

May 11, 2005

Ms. Suzanne Roy
Program Director
In Defense of Animals
P.O. Box 564
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Dear Ms. Roy:

I am responding to your recent request under the South Carolina Open Records Act for information concerning the elephants currently or previously held at Riverbanks Zoo since January 2000. The volume of material you request clearly exceeds the \$100.00 duplication limit set forth in your letter (per S.C. law, we are allowed to charge a reasonable fee for duplication costs, which we have historically set at 25 cents per page, as well as actual labor costs associated with the gathering, duplication and mailing of the material). Since Riverbanks Zoo and Garden is a tax-supported institution, we must recoup the costs of all such requests, and are not in a position to waive or reduce these fees.

In reviewing your letter, the vast majority of the material you request would fall into the first and last items: copies of all medical records for elephants currently or formally held by Riverbanks Zoo; and copies of all correspondence between Riverbanks and the AZA on topics related to elephants. Should you still desire these materials I will provide you with a cost estimate and you may remit the amount in advance. You also have the option of visiting Riverbanks and viewing these materials in person.

I have no problem providing you, *at no charge*, the following information, which may address most of your concerns:

- Riverbanks currently holds three female African elephants. I have enclosed individual profiles on each of them. Two of these animals (Penny and Tumpe) are owned by Riverbanks, the third (Belle) is owned by the Columbus Zoo.
- A fourth elephant, Belinda, was held by Riverbanks until her death, at age 31, on November 13, 2002. She was owned by the Columbus Zoo. The cause of death was never determined, in spite of a necropsy performed by the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Pathology.
- While Tumpe arrived at Riverbanks with severe foot problems due to neglect by her prior owner and Belle was recently treated for a minor abscess on her toe, none of these elephants have, or is being treated for, foot or joint problems.

- Information regarding the daily care of our elephants is included.
- Riverbanks Zoo opened a new exhibit for African elephants in 2002. The exhibit is approximately 1 acre and the barn is approximately 5,000 sq ft. The barn floor is constructed of smooth concrete; the exhibit floor is hard-packed clay and sand.
- Riverbanks utilizes the “protected contact” form of elephant management.
- While there are no existing plans to acquire additional elephants or expand the exhibit, we *may*, when funds are available, expand the exhibit.
- Copies of all USDA inspections since 2000 are enclosed. There is no other correspondence between the USDA and Riverbanks.

Again, should you still desire the remaining materials I will provide you with a cost estimate and you may remit the amount in advance. Additionally, you also have the option of visiting Riverbanks and viewing these materials in person.

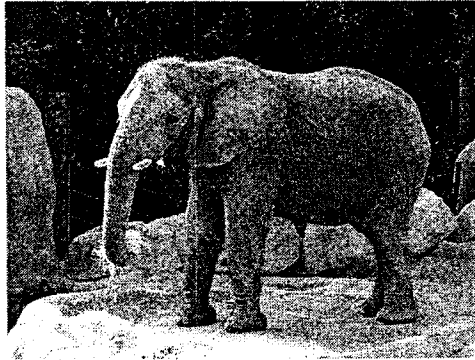
Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Palmer Krantz', written over a horizontal line.

Palmer Krantz
Executive Director

Enclosures



Riverbanks Zoo's Elephant Profile

Scientific Name: *Loxodonta africana*

Common Name: African elephant

House Name: Tumpe

Acquisition Date: 28 September 2002

Sex: Female

Birth date: 25 August 1883

Birth Place: Toronto Zoo

Weight: 8000 lbs. (est.)

Transaction History:

Date	Type	From	To
06 June 1986	Transfer	Toronto	Vancouver
28 September 2002	Transfer	Vancouver	Riverbanks

Recurring Medical Problems and Current Physical Condition:

- Overall, in excellent physical condition.
- Arrived with excessive pad growth and cracked toenails. Condition has been corrected.

Socialization, Temperament, and Behavior History:

- Socializes well with the rest of the herd. Submissive to both Penny 1899 and Belle 7031.
- Arrived with little or no training. She was extremely aggressive initially towards keepers, however, this continues to decrease as her training continues.
- Anxiety grows quickly eliciting aggressive responses when exposing her to new behaviors and stimuli.
- Once new behaviors are shaped and under stimulus control aggression rarely occurs.

