corporal punishment in the management of their elephants. These progressive thinkers realize that a wild beast contained in an unnatural environment, dominated physically and psychologically by

their caretakers, can be expected to lash out in rebellion and/or fear. This reality is why some institutions try to be well-versed in elephant behavior in order to avoid triggering negative behavior.

Are attitudes changing and, if so, why? Captive elephants are no different now than they were 100 years ago. The difference is that the public knows much more now. With a wealth of information available at our fingertips, elephant documentaries being released in numbers, and research about these great beast focusing on their behavior in the wild, elephants are beginning to be less a myth and better understood.

Where will all of this knowledge lead? With knowledge comes responsibility. What we learn about elephants should help us cast light on the dark and ignorant ways in which captive elephants have been managed in the past. If these intelligent and social creatures continue to be exhibited in captivity, they deserve to be afforded a life that addresses their social, behavioral, psychological, physical, and emotional needs.

Ellen in Arkansas

Several months ago The Animal Group of Little Rock, Arkansas, contacted The Elephant Sanctuary. They were interested in retiring Ellen, a 50-year-old elephant who had lived at their zoo her entire life, the past 25 years alone. The group felt Ellen had served their community well and deserved to live out her remaining days in freedom with a herd of her own. They made a presentation to the board of directors of the Little Rock Zoo requesting that Ellen be allowed to retire to The Elephant Sanctuary. The board voted to keep Ellen at the zoo. A few weeks after the citizens' appeal, the zoo acquired another 50-year-old retired circus elephant named Mary. The two are reportedly getting along quite well. The Animal Group is now trying to persuade the zoo to retire both elephants to The Elephant Sanctuary.



Ellen and Mary

The Elephants of Corbett Are Under Attack



Report From the Field by Christy Williams

In February-April 2001, a sudden outburst of illegal elephant poaching activity was reported in and around Corbett National Park. Located in the state of Uttaranchal, India, Corbett National Park is a showcase for tigers and elephants, and the location of the Elephant Sanctuary's Asian Elephant Habitat Program. Refer to <http://www.elephants.com/asias-tart.htm>.

The state of Uttaranchal was recently carved out of the existing state of Uttar Pradesh. The original state of Uttar Pradesh had 147 million people, while the population of Uttaranchal, which is 64% forest cover, has only 7 million inhabitants. The state funds and capital resources of the original state were split in proportion to the population. Regardless that Uttaranchal has the most unique and healthy herd dynamics of any wild elephant population in India (1 adult tusked male for every two females), Uttaranchal now has the daunting task of protecting their valuable resource with a mere 4% of the funds earlier available to them. This has put Uttaranchal in a crisis situation, with insufficient funds to run their anti-poaching efforts.

A gang of organized poachers, with poison tipped arrow/spears shot from a muzzle loader, killing four elephants in a short span of time. They escaped with the tusks of two of the adult elephants. Even

though four may not sound like a significant number, Corbett's is unique to any other elephant population in India. As a result, their population has become a prime target for poachers as tusked elephants have become a rare sight in many other parks in India. This kind of poaching activity can quickly escalate if left unchecked. Resources are needed immediately to protect the remaining tuskers of Corbett National Park.

What You Can do

The Elephant Sanctuary is grateful for this important field report. Researcher Christy Williams has studied the Corbett National Park region for years. He is familiar with the elephant population and the human /elephant conflict. It is Christy's contention that this elephant population is the most valuable in all of India. If we cannot save this population, there is little hope that we will be able to save the more fragmented populations that are struggling to exist throughout Southeast Asia. The Tuskers of Corbett must be protected.

To help protect the tuskers of Corbett, mail your donation to Save the Corbett Tuskers. The money raised will underwrite anti-poaching activities in Corbett National Park.

**FINALLY A
BOOK**

Tilbury House, a publisher of children's books, has made the Sanctuary an irresistible offer. Publisher Jennifer Elliott contacted Sanctuary founder/director Carol Buckley and invited her to write a children's book about her life with Tarra leading up to the beginnings of the Sanctuary. This will be the first of two children's book written by the Sanctuary's co-founder and director and published by Tilbury House. The first book will be in stores in March 2002.

