

SPRING 2005

Trunklines

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

501 (C) (3) Nonprofit Organization



Lota &
Misty's
Special Edition



to use Lota to fulfill a circus contract.

Reportedly, Lota was the alternate for a five-elephant circus act. Lota was the stand-in and was being called to duty. As the saying goes, the show must go on. As a result, Lota was not given sanctuary; instead she was sent back out on the road with the circus. By this time Lota had already tested positive for TB once and would test positive again in the months to come. We now know that this was a crucial time for Lota, the time when she would have had to start receiving specific medical

treatment in order to recover permanently from her disease. Instead of receiving that treatment, Lota was packed into a trailer along with four other elephants and trucked around the countryside to perform with the notorious Walker Brothers Circus.

Ironically, in October 1998, the Walker Brothers circus came within miles of The Elephant Sanctuary, setting up their big-top tent in the city park. There is a strong possibility that the Sanctuary resident elephants could hear the rumblings from Liz, Delhi, and Maude as they entertained the people of Hohenwald. As the children piled onto Liz's back for the ride of their lives, the other elephants begged for treats from the visitors, potentially spreading the disease that they had been exposed to for over a decade in the Hawthorn Corporation barn.

Being aware of the potential health hazard posed to the community, Sanctuary officials alerted the state departments of Health and Agriculture. The concerns fell on deaf ears. The circus rolled up its tent and left the state, forgotten for another year. How ironic that several years later, when Lota was finally freed from Hawthorn

LOTA'S SAGA

Many of you may remember back in 1998 when the first negotiations were underway with Hawthorn Corporation to retire Lota to The Elephant Sanctuary. At that time the Sanctuary was not directly involved in the effort. Milwaukee County Executive Thomas Ament had teamed up with the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in an attempt to reach an agreement with Hawthorn Corporation to have Lota released to The Elephant Sanctuary. The process was painstakingly slow with devastating results. Over several months of negotiations, the terms were ironed out, including a substantial fee for Lota's release. Hawthorn had finally agreed to sell Lota back to Milwaukee County, which in turn planned to donate her to The Elephant Sanctuary. But when it came time for the paperwork to be signed, Hawthorn Corporation reneged on the agreement. They claimed that an untimely travel restriction imposed by the USDA on a Hawthorn elephant that had rampaged through a building months before had resulted in Hawthorn's need

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the Elephant Sanctuary®

in Tennessee

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Our Mission

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, founded in 1995, is the nation's single 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 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.*

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

www.elephants.com



From left, Jenny, Tarra, Carol, Scott & Bela

Directors' Voice

Last year, 2004, brought profound lessons and immeasurable growth. During the year five elephants joined our family: Tange, Zula, and Flora inspired our new African habitat, arriving just after the first of the year; Lota and Misty, finally freed from the Hawthorn Corporation, arrived in November.

The effort involved in negotiating the release of an elephant to the Sanctuary usually entails enormous energy and resources. This past year we learned just how different the process could be. Many individuals and institutions that "own" elephants or have elephants in their "collection" fail to see the importance of sanctuary for these highly intelligent, profoundly social, and deeply emotional beings. We are dedicated to providing this much-needed sanctuary and to raising awareness about the plight of captive elephants.

It is with great humility that we look back on 2004. We reached our expansion goal of twenty-seven hundred acres and increased our elephant population to twelve. Due to the kindness and generosity of our supporters, five more needy elephants found refuge with us. Their lives have been changed for the better, forever. As we celebrate our tenth year in operation, we realize that our work has only just begun. =

Carol & Scott

Join us in celebrating our 10th-Year Anniversary

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Delhi's Doing Just Fine!



To say that Delhi is doing well would be an understatement. Over this past year Delhi has not only blended into the habitat as if she had never been anywhere except in a wild setting; she has also blended in with her new sisters in the most profound way. She has a way about her; she's able to slip gently in between the best of friends and be welcomed. Tarra solicits her affection whenever their paths cross, and Jenny and Shirley have developed an endearing fondness for her. Delhi is the elder of her family, but Shirley continues to set the example held by the matriarch. Delhi appears to have no problem with

Shirley's holding that rank, leaving more time for Delhi to explore and enjoy her life without the responsibilities that accompany the role of matriarch.

