

DECEMBER 2005

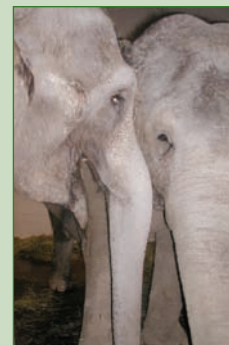
# Trunklines

SPECIAL  
EDITION

UPDATE

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization



## Caravan To Freedom

When we think back on our two-year effort to gain custody of a group of needy circus elephants, many images come to mind: the breakthrough of Delhi's transfer to the Sanctuary two years ago, the joy Misty has found at the Sanctuary since her arrival one year ago, the monumental impact Lota's life and decade of suffering has had on everyone who has heard her story, and the seemingly endless days and nights that elephants such as Delhi, Misty, and Lota have lived in chains.

You might ask how this could have happened. Asian elephants are an endangered species protected by the federal government. What went wrong? The answer is simple. The law that protects endangered species is weak and difficult to enforce. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors do not have police authority; they can only write citations for failure to meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act. Serious offenders have learned that the citations have little meaning. Even when charges are brought, the cases are usually settled when the offender agrees to pay a small fine.

This was the situation with the high profile case of circus elephants we have been working to acquire. Despite many citations, the corporation that owned the elephants was able to continue leasing the elephants to circuses. Even when the elephants were found to be suffering from tuberculosis, the USDA did not revoke the company's license. Consequently, these



*Lota was one of the elephants that circuses continued to lease, even after it was discovered she was suffering from tuberculosis.*



*Delhi, Misty and Lota when they lived in the Hawthorn barn.*

elephants continued to tour the country, performing in circuses and giving rides to children.

With a vengeance, the animal activist community demanded action for the protection of these and other performing elephants. Finally, the USDA had sufficient evidence to file a lawsuit. The company settled out of court, agreeing to place all of the elephants in USDA-approved facilities by August 2004. But that date came and went, and most of the elephants have remained housed in the same barn they have been in for decades.

Placing the elephants turned out to be much more difficult than USDA expected. The Elephant Sanctuary's requests to assume guardianship of all the female elephants were denied on several occasions while the Corporation tried to place the elephants with circuses and circus-friendly facilities. In the end, only the Sanctuary was willing to take all of the female elephants.

November 28, 2005, was a day for great celebration. After months of negotiations, the Corporation signed an agreement to donate nine of the elephants to The Elephant Sanctuary. By the time you read this special edition, we hope that the elephants will have been rescued and settling into their new home. At long last, they have found sanctuary. ♡



**Delhi was confiscated from the Hawthorn Corporation by the United States Department of Agriculture and placed at The Elephant Sanctuary over two years ago.**

Her health was critical; she was suffering from osteomyelitis, an infection of the bones in her feet and legs that affects many captive elephants but does not occur in the wild. Delhi had to remain in quarantine for almost a year because, while at Hawthorn Corporation, she had been exposed to tuberculosis. Despite these difficulties, she was positive and good-natured from the start. Since Delhi's arrival, she has taught us so much. We are thrilled with our discoveries, and even more thrilled to watch as Delhi makes discoveries of her own.

Delhi is teaching us the best way to care for her condition; hopefully what we learn will have application for other elephants with osteomyelitis. We are relieved that the disease does not stop her from exploring her new habitat. She receives foot soaks and trims as part of her daily care regimen. These treatments are performed in the habitat, wherever Delhi happens to be at the time. The elephants are never expected to come to us for their care; the caregivers are happy to go to them. The job is made much easier because Delhi trusts her keepers, and we take advantage of her gentle, social nature by making the process fun for her.

After nearly two years of no active signs of osteomyelitis, Delhi experienced what is referred to as a "blow out." When this happens, an infected area swells until the flesh splits open, creating a raw and painful wound. Untreated, the disease would completely destroy the flesh. With expert care, Delhi's recovery took just a few days. As the wound healed, her caregivers trimmed the dead skin away. The site of the eruption was irrigated several times each day. Delhi cooperated with the veterinarian and her caregivers throughout her treatment, showing no resistance. We decided that, as with her regular foot soaks and trims, these treatments would take place in the comfort of the habitat. We believe this approach

contributed to her speedy recovery.

Although Delhi's condition is much improved, she is not cured. In fact, there is no known case of osteomyelitis that has been cured. However, no other elephant suffering from osteomyelitis has had free access to a vast habitat where she could walk on natural earth as she would in the wild. We have high hopes that under these unique conditions Delhi will be the first captive elephant to recover from this life-threatening disease. What a joyful discovery to share with those who care for captive elephants all over the world!

Delhi is certainly an excellent patient, and her positive attitude and joy for life shines through in everything she does. Her confidence and curiosity is impressive. Once her quarantine was lifted, she immediately began exploring. That first night, she did not return to the barn as we expected; instead, she slept under the stars. The next morning, she discovered and climbed a mountain that took Jenny and Shirley four years to conquer. There is no urgency in her exploration, just calm and enthusiastic interest in her new world.

While Delhi's exploration of the Sanctuary is similar to that of the other elephants, she seems to be moving at an accelerated pace. Perhaps the other elephants have encouraged her not to waste any time discovering the magic of this place. We have found that our elephants teach each other. We watch them share information and communicate attitudes toward their caregivers every day. Elephants with a reputation for aggression or defiance arrive at the Sanctuary and immediately demonstrate a gentle, cooperative spirit. We believe that each new elephant benefits from the wealth of information and assurance her new sisters share with her. As the herd grows, it stands to reason that new arrivals like Delhi may assimilate more and more quickly.