15th Annual Genesis Awards Celebrate "The Year of the Elephant" with Guest of Honor Carol Buckley



Carol Buckley and Gretchen Wyler, President of the Art Trust

By Mike Winikoff, Director of Programs, The Ark Trust, Inc.

Nobody actually declared 2000 to be "The Year of the Elephant" but, as The Ark Trust reviewed submissions for the 15th Annual Genesis Awards, it became clear that this was indeed the year to make Carol Buckley of The Elephant Sanctuary our Guest of Honor.

Since 1985, the Genesis Awards has been a barometer for progress in the animal protection movement. The Ark Trust, the non-profit organization that produces the Genesis Awards, believes that the key to progress is to change minds, and that the media is our primary tool. Genesis Awards are given to members of the major media for portraying animal issues with honesty and integrity. Unfortunately, very few of our previous years' winners concerned elephants. Before last year, quality media portrayals of the plight of the elephant were few and far between.

In 2000, elephants were featured in the animal-related reporting of the major media as never before. From children's programming to news features to PBS documentaries, the media is finally exposing the harsh reality most elephants find themselves in today, both in the wild and in captivity. And, most importantly, these pieces are increasingly intelligent, another departure from previous elephant-related stories.

For example, the Genesis Award-winning PBS documentary "The Urban Elephant," part of the Nature series, gave us an unprecedented, honest look at the history of elephants held captive for human curiosity and entertainment. Filmmaker Allison Argo brilliantly showed why elephants do not belong in captivity. On the Outdoor Life Network, "Circus of Abuse – Elephants, Trainers and Tragedy" revealed the horrors of circus life for elephants in a striking and graphic way. The Wild Thornberrys, one of the most intelligent and compassionate children's series ever created, also won a Genesis Award for a

touching episode about saving wild elephants. And Nick News with Linda Ellerbee taught Nickelodeon's young viewers about the lucky elephants at The Elephant Sanctuary.

Add all this to the positive media coverage of the rescues of Sissy and Winkie and their new lives at the Sanctuary, such as the inspiring feature on Animal Planet's Wild Rescues, and you see why we considered 2000 to be "The Year of the Elephant."

Each year, as the Genesis Awards Committee chooses our winners, it also decides upon a Guest of Honor. While the actual Genesis Awards are given only to members of the media, the Guest of Honor each year is someone who has made news on behalf of animals. Past Guests of Honor have included whale-protector Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Society, anti-fur designer Oleg Cassini, and "Mad Cowboy" Howard Lyman.

As we reviewed the Genesis Award candidates, it became clear that nobody had made more positive news on behalf of animals in the year 2000 than Carol Buckley and The Elephant Sanctuary. Submission after submission featured the Sanctuary's work. When I



Gary Cosay, Carol Buckley, Gretchen Wyler, and Healy Cosay

happily nominated Carol to our awards committee as Guest of Honor, the vote was unanimous.

This year's Genesis Awards were attended by about 1,000 people, and viewed by another 2 million on the Animal Planet television network. Some of the most influential media personalities from around the world were exposed to elephant issues as never before. Dare we hope that we are finally reaching a critical mass, as a society, in our thinking about elephants held captive? Is opposition to elephant cruelty becoming the norm, rather than the exception? If so, we have people like Carol Buckley and the dedicated volunteers and employees of The Elephant Sanctuary to thank.

Elephants and Legislation

Increasingly, the Elephant Sanctuary directors have found themselves called on to speak before and give testimony to law enforcement agencies and law makers. The question surrounding the care and use of captive elephants is being debated in the halls of academia and legislation. From Washington State to Maine, hard questions are being asked. Do captive elephants pose a danger to the public? Should there be a ban restricting the transportation of performing elephants on the grounds of public safety and animal welfare? Is there a place in our modern society for the archaic practice of performing elephants?

The fact that elephants pose a potential hazard to the public cannot be disputed. In the US alone, on average, one person is killed by an elephant each year. Many more caretakers and innocent bystanders are seriously injured. These incidents, which in the past were not publicized, are now making headlines.

