

PDZA

Bamboo → PDZA
Correspondence

Karen L. Goodrowe, Ph.D.
General Curator
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
5400 N. Pearl St.
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(253) 404-3680
kareng@tacomaparks.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Holly Reed [mailto:hreed@pdza.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2005 6:00 PM
To: 'Kelly Helmick'; darin.collins@zoo.org
Cc: Karen Goodrowe
Subject: RE: bamboo shipment

Hi Kelly,

Here are my preshipment requests:

1. CBC/serum chemistry
2. Rectal culture for salmonella or other fecal pathogens
3. Fecal exam for ova and parasites - direct and floatation
4. Trach wash/TB test history - results and date of last test
5. EMC virus titers - if previously tested negative - what other elephants have been introduced since that test and what is their location history and titer status.
6. History for exposure to herpes.
7. Medical records - to review historical medical issues and how we can best prepare to receive and take good care of her.

Kelly, Darin and Karen,

Darin and I have spoken and will be arranging a time for me to come up to Woodland Park to discuss medical issues, visit the elephant barn, go over the plans that you decide on tomorrow and meet and possibly be there for Bamboo's pre-ship exam.

Here are my questions for the meeting:

1. How old is Bamboo?
2. What method of transport would be most appropriate?
3. Will Bamboo have an acclimation period to get used to walking in and out of the transport semi or travel crate?
4. Does she have any behavioral issues that would require the use of sedation before or during the transport (I prefer to transport with an alert, unmedicated elephant, personally)

5. Does she have any arthritis issues that would affect her ability to stabilize herself or rise up from laying down?
6. Is she currently on any medications that affect her level of alertness?
7. What is her response to new/novel situations or introduction of new adult elephants?

I am very sorry that I will not be able to attend Wednesday's meeting. Hope all goes well and I will wait to hear what you all decide. It is nice to be able to collaborate on this effort!

Holly

Holly Reed, DVM
Head Veterinarian
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
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(253) 404-3639 (o)
(253) 404-3631 (to be contacted by radio)
(253) 591-5448 (FAX)

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly Helmick [<mailto:Kelly.Helmick@Zoo.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2005 8:30 AM
To: Holly Reed (E-mail)
Cc: Darin Collins
Subject: bamboo shipment

holly - thanks for the phone response. probably best if you could fax or email a list of your questions or concerns, preferably before wednesday's meeting, and we can address those then and get that info back to you end of the week. thanks, k.

Kelly E. Helmick, DVM, MS
Associate Veterinarian
Woodland Park Zoo
601 North 59th Street
Seattle, WA 98103
office: 206-684-5207
fax: 206-684-4873
email: kelly.helmick@zoo.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Geddes, John Houck, Karen Goodrowe, Holly Reed, Kathleen Olson, Jean Jackman, John Rupp, Carla Collette, Stan Chapin, Donna Powell, Vickie Cowan
FROM: Carolyn Cox
DATE: Aug. 1, 2005
SUBJECT: Bamboo timeline

As we continue preparations for receiving Bamboo into the PDZA elephant program, I wanted to update you on timelines for communicating with Metro Parks and other officials as well as the news media and public. I've outlined below significant dates in our communications plan, individual responsibilities (noted in green) and key messages about the transfer.

I propose that we gather at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10 to discuss transport arrangements and communications strategy. A number of questions come to mind such as whether to hire extra security, arranging for police escorts, how we will handle protesters if they do show up, how we will handle the news media during the actual transfer, blocking views from the farm lot fence into the elephant barn lower level, how we prepare the front gate staff and others to deal with protesters, how we interact with visitors if trouble should occur, and contingency plans in case of protests, injury or illness.