As you can imagine, these are exciting times for the elephants and the staff alike. Every day we learn from



*Delhi and her buddy—  
the 4-wheeler!*

Delhi and the other Sanctuary elephants about their true nature. Discovering their genuine needs is an honor, and we take very seriously the responsibility of sharing what we learn to benefit captive elephants everywhere.



# Misty's Future Looks Bright

Article excerpt from Summer 2005 Trunklines



*Misty puts her new enrichment toys through rigorous testing!*

**Misty and Lota arrived together, both from the Hawthorn Corporation, and both suffering from the human strain of tuberculosis. Lota's condition was far advanced and she died only months after her arrival.**

Since Lota's death, Misty has lived without the companionship of other elephants. Federal law requires that she remain in quarantine because she tested positive for tuberculosis in 2001, long before she came to The Elephant Sanctuary. Misty's caregivers work to engage her in interesting activities during her quarantine, but she is an incredibly intelligent being and there is no substitute for freedom of movement and the companionship of other elephants. Fortunately, Misty has a good attitude and responds positively to behavioral enrichment activities.

Caregivers are working cooperatively with Misty's personal veterinary team to meet her physical, medical, mental and emotional needs. Led by Drs. Steven Scott and Susan Mikota, this team of gifted and knowledgeable doctors is working together to ensure Misty's complete recovery. After months of research and evaluation the team has developed a treatment plan tailor-made for Misty.

One of the first challenges the team encountered was the need for a positive culture sample to determine whether or not Misty suffered from a drug-resistant strain of TB. The results from this test would provide the information necessary to determine which medicines would be most effective. Prescribing antibiotics without sufficient knowledge of her disease would be irresponsible; the team was in agreement that treatment would wait until the results were in. Caregivers collected weekly trunk wash samples from Misty and sent them off to the lab. Collecting the samples is painless for Misty, in fact, she enjoys the interaction with her keepers.

To date, all of Misty's samples have been negative for

tuberculosis. In most cases a negative result would be met with celebration, but in Misty's case each negative result brought greater frustration. We needed a positive result so the medical team could prescribe treatment.

Months passed without a positive sample from Misty, so the team turned to Lota's necropsy report for direction. The report indicated that Lota died of an advanced case of tuberculosis. However, it also revealed that she did not have a resistant strain of the disease. The medical team agreed that Misty probably has the same non-resistant strain as Lota. Based on this, the team felt confident enough to recommend Misty's course of treatment.

Misty's caregivers prepared her to take the medicines through Passive Control. This is a management system that relies on positive reinforcement and cooperation from the elephant. With Passive Control, the caregiver never dominates or punishes the animal for any resistance. Misty was an enthusiastic participant in the training, and now she allows her caregivers to administer drugs both orally and rectally as needed.

Once Misty receives the designated amount of the medication, and assuming her trunk wash samples continue to be negative, she can be moved out of quarantine. She will remain under treatment for an entire year, but if she progresses as expected she will not have to be isolated from other elephants for that entire time. The best scenario would have Misty exploring the main habitat in just a few months.

Misty is healthy and content. She shows no signs of the disease that brought her to the Sanctuary. We are confident that her disease was detected early enough that she will make a complete recovery and enjoy a long and healthy life. ♦



*Misty practices for a soccer match with Delhi!*

# Help Support This Important Rescue By Visiting Our Gift Shop!

Order these items online at [www.elephants.com](http://www.elephants.com). All proceeds benefit The Elephant Sanctuary.



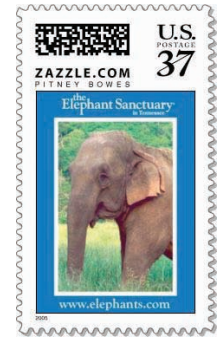
ELEPHANTS.COM  
Fundraising bracelets  
\$5 ea. or ten for \$15



Delhi Sculpture  
\$139; bonded bronze



24x36 Poster \$15



Postage stamp featuring  
Delhi; from zazzle.com



Delhi T-Shirt \$15



Lota T-Shirt \$15



Misty T-Shirt \$15



Caravan to Freedom T-Shirt \$15

## Lota Memorial Fund

Lota's years of suffering had a profound influence on the public's awareness of the plight of captive elephants. Your contribution to help other needy elephants in memory of Lota, will be her legacy.

- My check or money order is enclosed, made payable to The Elephant Sanctuary
- Please charge my credit card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card:  Visa  Mastercard

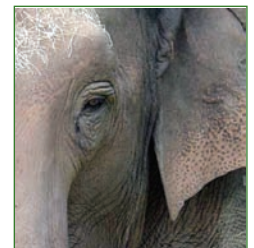
Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Feed for a Day

Our girls eat a lot of food! You can help by feeding any or all of them for a day, a week, or...\$30 feeds one elephant for one day.



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

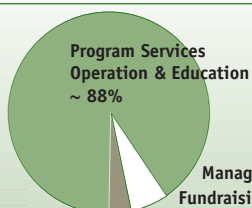
You can contribute in as many ways as you'd like, in your own name or in honor of a friend or family member. Contributions can be all at once or once a month for as long as you specify.

\$30 x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of days) x \_\_\_\_\_ (# of elephants) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 T-shirt ~ (includes shipping/handling) & b/w photo of your favorite elephant \_\_\_\_\_ : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Name of Elephant*

## Expenses ~ based on 2004 audited financials



[www.elephants.com](http://www.elephants.com)  
the  
Elephant Sanctuary®  
in Tennessee

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