In the barn or outside, Delhi has no problem flowing through the herd and finding a comfortable place to rest. She and Jenny can be seen, trunks entwined, exploring each other's faces with joy. Delhi does not verbalize often, at least not in a frequency we can hear; but from the relationships she has built with the other elephants, it is obvious that there has been a great deal of communicating going on. =



Jenny, Shirley, and Delhi

Lota's Saga...*(continued from page 1)*

Corporation by a lawsuit filed by the USDA, the state of Tennessee would threaten to deny Lota entry.

Hawthorn Corporation Agrees to Give Up Lota and Misty to The Elephant Sanctuary

As part of a consent decree resulting from a lawsuit brought by the USDA, Hawthorn Corporation agreed to donate Lota and Misty to The Elephant Sanctuary. Though everyone assumed Lota's decade-long march toward freedom was nearing its end, the saga was ongoing, and the effort to move Lota and Misty became even more troublesome. Once the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency issued the import permit allowing Lota and Misty to enter the state, the State Department of Agriculture voiced their concern. Apparently there was some confusion about the elephant's health status which had caused the Department of Agriculture concern for the welfare of wildlife and cattle within the state.

Sanctuary officials responded, going so far as to hire legal council to help address the state's concerns. After failing to rescue Lota nearly a decade earlier, the Sanctuary was not willing to fail her again. No one knew just how much time she had left. Finally, after months of delays, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture issued a report complete with an addendum generated by the Sanctuary. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency reviewed the report and found no grounds on which to prohibit Lota and Misty's entry. In cooperation with the Sanctuary and the State Health and Agriculture Departments, the TWRA developed a comprehensive protocol which addressed public safety, keeper safety, environmental safety, and elephant welfare. The Elephant Sanctuary agreed to implement the new

protocol at the designated quarantine facility, and Lota and Misty were finally free to move to the Sanctuary.

While awaiting the delivery of Lota and Misty, we learned of more bad news: Tess had passed away. Tess was one of the original six elephants slated by the USDA to move to the Sanctuary. Our rescue efforts had not come soon enough for Tess. With the threat of further delays, the decision was made to send the Sanctuary's trailer to pick up Lota and Misty. On November 16, Scott Blais arrived at the Hawthorn Corporation to find Lota and Misty chained in a metal building several hundred feet from the main elephant barn. They reportedly had been isolated from the rest of the herd for over a year, enabling the other elephants, the ones that had never tested positive for TB, to go through their required quarantine period.

Scott found himself in the awkward position of having to move two unfamiliar elephants into the trailer. His expert skills proved valuable since Lota and Misty's longtime keeper was no longer caring for the elephants and was not available to load them. Misty loaded first with little resistance; the only aggression she displayed was when she struck her longtime owner John Cuneo across the chest. Lota was second to load. She was a little worked up by the time it was her turn. Initially she moved in

the opposite direction of the trailer, but within minutes cooperatively entered the trailer.

The road trip was short and uneventful. Due to their quarantine status, there was no fanfare or media frenzy upon their arrival. Misty and Lota quietly and calmly exited the trailer and entered their new barn, embarking



Lota in the Hawthorn Corporation Barn



Lota naps while Misty stays close



Misty and Lota

on their new life. Misty was the first to leave the trailer. She entered the barn, walked through both stalls and right outside into the yard. She was excited and never once showed any signs of concern or aggression. Lota quickly followed; tall, thin and subdued, she gracefully flowed down the ramp from the trailer into the barn. She too investigated the stalls and the open door leading to the yard, but what really seemed to grab her attention was the automatic waterers. She returned to the waterers multiple times, not to drink but to reach into the water as if to assure herself that indeed there was water there, apparently permanently. Without delay both Misty and Lota wandered out into the yard, and in a flash of a moment, it seemed they had been there for years. The two good friends explored their new surroundings together, side by side, not fearful but curious. They sampled the hay and produce treats left for them, establishing immediately their favorite foods; for Lota it was the staples—carrots, potatoes, cabbage; for Misty, it was everything!