Key dates

- Aug. 8: Confidential memo to Metro Parks Tacoma commissioners and Executive Director Jack Wilson by this date alerting them to pending transfer (Gary)
Aug. 9: Media training for PDZA staff (Jean and Carolyn). Late in day memo sent to Zoo Society board (Kathleen), PDZA staff notifying them of pending transfer (John H).
Aug. 10: Joint PDZA-WPZ press release announcing that Bamboo's transfer will happen soon. Announcement goes up on PDZA and WPZ web sites. (Carolyn and Gigi Allianic/WPZ).
Aug. 11: John H. updates PDZA staff at All-Staff breakfast; Zoo/Trek Authority notified of pending transfer (Gary, Jean)
Week before transfer: Follow-up press release announcing date. (Carolyn, Gigi)
Aug. 27: "E Day." (All hands on deck!)

Key messages:

- The move of Bamboo to a new home at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium helps each institution meet our long-term goals. Point Defiance has been looking for a third elephant to enhance its herd's social dynamics. For Woodland Park, it is optimal to have a herd that is integrated and multigenerational. It's a win-win situation for Bamboo and for both zoos.
Bamboo will live in an appropriate social grouping at Point Defiance where she will have an opportunity for maximized social contact. We anticipate Bamboo, Suki and Hanako to be compatible.
Bamboo remains in this region, enabling the Seattle community to continue enjoying Bamboo when they visit Tacoma.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page including: 'what if she dies? injured - contingencies', 'Policy on site re: LRTs - will chains be padded?', 'Seattle Park Seattle PD contact', 'K6 B to Talk Bruce U. Escape route for people.', 'woodland park what is their plan?', 'wider off area'.

Karen Goodrowe

From: Karen Goodrowe
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2005 2:35 PM
To: 'Bruce Upchurch'
Subject: RE: logistics

Thanks Bruce. I'll talk to you tomorrow.

KGB

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Upchurch [mailto:Bruce.Upchurch@Zoo.org]
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2005 2:30 PM
To: Karen Goodrowe
Subject: RE: logistics

-Karen - I will get with Nancy and perhaps others here and get back to you very soon. If nothing else, I'll call on Friday with an update.

B

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Goodrowe [mailto:Kareng@tacomaparks.com]
Sent: Wed 8/10/2005 4:37 PM
To: Bruce Upchurch
Cc:
Subject: logistics

Hey Bruce:

Here is my list. Some of it I am sure we can just settle over the phone.

1. Tacoma PD suggested having a state patrol escort. They are willing to make the contact, if you have not done so already. *They will talk it out*
2. TPD also suggested having an alternate route planned out as a contingency. *they will formalize this.*
3. We will need a list of the vehicles and license plate numbers that will be accompanying Bamboo so they too can be included in the escort.
4. Can you please send me your contact at Seattle PD, so I can pass it on to TPD?
5. We should probably have a communication plan/tree in place on the "E" day, so we don't have a lot of people phoning one another and us getting a lot of different messages.
6. There has been a question as to whether or not the chains will be padded. *probably not they expand & stretch - so don't have jet problems*
7. In the case of an animal escape, we have a lethal restraint policy in place for elephants. However, we have also said that it is your animal until she is in the barn. So, I guess we need to talk about what the WPZ policy is, the "what ifs", and what actions we would undertake if the "what ifs" happened. TPD has said that in the case of an escape off zoo grounds

Lethal restraint will be available from WPZ

that they would offer support for crowd control, but we would continue with our policy and team.

8. We are planning on one of your staff being here for the next week after Bamboo's arrival. Are you on board with that?

OK - I think that's it for now. Let me know what you think.

Karen

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Charge phone - Be ~~only~~ charger

PDZA night security 677-7093

Bamboo Arrival
Agenda

I. Transport

- a. Date- Time
- b. Logistics

- i. Woodland Park - Bruce Upchurch
- ii. PDZA - Craig/Scott - support 131a

II. Arrival at PDZA

a. Park closure

- i. Cooperation with MPT, TPD
- ii. Barricades at upper parking lot
- iii. Removal of barricades

with staff
Holly & Don
~~extra lights on road~~
swing-melodie
Holly
Paul
crane parking
night #

NO media

III. Security

a. Support staff

- i. Elephant handling - KGB/Craig - Asia Staff
- ii. LRT - Stan
- iii. Operations support - Scott,
- iv. Perimeter crew - John H, John R, Will, Kathleen, Bob T, Carla, Jean, Carolyn, Brynn, Donna, TBD
- v. Overnight security - KGB/Stan
- vi. TPD - Captain Miller

1 staff person

IV. Media - Jean, Carolyn

for noon news?