With both sides of the issue defended with equal fervor, it is difficult for legislators to determine what is best for their community.

Performing elephants in circuses have been a mainstay of family entertainment since the late 1800s. Ringling

Brothers Circus built an empire on small people and elephants. The Shriners have raised millions of dollars for sick children by using circuses as fundraisers.

Recently, the American Zoological Association recommended that their member institutions not use elephants for rides. Although most member institutions had stopped the questionable practice of elephant rides years before, there were some who continue to resist the AZA's recommendation. Last month the AZA announced the formulation of new elephant management standards that would "raise the bar" for elephants living in their member institutions.

With differing opinions, lawmakers have the daunting task of determining if captive elephants should be allowed access by the public. With the wealth of information available on the internet and TV, many people believe captive elephants need a change of scenery. The small, cramped quarters afforded most elephants reflect poorly on the dedication of institutions to provide the most appropriate situation for captive elephants. Legislators have the power to institute change. All of us have the right and opportunity to make our opinion heard.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

One of the challenges of providing a healthy environment for elephants is water. The Sanctuary has plenty of water and with the recent land expansion, the elephants walk great distances to seek a fresh water source.

Preparations are being made to drill two new wells in the expanded elephant habitat. These two water

sources will actually encourage the elephants to better utilize their habitat. Currently, the elephants spend most of their time in areas where water is easily available. Once the wells are installed, the elephants will spend more time in the remote areas.

Each well will cost \$4,500 to complete. If you are interested in assisting with our well project, contact Carol at 931-796-6500.

GO FIGURE

Carol Buckley travels around the country working for higher standards of welfare for captive elephants. The Elephant Managers Association (EMA), of which Carol was a Board Member and a professional member of for over 15 years, recently charged her with an ethics violation. The joke being circulated by other EMA members when informed of this bizarre accusation was, "Carol...ethics violations? Oh, because she has them?" The alleged violation was Carol speaking publicly about the abusive treatment of captive elephants.

But this is no laughing matter. The EMA ethics committee and Board of Directors decided to suspend Carol's professional membership for one year, giving her time, in their words, "to learn how to act professionally."

Carol contends that the EMA has lost its focus of

putting the welfare of captive elephants first. Instead, it appears that some elected EMA members, with questionable management methods, are being given priority protection.

For years the Sanctuary directors renewed their EMA membership in hopes that the organization would take a pro-active role in elephant welfare. Resigned to accepting that the EMA is locked in archaic tradition, the Sanctuary directors have decided to leave the EMA and endorse a new organization, the Alliance for Elephants (AFE).

Founded in early 2001, the AFE exists for the principal purpose of promoting the welfare of captive elephants. If you are interested in knowing more about this progressive organization that puts elephants first, contact Kathi Murray, AFE agent, kzuge@aol.com.

Acres for Elephants...A Gift Idea

You, or your group, can help us reach our goal of "Room to Roam" by "purchasing" one or more Square Elephants—the space necessary for an elephant to stand at rest from trunk to tail (approximately 6 ft X 12 ft)—for a mere \$2.00 per square. Certificates will be provided to give as personalized gifts.

For those wishing to contribute to relaxation, Sleepy Square Elephants—the space necessary for an elephant to lie down and take a nap (approximately 9 ft X 14 ft)—can be purchased for only \$3.00 each. For those wishing to contribute more space, we offer a Dumbo—20 SqE, or 1440 square ft, which is house size, for only \$35. Also available is a Jumbo—151 SqE, or 1/4 acre, for \$246 and a Mammoth—1 acre, for \$984.

You can be the first in your group, neighborhood, classroom, or office to "purchase" real estate and help the Sanctuary provide a safe, comfortable refuge for



retired Asian elephants. As they say in the elephant retirement and real estate business, "Location, location, location."