The hours and days passed peacefully. These two elephants were a blessing beyond compare. They were dear friends to each other, sharing food and adventures. Misty would sleep while Lota propped her skinny behind on Misty's ample tummy. Misty would fall into a deep sleep during the days and nights with Lota right there, standing over her. Even though it was the middle of November, the pasture was lush, and Lota and Misty grazed continually. As Lota grazed contently, Misty would take an occasional break to burst into unabandoned play. She raced around the yard, up and down the hill, wallowed in the mud, inviting all who dared to join her. Lota would stand her ground sometimes as Misty raced around her, inviting her to play; but more often she would slip off to another area of the yard, giving Misty ample space to expel some of her boundless energy. Once Misty was all played out, the two would once again gravitate to each other and melt into the calm, comfortable routine that was their new life.

Misty slept regularly, day and night; but for days Lota did not lie down. In an effort to help Lota feel comfortable enough to lie down and rest, she was given the appropriate homeopathic remedy to address her fears. It was no surprise that within days Lota began to lie down. With her fears conquered, napping became part of Lota's daily ritual. Caregivers were relieved to see that Lota was finally able to rest. Misty never wandered far when Lota was sleeping and on occasion slept right alongside her.

A goal of the staff was to establish a level of trust with

both Lota and Misty so that blood and trunk wash samples could be collected. Misty's response was immediate and favorable, but Lota was reluctant to allow her trunk to be manipulated or blood to be drawn. Both elephants were conditioned to the restraint chute. Lota and Misty took turns eating in the chute, demonstrating that they were comfortable. Eventually caregivers would be able to do medical procedures in the chute ensuring the safety of both the caregivers and the elephants. As it turned out, Misty participated in all of the procedures inside and outside of the chute, appearing comfortable and trustworthy with either arrangement.

As the days passed, the girls soaked up the sun and attention. Lota began to put on weight, and her spirits improved. There was now a sparkle in her eye that was not there when she arrived. She even began to solicit attention from her caregivers and engaged in activities designed to allow them to interact with her. The mild winter weather made spending extended periods of time in the yard each day possible. Lota had her favorite napping spot, and even tractor traffic did not disturb her.

When January 25 dawned, it appeared to be like any other day. Lota settled in for her nap with Misty by her side, but caregivers noticed that Lota's placement on the hillside might make getting up a little difficult. Staff were alerted and ready. When Lota awoke and struggled to get up, caregivers were there to assist her. After repositioning herself, Lota was able to rise on the second try. Caregivers gave her a firm boost, something they had learned while caring for Barbara. Sometimes a weak elephant needs a little help from her friends to get into the position to get up. When Lota got to her feet, her caregivers noticed that she was a little short of breath; her breathing was labored. Caregivers stood close, as did Misty, and watched as Lota recovered from the exertion. What no one could have known at the time was that this single incident would mark the beginning of Lota's deteriorating health, which would lead to her death a short two weeks later.

Dr. Scott examined Lota, listened to her heart and her breathing. Her breathing caused him concern. He explained that no air movement could be heard in the lower lobe of her lungs and that only in the uppermost portion of her lungs could he detect any air exchange. But even that area of her lungs caused him concern because she sounded congested. Medications were prescribed to help open up the airways. Treatments were discussed in the event that Lota showed signs of discomfort or pain. Oxygen was ordered, and a plan was formulated to help Lota stay comfortable. Lota went from eating continually (at times even forcefully preventing

Lota's Saga...*(continued from page 5)*

Misty from stealing even the tiniest morsel), to not having much of an appetite at all. It was obvious that Lota was nearing the end. With her advanced case of TB, the damage done to her lungs was irreversible. Even if the disease could have been eradicated, the scar tissue in her lungs would remain. That scar tissue was the cause of her labored breathing. The condition was so extensive that it reduced the volume of air Lota's lungs could hold.