V. Next day

- a. Crowd/protester issues
 - i. Weekend coverage
- b. Education - Carla

late p.m.

Cpt. David O'Dea Swing Shift Commander
Gary Smith - Intelligence

Grand services @ 2115
NW Detective Services

WPZ cell phone numbers

Nancy Hawkes.	425-445-9319	
Bruce Upchurch	253-951-4729	
Bret Sellers	206-930-7016	
Dr. Kelly Helmick	915-355-3559	pgr - 206-997-5936

Vehicles

Pat Maluy	Red Toyota Tacoma Pickup	A15565X
Bret Sellers	Brown Infiniti QX4	NBK 099
Linda MoneyMaker	Brown GMC Suburban	782 TRG
Chuck Harke	Motorcycle	820814

*Personnel listed below will not be accompanying the shipment.

Farshid Mehrdedfar	206-819-1325	
Gigi Allianic	206-300-0190	
Trini Alcaraz	206-295-0078	pgr - 206-541-1201
Dr. Darin Collins	206-290-9077	pgr - 206-997-3115
Bruce Bohmke	206-684-4057	

PDZA Cell phone numbers

John Houck	253-208-8526
Karen Goodrowe	253-677-9988
Dr. Holly Reed	253-312-4292
Carolyn Cox	253-677-3391

Elephant Move Crews

Task	Crew	In charge
Unloading of elephant	Asia Staff Scott, Greg, Bob, Jack, Dennis	KGB Scott
LRT	Stan	
Security Fence Perimeter (first crew – farm lot barrier)	Joe G, Ric O, Kathleen, Brent, Bob, Will, JH, JR, Traci, Karen P, Carla, Mike S, Craig S, Donovan, Dan J	JH
Security Fence Perimeter (second crew – general zoo perimeter)	RS Group Gate WWOT AHCF KZ area General	Jean J, RS staff Sharon C Sara, Mo WWOT staff Anna, Julie Larry, Rich, KZ staff Barb, Cindy K, Jan
Front Gate area	Krysta, Stacey, Cathleen, Cheryl S, Carol S, Carol H, Christy, Mandy, Julie W, Leslie, Heidi, Vickie,	Donna
Media	Jean, Carolyn, Denette	Jean
Interpretive Messages	Concerted Effort	Carla, Jean, Carolyn

Karen Goodrowe

From: Stan Chapin
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2005 10:00 AM
To: Karen Goodrowe
Cc: Scott Clarke
Subject: RE: logistics

Radios - no problem.

Dippin Dots - no problem - already discussed with Craig.

Training - we are going to have shooting practice next week with the larger caliber weapon. Most of our practice involves shooting a small caliber weapon to save on cost (and your shoulder) As for the last shooting training, Scott will have to look that up.

Stan

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Goodrowe
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2005 12:55 PM
To: Stan Chapin
Cc: Scott Clarke
Subject: logistics

Stan:

A few of more logistical items for "E" day:

TPD has requested the use of 2 of our radios for that day. Can you arrange that?

The Dippin' Dots hut may need to be moved to get the truck in - I would suggest maybe you or Scott could talk to Craig and see what he thinks.

Can you provide me with the last training/practice date for LRT's?