Management System:

- Managed utilizing protected contact.
- Tumpe has been conditioned to respond to head, hip and foot targets. She is very compliant performing daily husbandry behaviors such as, body positions and foot/ear presentations.
- No ankus or chains are utilized at this time.

Types of Reinforcement:

- Desirable behaviors are reinforced with produce, bread, sweet feed, elephant supplement and verbal praise.
- Non-compliant and undesirable behaviors are punished utilizing a "no-response" consequence, which is a temporary loss of reinforcement and interaction.

Breeding Potential:

- Blood collection is currently being collected for hormonal assessment.

Updated 10-2004

Riverbanks Zoo's Elephant Profile

Scientific Name: *Loxodonta africana*

Common Name: African Elephant

House Name: Belle

Acquisition Date: December 13th, 2001

Sex: Female **Birth date:** May 1981

Birth Place: Zimbabwe

Weight: 8490lbs.

Transaction History:

Date	Type	From	To
03-05-1983	Capture	Zimbabwe	Columbus
12-13-2001	Transfer	Columbus	Riverbanks

Recurring Medical Problems and Current Physical Condition:

- Left tusk socket flushed BID

Socialization, Temperament, and Behavior History:

- Belle socializes well with all animals in the herd. She is currently the matriarch and has facilitated the introduction of "Star" #7802 into the herd. Belle currently displays separation anxiety behaviors if enclosed in the indoor holding facility without the rest of the herd.

Management System:

- Managed utilizing protected contact.
- Belle has been conditioned to respond to head, hip and foot targets. She is very compliant performing daily husbandry behaviors such as, body positions and foot/ear presentations.
- No ankus or chains are utilized at this time.

Types of Reinforcement:

- Desirable behaviors are reinforced with produce, bread, sweet feed, elephant supplement and verbal praise.
- Non-compliant and undesirable behaviors are punished utilizing a "no-response" consequence, which is a temporary loss of reinforcement and interaction.

Breeding Potential:

- Belle was an excellent candidate for breeding based on her age and past reproductive assessments, however, within the past year she has become acyclic. She is being treated with prolactin as a part of a TAG supported research project in attempts to resume a normal hormonal cycle.
- Hormonal blood values are currently being obtained on a weekly basis to further assess her reproductive condition.

Updated 10-04-2004

Riverbanks Zoo's Elephant Profile



Scientific Name: *Loxodonta africana*

Common Name: African elephant

House Name: Penny

Acquisition Date: 10 December, 2001

Sex: Female

Birth date: ~Dec. 1979

Birth Place: Africa

Weight: 8500 lbs

Transaction History:

Date	Type	From	To
~1981	Capture	Africa	Ferndale
30 June 1982	Transfer	Ferndale	Madison
15 Aug 2000	Transfer	Madison	Columbus
10 Dec 2001	Transfer	Columbus	Riverbanks

Recurring Medical Problems and Current Physical Condition:

- Right tusk socket flushed with Nolvasan BID

Socialization, Temperament, and Behavior History:

- Penny is well tempered and often attempts to avoid confrontations with the other animals. However, Penny is extremely food motivated and will often take food in the presence of the other animals regardless of the consequences.
- She is submissive when confronted or challenged by Belle #7031 and Star #7802 but is dominant over Tumpe #7336.

Management System:

- Managed utilizing protected contact.
- Penny has been conditioned to respond to head, hip and foot targets. She is very compliant performing daily husbandry behaviors such as, body positions and foot/ear presentations. She is also very compliant to enter the ERD.
- No ankus or chains are utilized at this time.

Types of Reinforcement:

- Desirable behaviors are reinforced with produce, bread, sweet feed, elephant supplement and verbal praise.
- Non-compliant and undesirable behaviors are punished utilizing a "no-response" consequence, which is a temporary loss of reinforcement and interaction.

Breeding Potential:

- Penny is an excellent candidate for breeding based on her age and past reproductive assessments.

- Hormonal blood values are currently being obtained on a weekly basis to further assess her reproductive condition.

Updated 10-2004