Lota's Last Days

Up to the day before her passing, Lota continued to go into the yard to hang out by her favorite tree and gather hay and grass in the yard; however, she did not lie down. She grew weaker and weaker. On the day before she died, Lota stayed close to the barn. She was outside, but it was obvious she did not want to venture far; neither did her faithful friend Misty. Attentive as ever, Misty was satisfied simply to stand with Lota as they soaked up the sun.

Lota's treatment included hourly doses of oxygen. She cooperatively accepted the treatment by reaching inside the container and resting her trunk while breathing. After a few minutes of treatment, she would perk up, getting kind of silly and playful. Staff was worried but tried not to burden Lota with their concern. Misty seemed concerned as well.

Keeper records noted that on the night before Lota's death the elephants in the main barn, which is adjacent to the quarantined barn, engaged in a group ritual that had never before been documented. All of the elephants were inside the barn with access outside if they desired. Without any obvious provocation Jenny and Shirley began to roar. Simultaneously all of the elephants lent their voices to the chorus which built in volume and vibration until it became deafening. From one end of the barn to the other, the walls shook, and the air quaked as the elephants' bellows increased to a deafening level. This display lasted for six full minutes. Just as the volume would begin to wane, it would suddenly build again, resembling a mass wailing display of grief.

The elephants physical behavior throughout was curious. They all remained fairly still, standing in place yet

exploding with the most profoundly emotional verbal display imaginable. As abruptly as the display began, it ended with only residual sighs and guttural rumbles uttered as the entire herd returned to their routines of napping, eating, and interacting with one another.

At this time, after everyone settled down, Delhi quietly slipped out of the barn. Her caregiver watched through the surveillance camera, wondering if the intense display had frightened her. What followed was of much interest.

Delhi left the barn and walked down the hill toward the pasture; but instead of walking in the direction she always does, she turned in the direction of the quarantine barn. Lota and Misty were inside their barn and did not have access to Delhi. By all accounts it was reasonable to assume that Lota and Misty were unaware of Delhi's presence, although she was only a few hundred feet away. Delhi was calm and unhurried. She stood facing the quarantine barn for nearly ten minutes. She then turned and slowly made her way back to the barn to join her family. Only the elephants will know if their emotional display was coincidental or their expression of recognition and farewell to Lota and if Delhi's timely visit was her final respects to a longtime companion and friend.



Lota leans on sleeping Misty



Lota receiving oxygen

Over the next twenty-four hours, Lota seemed to turn everything over to her caregivers. She was trusting and accepted the pampering and treatments showered on her. Every effort was made to make her feel safe, loved, and comfortable. On the evening before her death, Dr. Scott's diagnosis was hard to accept. Lota had stopped eating several hours before and was content to stand with Misty by her side. She continued to breathe her oxygen and found solace leaning her trunk on her caregivers as they tended to her needs. Special attention was paid to Lota's comfort level, but at no time did she display fear or pain; instead she remained relaxed.

On Wednesday morning, February 9, at three o'clock, Lota received what would turn out to be her final oxygen treatment. She and Misty stood silently together, sharing each other's company. Although Lota looked tired and her breathing was slightly labored, she was peaceful.

With a gentle hug and soft words of endearment, their caregiver left the barn. Lota gently lowered her frail body to the floor one last time as Misty stood silently over her, just as she had done so many times over the past several weeks. When her caregivers returned, Misty did not speak or attempt to move from Lota's lifeless body. Her grief was heart wrenching and shared by all that had grown so close to both of them. Lota had passed away.

In an effort to alert the many thousands of people who for years had rallied around Lota's rescue, the following information was posted on the Sanctuary Web site.

Lota's Diary Entry—February 9, 2005

For anyone reading this diary entry, please protect your heart as you read this very sad news.