Thanks!!
KGB

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USDA vet - [unclear]
police escorts - 6th Ave. escort

LRT on site
off/condo
phone tree

Draft

Communications Strategy

Transfer of Bamboo from Woodland Park Zoo to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Interpretive @ barn

1.0 Situation Statement

Woodland Park Zoo's 38-year-old Asian elephant, Bamboo, will be transferred to Tacoma's Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium where she will be socialized with two females (cows). Bamboo arrived at WPZ from Thailand at age 1. The other members of WPZ's herd are: Asian 26-year-old Chai and 4½-year-old Hansa, the calf of Chai; and African 36-year-old Watoto (wah-TOE-toe). The cows at PDZA are both Asian: 40-year-old Suki and 41-year-old Hanako. The timing of Bamboo's transfer is TBD.

2.0 Communications Challenge

The primary challenge will be to manage the public's perception of this animal transfer in light of current trends toward heightened scrutiny of elephant management practices in zoos by animal rights organizations such as PETA and IDA. We can address this challenge by emphasizing that the transfer is beneficial for Bamboo, for the management of the herds at both zoos and for the Asian Elephant Species Survival Plan (SSP).

3.0 Objectives

- To ensure human and animal safety in the transport of Bamboo to PDZA.
- To ensure clear and consistent communication to our target audiences.
- To keep the community and media informed.
- To provide an efficient, service-oriented approach to the media and community.

4.0 Target Audiences

- Staff
- Volunteers
- Zoo members
- Zoo visitors
- Zoo Boards
- Metro Parks Commissioners / Zoo Trek Authority
- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- AZA
- Community, general public
- Media
- Elected officials / Mayor City Council

USDA

5.0 Messaging: Key and sub-messages

Positioning statement: Bamboo's transfer to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is a positive move for Bamboo and should optimize the social environment for both zoos' herds.

Key messages:

- The move of Bamboo to a new home at PDZA presents a win-win situation for her and for both zoos. She should be more compatible with Asian elephants her age and temperament; she will be able to be with both members of a herd on a near constant basis instead of being managed separately.
- Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium has proudly cared for elephants for more than 40 years. We are highly confident in the expertise, passion and professionalism that Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium has to offer Bamboo.
- Bamboo remains in this region, enabling the Seattle community to continue enjoying Bamboo when they visit Tacoma.

will spend less time being ad

VOLUNTEERS

Tactics	Responsibility	Date
Memo from Bruce B. announcing date of transfer	Gigi	TBD
Copy of joint press release, FAQ	Gigi	TBD
Ramblings article	Kim/Leslie	TBD
Docent Rendezvous	Bruce B./Nancy	TBD

BOARD MEMBERS

Tactics	Responsibility	Date
Memo from Bruce B. or Deborah announcing date of transfer	Gigi	TBD
Copy of joint press release, FAQ	Gigi	TBD
Animal Management Policy Committee briefing	Bruce B./Nancy	TBD

PRESS

Tactics	Responsibility	Date
Joint press release announcing date of transfer	Gigi	TBD
Photo op advisory for departure of Bamboo (if agreed upon)	Gigi	TBD
Press kit	Gigi	Upon announcements
Photos/video	Ric, Ryan, Gigi	TBD
Interviews: primary spokespersons – Bruce B., Nancy; secondary – Bruce U., Pat	Gigi	As needed

ELECTED OFFICIALS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Tactics	Responsibility	Date
Memo from Bruce B. announcing date of transfer to Mayor, City Council members, Ken Bounds, Parks PIOs	Gigi	TBD
Copy of joint press release, FAQ to Ken Bounds, Parks PIOs	Gigi	TBD
Response letters from animal rights orgs or general public	Gigi, Bruce, Paula	As needed

General

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium helped pioneer the protected contact elephant program 14 years ago.

The PDZA elephant program is one of the most respected in North America.

We have a 40-year proud tradition of caring for elephants at Point Defiance Zoo.

Adjustment

Bamboo is very intelligent, curious and cooperative.

Lab work and behavioral indicators such as appetite and response to keepers show she is in good health. She is chatty and readily moves about in the barn and elephant yard.

