

## Martha Fischer

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**From:** elephant@lists.aza.org [azalistserver@lists.aza.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 04, 2003 4:20 PM  
**To:** Martha Fischer  
**Subject:** The Long Awaited Recommendations



2003 African letter  
and draft ...



2003 Asian letter  
and draft re...

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**From:** "Mike Keele" <keelem@metro.dst.or.us> 5d0c9  
**To:** "Martha Fischer" <fischer@stlzoo.org>

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All messages to this listserv should be sent to elephant@lists.aza.org  
Send questions, email address changes and requests to unsubscribe from  
this listserv to:  
"Mike Keele" <keelem@metro.dst.or.us>

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[attachment below: 2003 african letter and draft recommendations.pdf]  
[attachment below: 2003 asian letter and draft recommendations.pdf]

Attached are draft recommendations for both African and Asian elephants in  
Adobe PDF format. Adobe Reader software is available free online.

The 30 day comment period will begin on the 15th of September, so there is  
adequate time to review these documents. We will check back with each  
of you to be sure you received the recommendation and were able to access  
the file.

Looking forward to your comments,

Mike

**ST LOUIS**

**St. Louis Zoological Park**  
St. Louis, MO

Institutional notes: Five year carrying capacity projection is for two or three males and six or eight females.  
Institutional representative: Martha Fischer

ID	Sex	Age	Additional Info	Disposition	Location	Breeding	With	Notes
130	F	32	Ellie	Hold		Yes	339	
234	F	32	Pearl	Hold		No		Non-repro
235	F	32	Donna	Hold		No		Non-repro
236	F	50	Clara	Hold		No		Non-repro
339	M	10	Raja	Hold		Yes	130 & 247	Repro Priority 4
386	F	7	Rani	Hold		No		Repro Priority 4
247	F	24	Sri	Hold		Yes	339	

- #130 – Ellie mean kinship # 37/68.
- #234 – Pearl not included in genetic analysis.
- #235 – Donna not included in genetic analysis.
- #236 – Clara not included in genetic analysis.
- #339 – Raja mean kinship # 15/24.
- #386 – Rani mean kinship # 50/68.
- #247 – Sri mean kinship # 18/68.

**Summary:** Reproductive assessment for M339 within six months of master plan approval. Train for semen collection.  
Reproductive assessment for F386 within three years of master plan approval. Breed F130 and F247 (if viable) to M339.

Before transfers: 1 male, 6 females  
After transfers: 1 male, 6 females

Draft



AMERICAN ZOO AND  
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

4 September 2003

Elephant TAG/SSP  
Mike Keele – Chair  
Oregon Zoo  
4001 S.W. Canyon Rd.  
Portland, Oregon 97221  
503.220.2445

Dear Institutional Representative:

The following draft recommendations have taken considerable time and thought to develop. They are provided to you for a thirty-day comment period which commences on 15 September 2003 and concludes on 15 October 2003.

Steering Committee:  
John Lehnhardt – Vice Chair  
Steve Wing – Secretary  
David Blasko  
Bruce Bohnke  
Chuck Doyle  
Martha Fischer  
Charlie Gray  
Dale Leeds  
Guy Lichty  
Steve McCusker  
Deborah Olson  
Harry Peachy  
Mike Quick  
Randy Rieches

Both North American populations of African and Asian elephants continue to decline. The recommendations that have been developed are intended to maximize to the fullest extent possible the current individuals in our collections. As much as practical, the Elephant TAG/SSP Steering Committee attempted to formulate each facility recommendation after a review of that facility's circumstances which were generally communicated to the Steering Committee through the facility's Institutional Representative. There are some recommendations, however, that go beyond some facilities' stated interest. These are meant for careful consideration by the facility and the Steering Committee hopes the decision to follow through on these recommendations will be based on what will serve the greatest good for AZA elephant programs.

Several factors were considered for each facility:

The reproductive and medical status of each individual elephant: There are some proven breeder elephants and/or elephants that have been reproductively assessed that have medical conditions which preclude breeding at this time. Should those conditions change, the TAG/SSP may reconsider recommendations for those animals.

The TAG/SSP has recommended that all animals be reproductively assessed on a regular basis. Considerable resources are involved with both natural breeding and artificial insemination. There are many recommendations for reproductive assessments from Priority 1 through Priority 4. The four priorities are defined as follows:

- Priority #1 - All females age 10-25 that have not reproduced and all males that have not reproduced in the last five years. ***To be done within 6 months of master plan approval.***
- Priority #2 - All females age 26 and females under 40 that have not reproduced. ***To be done within 1 year of master plan approval.***
- Priority #3 - All females that have reproduced and are currently not in an active breeding program. ***To be done within 18 months of master plan approval.***
- Priority #4 - All females under the age of 10 and over the age of 40 that have not reproduced; reproductive males. ***To be done within 3 years of master plan approval.***

No breeding recommendations have been made for animals of unknown reproductive status. There are several recommendations for these animals to be reproductively assessed.

Maximizing under-represented animals: Some proven breeders are currently not in beneficial breeding situations and we have recommended transferring them to facilities where they can be bred. In other cases, well-represented animals have been recommended to move out of breeding facilities in order to free-up space for additional breeding. Other animals are of prime breeding age and are not in beneficial breeding situations and we have recommended transferring some of them to breeding facilities.

Current and future carrying capacity of each facility: There are several facilities that have plans which will both increase exhibit space for elephants and provide additional holding spaces for both cows and bulls. Many of the future bull holding spaces are a result of expected future births and several breeding recommendations have been made contingent on the TAG/SSP receiving letters of commitment from facility directors specifying these details.

Some facilities holding two animals indicated no future plans to increase their facilities to accommodate additional animals. The TAG/SSP is making several recommendations to these facilities to consider expanding their elephant facilities to hold at least one additional animal. If these recommendations are followed, the outcome could greatly impact the times where the death of one animal leaves the other animal by itself. In the Steering Committee's experience, it can take considerable time to find suitable companion animals for facilities with lone elephants. These situations also carry the risk of inviting outside interests to resolve the lone-animal condition in ways that may not be in the best interest of the individual animal.

**A summary of the recommendations for Asian elephants:**

Recommended breedings	35
natural breedings	27
artificial inseminations	8
Transfers	18
male transfers	9
female transfers	9
Reproductive Assessments	66
Priority 1	13
Priority 2	21
Priority 3	4
Priority 4	28

Page Three  
Asian Elephant Breeding Recommendations - DRAFT

The Elephant TAG/SSP appreciates the input and direction that we have received from both Institutional Representatives and facility directors in developing these recommendations. Changes to one facility's recommendations can often impact recommendations for other facilities. We hope that you have provided us with sufficient information so that there will not be a need to make many changes to these recommendations. Please consider each recommendation as it relates to our effort to manage all elephants as one collection in a collaborative manner. Please send your comments to Mike Keele, Elephant TAG/SSP Chair at [keelem@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:keelem@metro.dst.or.us) by the comment period deadline of 15 October 2003.

AZA Elephant TAG/SSP Steering Committee