Early this morning our beloved Lota passed away. At 3:00 a.m. Carol was with Lota giving her some medication and a ten-minute dose of oxygen. There was no obvious change in Lota's condition to indicate that she would die shortly. In our culture death is equated with pain, but with Lota that was simply not the case.

After her treatments Lota leaned her magnificent head against the front of the corral as Misty nestled in beside her. They both appeared comfortable, and Lota started to drift off to sleep, a standing sleep that we call a catnap. A short time after Carol left, Lota lay down for the final time. Misty stood silently over her dear friend, where she remained until staff came to move Lota to her gravesite.

No amount of preparation can make such a loss bearable. Misty and all of the staff are struggling with the need to

be happy for Lota; she is finally free. After years of suffering from TB, Lota deserves peace. We had all hoped that peace would come in the form of recovery and a long life at the Sanctuary. Sadly, her condition was too advanced to allow that dream to come true.

Under the constant watch of her caregivers, Lota never showed signs of stress beyond her labored breathing. She accepted the oxygen without resistance and draped her trunk against her caregivers in a gentle caress as the oral medications were given. She left this life with the same grace and dignity that she lived it. There is no doubt that Lota has had a profound impact on thousands of people by bringing an awareness to the plight of captive elephants that only she could.

Lota has earned a special place in the next world and unquestionably in the history books of mankind.

Misty's Recovery

Misty was deeply shaken by the loss of her dear friend and only elephant companion. No matter what anyone says, humans can never begin to take the place of an elephant companion. We can pamper, show compassion, provide security and love; but there are limits to the degree to which we can provide for an elephant's emotional needs. Misty is in quarantine; Lota's death has virtually left her alone. She has found solace in the company of her caregivers, but they are not a suitable replacement. Every effort is being made not only to help Misty through her grieving process but also to find a solution to her isolation. =

A Testament to the Elephant's Intelligence and Compassion

From the unbelievable chaos of the Tsunami disaster comes an incredible tale from Jim France of the Pavilion Hotel Group in Bangkok.

At a resort on Phuket, one of the most popular attractions is (was) elephant rides. As many as eight people on one elephant, first into the surrounding forest, then down to the beach, to lunch at a freshwater lagoon, then back to the hotel. The nine elephants were kept chained to in-ground posts, not because they needed to be, but because it made the mothers feel better because their children seemed safe from a tromping when feeding the beasts.

About twenty minutes before the first wave hit, the elephants became extremely agitated and unruly. Four had just returned from a trip, and their handlers had not yet

chained them. They helped the other five tear free from their chains. They all then climbed a hill and started bellowing. Many people followed them up the hill. Then the waves hit.

After the waves subsided, the elephants charged down from the hill and started picking up children with their trunks and running them back up the hill. When all the children were taken care of, they started helping the adults.

They rescued forty-two people. Then they returned to the beach and carried up four dead bodies, one of a child. Not until the task was done would they allow their handlers to mount them. Then with handlers atop, they began moving wreckage. =

African Elephant Update

Tange, Zula, and Flora, our first African elephants arrived at the Sanctuary a year ago. They continue to amaze us with their boundless energy and adventurous spirit. Watching each adapt to her new environment has been educational and exciting. They continue to explore the land in their three-hundred-acre habitat with its diverse variety of trees and vegetation. The “girls,” as we fondly refer to them, continue to surprise us with their remarkable agility as they climb up steep hills, down ravines, and into dense valleys. It’s easy to track where they’ve been as they leave a trail of uprooted trees in their wake.

Zula in particular is evidence of the benefits of having the freedom to roam. Long suffering from arthritic hips, she now climbs up and down the hilly terrain with ease as her range of motion improves as a result of the daily exercise. Even Flora, once apprehensive of walking down muddy slopes, now maneuvers her way through with grace. It’s wonderful to see the confidence growing in each elephant as she masters the challenges of the outdoors.

The freedom the girls experience in this spacious environment also allows plenty of room for their

relationships to grow. Tange and Flora have become good friends, sharing everything from toys to hay and even Zula. While Flora and Zula continue to nurture their relationship, Tange’s time is equally divided between the two. Always the mediator, Tange with her agreeable, playful nature continues to bring Flora and Zula closer together, often standing between the two as they interact.