____ SqE
@ \$2.00 = \$ _____

____ SSqE
@ \$3.00 = \$ _____

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A Year in the Life of the Sanctuary Elephants - Another Documentary

The final year of the 20th century was full of great accomplishments and breakthroughs, not to mention an increase in elephant population. 2001 appears to be heading in the same direction. The Sanctuary is involved in several projects that will prove to be beneficial not only for the Sanctuary elephants but for increased awareness regarding all elephants, wild and captive. Allison Argo, director of the PBS program *The Urban Elephant* has taken on yet another elephant project. She is directing and producing a documentary entitled *A Year in the Life of the Sanctuary*

Elephants. While filming *The Urban Elephant*, Ms. Argo proposed her newest idea, an hour documentary exclusively about the lives of the elephants at The Elephant Sanctuary. This piece will further explore the benefits of elephants living a non-traditional captive lifestyle, a lifestyle shared by their relatives in the wild but denied them in traditional captive settings. The film will be a couple of years in the making. The debut will be announced on our web site as well as in *Trunklines*.

Tusker, the Animated Film

The animated full-length feature film, *Tusker*, is another project that has taken years to develop. The Sanctuary has worked closely with Tim Johnson of Pacific Data Images, the creator of *Tusker*, a DreamWorks Production. With the Sanctuary elephants as models, *Tusker's* animated

characters will accurately portray true elephant behavior. The leading lady in the film is named after our own Tarra. There is no doubt that Tarra's personality was the inspiration for this leading character. Look for *Tusker* to be in your local theater in 2002.

Time to Grow Again

It's true. It's time to grow again! The girls are thoroughly enjoying their newly expanded habitat; recent land acquisition offers more space to our current elephant residents. But it is time to consider expansion of another sort. Our goal now is to expand to make room for more, many more elephants.

Mike Liles and Chester McConnell, special project managers/land acquisition project for the Elephant Sanctuary, are currently developing a plan to acquire 1600 acres of adjacent land. Acquisition of this land will allow facility expansion. The immediate plan is to build two more barns, with three more barns in the future.

Our Acres For Elephant Program raises money to purchase land for expansion. Another way the land can be acquired is through trading. International Paper owns the land we want to acquire. A representative for the company has stated that they would consider trading comparable land for the land we want. If you know of anyone who would be willing to donate wooded land to the Sanctuary, please put them in contact with Carol @ 931-796-6500 or carol@elephants.com

Once the land is acquired two barns (Phase III and IV) will be constructed; one for Asian elephants and the other for African elephants. These facilities will be separate and the two species will not be mixed.

The facilities will be designed for herd rotation within the Sanctuary habitat. For example, a herd will live in the Phase II facility for one year. In the Spring they will migrate/rotate to the Phase III facility, living there for the following year. The herd will remain intact, living as a unit, and migrate to a new area within the Sanctuary habitat each year. This migration will afford the elephants a change of scenery every 12 months. In addition, this movement of herds throughout the entire habitat will enable the Sanctuary to provide a home to African elephants.



The water truck comes to them...Tarra, Scott, Bunny, and Jenny

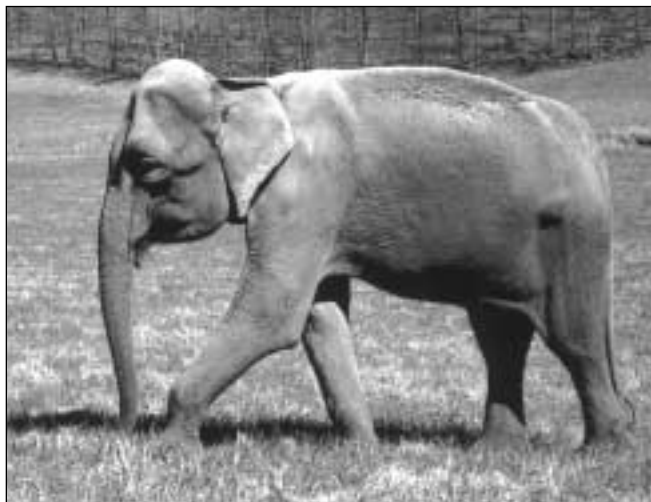
As a browsing vegetarian, the African elephant naturally consumes a high fiber diet. This differs from the Asian elephant who, by nature, is a grazing vegetarian. Although Asian elephants will consume some tree branches and bark, that constitutes a small percentage of their daily dietary intake. An African elephant's need for fiber results in the consumption of tree bark and branches in great volume. This migration/rotation scheme will allow the area used by the African elephants to recover for two full years prior to their return.