(If asked about the abcess on right hip:) We are treating Bamboo for a skin irritation, much like a pimple. Skin problems in elephants take longer to manifest and heal because their skin is so thick.

She is responding well to the elephant care staff. She cooperates in her own care and vocalizes in response to treats and care. In general, she is comfortable around people.

She is adapting very well to PDZA's protected contact program. She participates in foot care, blood collection, etc.

Staff is seeing a reduction of repetitive behaviors that often are associated with anticipation of specific events, such as feeding time and coming into the barn at night. Our aggressive enrichment program has helped to reduce these behaviors.

Current Activities

Bamboo has had daily access to the outdoor area since September.

She can see, smell and touch the other elephants in a protected contact setting, both outdoors and in the elephant barn.

All of the elephants receive frequent enrichment activities – food, toys, sensory stimulation, training, different experiences. They also receive baths and daily foot care.

Training behaviors, such as trunk presentation for TB washes, are planned for Bamboo.

Introductions

We're still evaluating the relationships that are developing among the three elephants at PDZA.

Introductions are done in incremental steps. We take our cues from the animals. It is a process that can be immediate or take months.

We have tried intros with the other elephants with mixed results. Suki, the matriarch, was aggressive with Bamboo; Hanako has both ignored Bamboo and at times has shown aggressive behavior.

When elephants are introduced, they work out a social hierarchy in which the matriarch requires submissive behaviors from the other herd elephants.

We remain in consultation with Woodland Park Zoo about Bamboo's progress.

Separate management

We feel confident that we are meeting the physical and psychological needs of each elephant.

The elephant yard meets AZA standards for the number of elephants here.

The yard was designed to allow the staff to separate animals if necessary.

Future

Woodland Park still owns Bamboo.

Decisions about her future will be made through consultation by the two zoos and AZA's Asian Elephant SSP Team.

*what if she's injured?
contingency*



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CLIENT: Metro Parks Tacoma
PROJECT: Media Interview Prep for Elephant Move

Zoo Policies & Move Logistics

herd = social grouping

Why is Point Defiance moving the elephant, Bamboo, from Woodland Park Zoo to Tacoma?

How many elephants does PDZA have now (and will you be able to adequately care for another one?)

How will the move be accomplished?

How are you going to protect Bamboo during the move? What happens if she is injured?

taken every precaution - PDZA

Is it wise to move this elephant from the only home she's known for almost 38 years?

Elephants are sensitive herd animals. Should she be separated from her herd at WPZ?

if possible she's taking over with her

Describe Bamboo's new environment and how it will differ from her WPZ home. (Will Bamboo have more or less space at PDZA than she did at Woodland Park?)

What's the current condition of Bamboo's health?

Cindy died more than two years ago. Why has it taken so long to find a replacement?

What was Cindy's health like when she died?

Wasn't there some sort of controversy over the disposal of Cindy's remains?

Why can't PDZA get an elephant from another source, rather than take one from Seattle?

Tell me a little about Bamboo's background. (Has she always been difficult to handle?)

PR & Marketing Interview

*From Miss & Bob Self -
A Travelled Reporter*

Is WPZ "dumping" its rogue elephant on Point Defiance?

How hard will it be for Bamboo to adjust to a new environment? (Since she can't talk, how will you know if she's having problems?)

What happens if Bamboo doesn't get along with Suki and Hanako? Would you send her back to WPZ?

What is the current health and condition of Suki and Hanako?

Do you believe animal rights activists will protest this move? If they do, how will you respond?

Is PDZA paying WPZ anything for Bamboo? Why or why not?

What does the care and feeding of adult elephant cost each year?

about 1000 US/day

There is a fair amount of controversy over whether or not it's humane to keep elephants in captivity. What is the PDZA's reasoning here?

science, biology, etc. in fact, don't know it all

Do you consider organizations such as In Defense of Animals and PETA as pro-elephant or merely anti-zoo?