Spring is just around the corner, and the habitat is again springing to life with its other inhabitants; white tailed deer, coyotes, and wild turkeys have all been spotted in the girls’ yard. It’s remarkable how tolerant Tange, Zula, and Flora are with their fellow creatures as they watch them running in and out of their habitat. This is not to say they don’t enjoy a good game of “chase the turkey,” but they are always good natured and allow the turkeys to get away before getting too close. Their tolerance and acceptance of all living creatures is a testament to the wisdom and gentle nature of the elephant. We look forward to the exciting adventures spring will bring and to watching the girls encounter them. =



Zula and Tange



Flora, Zula, and Tange



Flora and Tange



Tag, you’re it.

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Plate Information Specialty Elephant Sanctuary Plate costs \$35 in addition to your regular registration fees. If you want to personalize your Specialty Elephant Sanctuary Plate, the cost is \$70 in addition to your regular registration fees. These plate fees and regular registration fees will be due to your local county clerk’s office each year for the renewal of your plate registration. Fifty percent of the proceeds of the plate will benefit The Elephant Sanctuary. Any Tennessee resident registering a private-passenger motor vehicle is eligible. For plate numbering, you will be issued the next available number in sequence depending on the date and time you order.

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3. Write to us at the address below and we’ll drop the forms in the mail to you
4. Call us at (931) 796-6500 x 26

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USDA-Hawthorn Corporation Case

The Hawthorn elephant herd now numbers twelve: ten female Asians, one female African, and one young male Asian. These elephants remain in the Hawthorn barn outside of Chicago, Illinois, their fate not yet determined. The Elephant Sanctuary is currently in negotiations with the Hawthorn Corporation to take all twelve; we hope to come to an agreement shortly. In the meantime, our new barn construction has begun and is scheduled to be completed September 1. The plan is to be ready for the Hawthorn elephants as soon as an agreement can be reached.

Although Hawthorn Corporation had signed a consent decree promising to place their herd in a new home by August 15 of last year, that did not happen. Instead John Cuneo, owner of Hawthorn Corporation, filed two motions with the court challenging the consent decree, appealing to the courts to release him from the agreement. Months have passed with no news except that a judge will make a determination soon. It is our understanding that the judge can enforce the consent decree or decide that it will be overturned.

During this time of anxious waiting, rumors have been rampant, including the suggestion that the elephants would find their way back into the circus industry. Hawthorn Corporation's claim to the court in defense of having the consent decree terminated was that the USDA failed to abide by the agreement which said that the USDA



Daily life for elephants in the Hawthorn Corporation barn

would work cooperatively with Hawthorn Corporation to find new homes for the elephants. Basically Hawthorn Corporation wants to send the elephants to individuals and organizations that use elephants for circuses or public display. The USDA has determined that such use of the elephants is inappropriate considering their medical history of long-term TB exposure. The USDA wants this herd of elephants to be placed in a facility not open to the public and not exposed to other elephants. The Sanctuary is prepared to meet both of these criteria.

If you are interested in making your voice heard regarding the placement of the Hawthorn elephants please contact:

Chester Gipson, D.V.M.
Associate Deputy Administrator
USDA-APHIS-VS
4700 River Road, Unit 84
Riverdale, MD 20737-1234
301-734-4993(fax)

Lota's Necropsy

It is a sorrowful day when we have to bury an elephant. There is no denying that we feel that Lota deserved to be free of her diseased body, but we had hoped medical treatment could cure her disease; sadly her disease was too advanced for recovery. Instead we supported Lota until she died.

A necropsy is an important tool for investigation once an animal has passed away. It is with great delicacy that the procedure must be approached. It is the most dynamic mix of science and emotion, research and respect. Making sure that both objectives are met is a challenge.

