

Elephant Profiles

3 Elephants

5 pages

2000-2001

10/15/01

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## ELEPHANT BIOS

Common Name: African Elephant House Name: Monica  
Acquisition date: 1975 Sex 0.1 Birth date approximately 1973  
Birth place South Africa Weight: approximately 9, 800 lbs.  
Transition History  
Facility(capture) Namibia Date/From: 1975 To: Animales 6/8/1976

Physical Description: has 1 tusk on right side, dry socket on left side. Not an excessively hairy elephant. She is a larger, stouter elephant with thicker legs. Has larger ears.

Reoccurring medical problems and current physical conditions.

In the past she has had impaction problems when new clay has been added to the yard. Hasn't been significant up to this point. She seems to have knee problems which she receives MSM for, favors her right knee. This is apparent in a stretch position. She shifts her weight away from her right knee. At times you can observe slight lameness in her gate. Furthermore, while standing, she may rarely place weight on it. Since moving to the new enclosure in April of 2002 none of these symptoms have been observed.

Socialization, temperament and behavior history.

Upon arriving at VA Zoo Monica and Lisa were placed in an exhibit with an Asian named Alice, they have had no other exposure to any other elephants. Monica seems to be the dominant elephant. This is apparent through the fact that she displaces Lisa in order to eat first. She also commands sole use of the tire. She takes first from the browse that is offered. There are very few times that Lisa actually gets anything offered first without keeper intervention. "Back up" is effective with Monica, based on her level of determination. She also displays a weird passive/aggressive behavior. She backs into people in order to displace them or push them around. Monica is also a very slow elephant. She walks with an inverted gate. She performs commands slowly as well. It seems the harder we try to speed her up, the slower she gets. If treated unfairly she will flare up. Fortunately, she is a very forgiving elephant. Monica works best with a set routine. She is reluctant to readily adapt to changes. She is a deliberate elephant who is fair and tolerant of new trainers.

Reproductive Health: Hormonal Assays ran in Jan of 1992 through Sept. 1993 indicated she wasn't cycling and that time. We have banked blood in the past for future analysis. We are also currently collecting urine to determine whether or not they are cycling.

Training history: Brief consultation by Don Meyers upon arrival in 1976. Don Meyers began consulting annually in Dec. 1986 through 1989. In 1990, John Lenhardt, Assistant

Curator, National Zoo began consulting. Current Elephant Manager Jody Watkins transitioned program from free-contact to a protected-contact program in 2002.

Commands:

Get over

Move up

Come here

Steady

Stretch

Lay down

Pad

Ear

Trunk

Open mouth

Lean in

Other side

Line up

Back

Foot

Beak

\*respond to whistle ( retrieval cue)

perform current TB protocol

## Cita-Imported from Africa

- Born-1969
- Came to the Virginia Zoo from the Indianapolis Zoo in March of 2005.
- Movie credentials: "Sheena Queen of the Jungle", "Peewee's Big Adventure", and "The Color Purple".
- Cita paints with a brush.
- Weight-7,500 lbs Height-8'
- Has one tusk that points down and one that grows out. Her ivory grows up to 6 inches a year!
- Eats up to 100 lbs of hay a day, in addition to grain, fruits and vegetables and edible trees and plants known as browse.
- Cita makes a raspberry noise while she is eating or drinking. She also knows how to whistle.

Training history- Current Elephant Manager Jody Watkins transitioned to a protected-contact program in 2005.

Reproductive Health: Normal cycles, blood being banked.

### Commands:

Get over

Move up

Come here

Steady

Stretch

Lay down

Pad

Ear

Trunk

Open mouth

Lean in

Other side

Line up

Back

Foot

Beak

Speak

Whistle

Sit-up

\*respond to whistle

perform current TB protocol

## Elephant Profile Form

Common Name: African Elephant                      House Name: Lisa  
Acquisition Date: 1975                      Sex 0.1                      Birthdate: Approx. 1973  
Birthplace: S. Africa                      Weight: Approx 11,000lbs.  
Transition History:  
Facility                      Date/From                      To  
  
(Capture) Namibia                      1975  
Animales                      6/8/1976

Tusks: has both tusks (grinds down the outer edges on both sides)

Hair: very hairy along body and legs

Ears: smaller ears of the two, hers fold over a lot at the top

Size: Lisa has a long torso, less muscular, legs not as solid

### Reoccurring Medical Problems and Current Physical Condition:

Lisa seems to experience episodes of colic especially after new clay has been added in her yard. Some indications that this is occurring are as follows: refusing grain, frequently laying down, refusing produce, propping her tusks and feet, and straining to defecate with little if any fecal production.

### Socialization, Temperament and Behavior History:

Upon arrival at Vzpark, Lisa and her current cagemate, Monica, were placed in the exhibit with an Asian elephants named Alice. They remained together until her death in 1978. Lisa has had no other exposure to elephants. At times, Lisa can become very anxious. This can be seen in her desire to rock back and forth. The most effective approach with Lisa during these times are giving her basic commands to offer her the opportunity to re-focus. Generally, Lisa plays the submissive role of the two elephants. This is apparent in her submissive posturing in the presence of Monica. However, this heirchy is randomly challenged. Lisa is an opportunistic elephant that chooses her battles wisely. Any aspects of husbandry that may inflict even the slightest amount of pain, may very well set Lisa off. It is highly recommended that Lisa is restrained when attempting vaccinations, footwork, or wound examinations. Lisa works best with a set routine but will readily adapt to change. Social dynamics are critical elements that must be recognized when working with Lisa. At times, Lisa seems to go tino overload. If this goes unnoticed, it can lead to severe consequences. She will strike-out.

Reproductive Health: Hormonal Assays ran in Jan of 1992 through Sept. 1993 indicated she was cycling at that time. We have banked blood in the past for future analysis. We are also currently collecting urine to determine whether or not they are cycling.

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