

NEWS
For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Carol Buckley
931-796-6500 x 22
Suzanne Carr

931-796-6500 x 24

Tina the Elephant Passes Away

Hohenwald, Tenn--(July 21) On July 21 at 2:45 AM, Tina, a resident of the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee passed away. Tina peacefully took her final breath while in the company of co-directors Carol Buckley and Scott Blais and her elephant companions Sissy and Winkie.

Tina's journey to the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee began in the spring of 2003 when The Greater Vancouver Zoo decided to move her due to a severe medical condition which caused her feet and nails to be excruciatingly painful. Tina's arrival on August 11, 2003 was viewed by over 55,000 of her fans on the Sanctuary's live-feed EleCam.

According to Ms. Buckley, "Over the past year it appeared that Tina's feet were improving, and there were no signs of a problem until a few days before her death." Blood-work results on Monday indicated elevated levels of LDH, an indicator of a possible heart problem, which might explain Tina's reduced motor skills just prior to her death. "At this point we know nothing about the cause of death. A necropsy was performed, and the lab work should give us some answers and closure," Buckley explained.

The Elephant Sanctuary, located in Hohenwald, Tennessee is the nation's first natural habitat refuge developed to meet the needs of endangered elephants. The Sanctuary is a nonprofit organization, licensed by the US Department of Agriculture and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Two separate herds of eight Asian elephants and three African elephants currently call The Sanctuary home, with plans to rescue more in the future. For more information about how you can become a member of The Sanctuary or make donations, call (931) 796-6500 or visit the web site at **www.elephants.com**.

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