Lota's caregivers made Lota's life peaceful and comfortable for the short time she was with us. Our desire was to approach Lota's death and necropsy with the same level of reverence as we had her life. We were blessed with an expert team for the procedure led by a USDA pathologist, Dr. Bruce Thomsen; assisted by Dr. Steven Scott, attending veterinarian; Dr. Susan Mikota, elephant expert and cofounder of Elephant Care International;

Dr. Genevieve Dumonceaux, associate veterinarian at Busch Gardens; and Barbara Vincent, vet tech extraordinaire. The assembled team had not worked together before, so a planning session was held on the morning of the necropsy. Busch Gardens had loaned PAPR equipment to ensure that personnel conducting the necropsy would be properly outfitted with the safest equipment available. Any time a necropsy is performed on an animal where a contagious disease is suspect, precautionary measures must be paramount.

The team collected samples to be sent to labs to help identify why Lota had died. After less than two hours the team had completed their work, and Lota was finally laid to rest. Without a question Lota's TB was advanced. The preliminary necropsy report stated that she had disseminated TB. It is our desire that the information derived from Lota's necropsy will benefit other elephants and hopefully prevent such a tragedy from occurring again. =

Zoo vs. Sanctuary: No Contest

Change can be painful, or it can be exhilarating; it is all in the approach. The Sanctuary gravitates towards the latter. Nothing is more gratifying than an innovative approach to facilities and management of the elephants in our care.

Institutions experience a wide range of challenges when it comes to change, financial being foremost. Currently America's zoological institutions are facing an enormous challenge brought on by public pressure. Hundreds of thousands of Americans visit zoos annually. The perception of good, clean, family fun is one of the cornerstones of the zoo image. Additionally, zoos strive to be viewed as scientific institutions that focus on the lives and future generations of endangered species. With the current widespread trend toward more naturalistic enclosures and habitats more suitable for the species, how will zoos deal with the ethical dilemma regarding exhibiting mega vertebrates that naturally migrate thirty miles each day in the wild?

The reality is that zoo trends are driven by public expectation and perception. Take the Fort Worth Zoo for example. One would think a zoo to be an unlikely supporter of a hunting philosophy, but not the Fort Worth Zoo. This ninety-six-year-old institution found a way to marry the two to mirror the mentality and expectation of their surrounding community. The zoo actually glorifies hunting, spending millions of dollars memorializing the killing of wild beasts.

Since the first baby elephant was imported to the United States in 1796, elephants have been a major draw for both zoos and circuses. Recognized for their charismatic quality, this highly intelligent mega vertebrate is placed on exhibit to draw in crowds and endear the zoo to the community. There is nothing adverse about following trends and capitalizing on the public's interest if no one suffers as a result. In the case of elephants in captivity, this is exactly what has happened. In zoos across the country, elephants are exhibited in yards too small to allow for normal physical activity. As a result elephants develop foot rot, arthritis, and behavior problems; in many cases these conditions are fatal.

Following the announcement of the Detroit zoo to close their elephant exhibit for ethical reasons, the media and public have begun to question seriously

the fate of the hundreds of elephants on exhibit in zoos today. In order for change to occur, information needs to be disseminated; examples of alternatives must be demonstrated and institutions currently exhibiting elephants need to consider other ways of conducting business.

Recently Michael Hutchins, former director of Conservation and Science for the American Zoological Association, wrote a lengthy piece comparing zoos and elephant sanctuaries. He concluded that zoos are superior to sanctuaries. It is important to note that Mr. Hutchins admittedly had never visited the sanctuaries he was evaluating. Unfortunately Mr. Hutchins's piece is an example of the polarization that has developed as a result of the heated debate over elephants in captivity. The report was not based on science, nor was it factual; instead it was a biased commentary based on misinformation.

Zoological institutions have made huge strides over the past decades, elevating the standards in which they exhibit animals, rising from the poorly funded roadside zoos of yesterday to the privately owned institutions of today. Still the changes made over the past decades are not enough. Unlike Michael Hutchins, who condemned sanctuaries without ever seeing one, America's zoo visitor knows whereof they speak when they criticize their local zoo. Today's public is savvy and will not be deceived by lavish landscaping and well-designed boardwalks. More people are beginning to recognize that large vertebrates confined to small enclosures suffer.