Your participation in our efforts to acquire additional lands has direct impact on the quality of life of captive elephants. When you participate in Our Acres For Elephants Program, you enable the Sanctuary to purchase additional land for the elephants. Please be as generous as you can.

Elephant Listening Project—Research by Katy Payne

Katy Payne, researcher and author of *Silent Thunder*, is bringing a team of researchers to the Sanctuary this summer. Their project will involve placing several geophones (vibration-detecting instruments) in the ground, recording natural sounds in the air, and video-recording the elephants' behavior. Ms. Payne feels the information gathered from this research will benefit the human/elephant conflict in the wild. According to Ms. Payne, "Crop raiding is a major problem and cause of strife between people and elephants in both

Africa and Asia. The ability to detect footfalls of elephants, remotely and unobtrusively, would allow parks to provide warning to nearby farmers before the damage was done. The information on seismic communication would increase the effectiveness of our monitoring tools." Ms. Payne further explains, "This information would also greatly increase everyone's understanding of who elephants are, and their various modes of communication."



Barbara...always on the move



Bunny checks out the tractor

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A Documentary Not to Be Missed

The Urban Elephant, an ArgoFilms production for National Geographic and the Nature series, featuring The Elephant Sanctuary, first aired November 19, 2000. This poignant profile of captive elephants explores the controversial subject of their lives spent in zoos and circuses. Some of the most powerful animal pieces are hard to watch because the subject matter is so disturbing. With *The Urban Elephant*, painstaking effort was taken to show the entire story without losing the viewer. This challenge was met with finesse and intelligence. The producer knew that the subject of captive elephants is surrounded with controversy. Yet she was able to profile seven elephants as they worked and lived their lives as unwitting prisoners of the entertainment industry.

Jenny and Shirley, two of the Sanctuary's elephants, are featured in the film. Their reunion after 23 years was the high point of this documentary. People from all walks of life responded to the film with tearful gratitude that Jenny and Shirley had been reunited. The reunion personified for the viewer the injustice endured by captive elephants. Jenny and Shirley's

reunion begs the question, "What more do elephants feel and experience that we are unaware of?" This film lays out some hard facts about elephants in captivity, allowing the viewer to process the information and decide for themselves if traditions relating to captive elephant management is worth preserving.

Featured in the documentary is Solomon James, Shirley's keeper of 23 years and the epitome of a loving caretaker. His commitment and concern for Shirley's well-being are paramount. His heartfelt thanks for being the last person to remove her chains is an unforgettable moment in the film. Shirley and Solomon shared a long and loving relationship second only to that of Shirley and Jenny.

If you have not seen this moving film, join the ranks of people around the world whose view of captive elephant management has changed because of this powerful documentary.

Go to our web site to order the video and learn more about this documentary, its producers, underwriters and distributors: www.elephant.com.

Species Survival Plan (SSP) Accreditation

Last year, prior to Winkie's arrive, the Sanctuary was asked to make an application to join the SSP, a program under the auspices of the American Zoological Association (AZA). The application was submitted and an inspection was made last Fall. The inspection report was favorable. About the same time, AZA imposed a moratorium on SSP applications until new elephant management standards were finalized. Sanctuary officials have been informed that once the new AZA standards are announced, the application process for SSP participation will resume.

We have been told by AZA and SSP representatives that our status will be determined in the immediate future.

The Sanctuary's role as a member of the SSP would be to provide a space for non-breeding female Asian elephants. SSP would allow only elephants that are surplus in the SSP program to move to the Sanctuary. The Elephant Sanctuary's participation in SSP will make it easier for an AZA institution to send their elephant to the Sanctuary.