What expressions of interest or concern have you received so far about moving Bamboo? Do you expect more input from average citizens, elected officials or others?

What is the Species Survival Plan (SSP) and how does it work?

How soon will the public be able to see Bamboo?

Time Out

world's biggest pedophile

Elephant-Specific Questions

What is so special about elephants? Why do people find them so appealing?

Why do you think people seem so concerned about how elephants are treated?

uncredited reporting to ISIS

How many American zoos have elephants? How many don't - and has that number changed significantly over the past 10 years?

78/220

What are the AZA's "standards for elephant management and care"? (And why did it take from 2001-2006 to get all member zoos to adopt them?)

Does PDZA always adhere to the standards? (How are you certain of that?)

Focal words actually

as - actually, absolutely

Holly

Give me an idea of what's involved in caring for an adult elephant.

What does the typical zoo elephant do all day?

How do you "socialize" an elephant into a new herd?

Can you actually control something as big and strong as an elephant, without using coercive methods?

Is there any time that Bamboo will be chained at PDZA?

Has the Zoo ever used "bullhooks" on any of its elephants or other large mammals?

Have you, yourself, ever knowingly mistreated an elephant – or seen anyone else do it?

Has Bamboo ever had any offspring? Is it too late for that?

Is it true that elephants breed poorly in captivity – and their offspring can never be introduced into the wild? Why is that?

How many is enough?
Do elephants live longer in the wild or in captivity? *current research shows they live longer in wild.*

What's the difference between an elephant's lifespan and life expectancy? What is the average for elephants in captivity and in the wild?

Why do elephants have so many foot and digestive problems in captivity?

Activists' Issues and Allegations

Does the American public support having elephants in zoos? (Isn't the tide of public opinion really turning on that issue?)

Is the Pacific Northwest climate too cold for elephants?

How do you respond to animal activists' charges that zoos operate under a veil of conservation and education when, in reality, they keep elephants as money-generating tourist attractions?

If you are really concerned about the world's dwindling wild elephant population, doesn't it bother you that zoo-bred animals can't help address that problem?

Does keeping elephants in captivity teach children that it's all right to deprive *anything* of its freedom for our amusement?

what is the standard of accredited zoos?

Animal advocates say that if Bamboo must be moved at all, it shouldn't be to another zoo, but to an elephant sanctuary. How do you respond?

Tell me a little more about elephant sanctuaries – and why you're so opposed to the concept.

Recently, other zoos have sent their elephants to sanctuaries instead of zoos. Aren't elephants better off in these sanctuaries with more room to roam?

Why don't sanctuaries breed elephants?

Many elephants come to be in zoos through some pretty unfortunate circumstances – freed from labor camps in Southeast Asia or found injured and abandoned in Africa. Why shouldn't they be allowed to return to the wild instead of being sent to zoos?

Separated from their families/herds, elephants can suffer chronic physical ailments, emotional deprivation and premature death. Why would any zoo want to do that?

On the Web site of Save Zoo Elephants, part of In Defense of Animals, this quote appears on the homepage: "Elephants are not good candidates for zoo life because their needs for space, environmental complexity and social interaction are beyond anything that most zoos can provide." It is attributed to David Hancocks, former director of the Woodland Park Zoo. Why do you think Mr. Hancocks would say that? Any element of truth to his statement?

In the current age, aren't zoos really an anachronism? Can't people have better interaction with them via television or the Internet?

How do you personally describe the difference between "free" and "captive" wildlife?



Arrival of Asian Elephant Bamboo

Questions Visitors May Ask

Why is PDZA getting Bamboo?

We are providing Bamboo a home. WPZ, PDZA, and AZA all believe that we have the best social setting to match her needs. We have an all-Asian female herd close to her age, a state-of-the-art elephant barn with heated, cushioned floors, and a soft surface yard that offers shade, pools, and boulders. Bamboo will be managed with a reward-based, protected contact system by caring, experienced handlers. Adding Bamboo to our herd will also benefit PDZA by bringing the zoo up to the minimum herd size of 3 elephants required by AZA.