Caring for captive elephants presents a myriad of challenges. A progressive philosophy is the key to sound management practices when it comes to the care and welfare of wild animals. At the Sanctuary, we prefer not to fight nature but to take advantage of it to the benefit of the animals in our care. Providing elephants a spacious natural habitat is an approach to husbandry that is proving to be successful. Zoos can now benefit from the decade-long research carried out at The Elephant Sanctuary. At the very least, if zoos are unwilling to release their elephants and place them into a sanctuary setting, they can use the proven formula: space + herd + nondominance management = healthy elephants and a more accurate presentation of their natural lives. =

Cynthia Moss Visits

For more than three decades Cynthia Moss has been a champion for African elephants, conducting extensive studies of the species in Amboseli National Park. Her research has affected generations of elephants and humans alike. Cynthia's many books on the subject, extensive speaking engagements, and contribution to the production of documentaries has literally brought the wild elephants of Africa right into our living rooms.

This past November we were honored to welcome Cynthia to The Elephant Sanctuary. With such a demand on her time, we felt incredibly privileged to be included in Cynthia's itinerary. Betsy Swart, executive director of the Amboseli Elephant Conservation Trust, is credited with manipulating Cynthia's tour schedule to include a detour to the remote town of Hohenwald, Tennessee.

Cynthia was the guest of honor at an invitation only gathering at the Zeitgeist Gallery in Nashville where she was greeted by an intimate group of enthusiastic people who respect her work tremendously. The following day it was our pleasure to tour Cynthia, via a four-wheeler, through the Sanctuary habitat in



Shirley, Tarra, Jenny, Carol, and Cynthia

search of resident elephants. Cynthia was able to see several of the elephants as they foraged through the woods and others as they grazed the pastures.

In response to her visit to the nation's first natural habitat for elephants, Cynthia wrote:

"Those of us who work for the conservation and welfare of wild elephants often feel that we're fighting a losing battle. It's definitely a never-ending battle in which we win some skirmishes but seem to lose a lot more. There are no happy endings in conservation, only sometimes positive outcomes for holding actions. Visiting The Elephant Sanctuary was such a joyful occasion for me. Here were elephant stories with happy endings. Each of those elephants had been brutally taken from the wild, had lived anything from boring and lonely to horrendous lives, and now they were in the best possible conditions a captive elephant could be. It made me happy to know they would live out their last days with kind and caring people, other elephant companions, space to roam, things to do, and more than enough food to eat."

The Sanctuary is grateful for the tireless work done by Cynthia and her group to further the knowledge of wild elephants and her efforts to protect their lives and their families. =



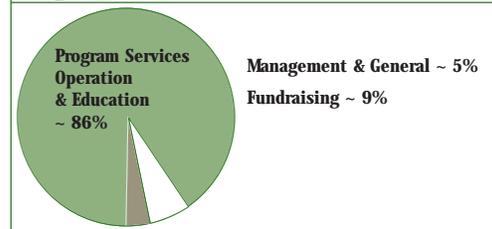
Betsy, Scott, Cynthia, Sissy, and Winkie

We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature, and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth. by Henry Beston

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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 first 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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Tarra, Bunny, Jenny, Shirley, Sissy, Winkie, Delhi, Tange, Zula, Flora and Misty 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

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You can be the first in your group, neighborhood, classroom, or office to buy real estate for elephants. Help the Sanctuary's expansion give elephants the room they need to roam. Acres for Elephants donors receive a subscription to *Trunklines*. Donations of \$55 or more also receive a certificate.

Square Elephant \$3 x _____ = \$_____
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Mammoth \$1,400 x _____ = \$_____
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*“Let a person walk alone with few wishes, committing no wrong,
like an elephant in the forest.”*

Verse from the Dhammapada, Sayings of Buddha



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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.

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