Property Tax Exemption—Thank You Charlie Trost

The Elephant Sanctuary Board of Directors and Executive Council wish to thank Charlie Trost for pursuing a complete property tax exemption for the Sanctuary's elephant habitat through the Tennessee State Board of Equalization. Mr. Trost has been involved with the Sanctuary since its inception. His generosity and support started with the organization's beginnings in 1994, when he helped establish our non-profit status. Beyond expectation, Mr. Trost's work for the Sanctuary has always been pro bono.

Although the Tennessee State Board of Equalization has granted property tax exemption for a portion of

the Sanctuary's elephant habitat, they failed to extend the exemption to the entire property utilized by the elephants. Mr. Trost knows the law; equally important, he knows the function and purpose of the Elephant Sanctuary. The Tennessee property tax law specifies that if a non-profit organization uses their land for the purposes set forth in their mission, that organization shall be property tax exempt. Mr. Trost intends to exhaust all options to ensure that the Sanctuary receives full benefit under the law.

Kudos to Charlie—he is a Hero for The Elephant Sanctuary.

Elephants Do Not Live in Pairs— But at the Sanctuary, Everyone Has a Best Friend

Jenny and Shirley's reunion and immediate strong bond have been the subject of many articles, television shows, and documentaries. So when Sissy and Winkie began to develop an equally affectionate relationship there was great media interest. Their unlikely and endearing relationship was featured on PAX network's *Animal Miracles* with Alan Thicke.

Sissy arrived at the Sanctuary in January and Winkie in September of 2000. Both came from somewhat similar backgrounds with the exception that Winkie had always lived with at least one elephant companion. Sissy was not so lucky; she spent the majority of her life alone in a small Texas zoo. Both Sissy and Winkie were moved to the Sanctuary, in part because of behavioral problems. Winkie had a reputation of being aggressive toward every new keeper in training. Sissy had been brutalized by her keepers, causing a public outcry to move her to the Sanctuary. In both cases the elephants were considered very dangerous.

By the time Winkie arrived at the Sanctuary, Sissy had settled in quite well. She enjoyed the company of the other elephants and her keepers. She had formed a close bond with Carol and Scott but was quite insecure about the big outdoors. Although Sissy was eager to follow a keeper through the habitat, most of her time outside was spent in proximity to the barn. Then Winkie arrived.

Winkie was a ball of energy, never standing still. She was too insecure to go outside and spent her first two weeks pacing inside the barn. Sissy spent much of that time near the barn door. When Winkie came close, Sissy stood perfectly still, allowing Winkie to stand near her. In Winkie's first two weeks at the Sanctuary, this was the only time she stood still. It



Sissy and Winkie

was clear that Winkie derived security from Sissy, and Sissy seemed to sense it.

Change happened quickly. One morning Winkie gathered up her courage and followed Sissy out the barn door. She stayed comically close to Sissy, who was aware of Winkie's need. Once outside and not wanting to be left alone, Winkie followed Sissy everywhere. Amazingly, Sissy started to wander far from the barn to areas she had not yet explored. Sissy's demeanor changed; she became curious of her habitat and a fearless explorer. Winkie was not so fearless, as demonstrated by her constant spinning



Sissy and Winkie

around to be sure the barn was still there. Whenever Winkie had worked herself into an anxious frenzy, Sissy stood still, waiting for Winkie to gain her composure. She never became impatient with Winkie, but also never stopped her exploration. Winkie always followed.

This was the beginning of a close and protective friendship. After that first exit from the barn, Winkie preferred never to be separated from Sissy. At first this was taxing for Sissy because of her calm and quiet nature. It appeared that Winkie, being hyperactive and insecure, exhausted Sissy. Now the two have grown accustomed to the other's needs and traits. They are virtually inseparable. When Sissy lies down in the pasture for a nap, Winkie stands quietly close, practically standing over her. Her concern and affection for Sissy are obvious.

PAX network's *Animal Miracles*, hosted by Alan Thicke, produced a series segment about Sissy and Winkie and the bond that has developed between them. Beautifully done, the program captured the transition and development of their relationship. Just as Jenny and Shirley have been inseparable since their reunion, Winks and Sis have become constant, caring companions as well.

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