Why isn't Bamboo being sent to a private Elephant Sanctuary?

PDZA was chosen as the ideal home for Bamboo because we have a compatible social setting for her, and the facilities, the staff expertise and financial resources to support her.

What's the difference between an AZA zoo and a private sanctuary?

Private elephant sanctuaries are not AZA accredited zoos and are not held to the same rigorous standards of animal care. Nor do they have the strong conservation education mission mandated by AZA accreditation. Private sanctuaries are not open to the public. Therefore, elephants in sanctuaries are not able to serve as ambassadors for their species. Another disadvantage to the private sanctuaries is their lack of full-time veterinary staff. We are not necessarily opposed to private sanctuaries; however we encourage them to meet the high standards set for AZA accredited facilities. In fact, we consider PDZA to be a sanctuary for animals.

How much space do elephants need? Is this enough space?

Wild elephants move an average of 3-6 miles per day in the dry season and up to 15 miles in the wet season. When food is plentiful, elephants tend to stay in one area. There is no scientific evidence that elephants live longer because of the amount of space. Animal Rights groups and sanctuaries base their claim that sanctuaries are superior over zoos on a simple matter of space. They claim that elephants travel up to 60 miles per day in the wild. In zoos, proper elephant care involves more than if the animals have adequate space. Both WPZ & PDZA meet or exceed the rigorous standards set by AZA. The standards address all aspects of elephant care – veterinarian care, environmental conditions, indoor living quarters, nutrition, socialization, training, enrichment, staffing, conservation, research, and education. At PDZA, Bamboo will have daily care, a full-time veterinary staff to see to all her needs and a compatible herd of other elephants.

How do you safely move an elephant?

To prevent injury, Bamboo will be restrained during her transport. These restraints serve the same function as a seatbelt. Elephants are typically moved by truck. Bamboo will be moved by a professional elephant driver, and will have a police escort during the entire trip from WPZ. Animal care staff and veterinarians from WPZ will accompany her. There is no plan to sedate her for the trip.

Cindy died more than 2 years ago. Why has it taken so long to find a replacement?

We did not want to bring another elephant in during the construction of the Asian Forest Sanctuary, of which the elephant yard is a part. And we wanted to take our time to find an elephant that would be a great social fit with our elephants Suki and Hanako.

What was Cindy's health like when she died, and wasn't there some sort of controversy over the disposal of Cindy's remains?

She was being treated for degenerative arthritis, and we made the decision to humanely euthanize her when it became clear that her quality of life was compromised. The hauler we hired to take her remains to be cremated made an unauthorized decision to dispose of her remains in a landfill. The zoo was not told of this action, nor would we have approved of it.

Tell me a little bit about Bamboo's background. Has she always been difficult to handle?

Bamboo needs to be with elephants of her same age. She was unpredictable around WPZ's elephant calf and has not been socially compatible with Watoto, the matriarch of WPZ's herd.

How do you socialize an elephant into a new herd?

PDZA staff has 45 years of elephant care experience, collectively. Most recently they have socialized Suki and Hanako into the PDZA herd. For Bamboo, PDZA and WPZ staffs have exchanged elephant fecal samples so Bamboo would find familiar smells when she arrived. PDZA staff has also been visiting WPZ, so Bamboo could become familiar with them. Our elephant barn is designed so the elephants can see, smell, and touch each other through a protective barrier. Bamboo will stay in the barn until she is comfortable moving out into the yard. Her comfort and behavior will dictate how quickly that happens. However, she will be visible to the public while she is in the barn.

Can you get an elephant to do something you want it to do?

We can't and don't make animals do anything. Our management system uses only positive reinforcement for the behaviors we desire. We helped pioneer this system of management which has fantastic results in animals participating fully and willingly in their own care program.

Will Bamboo go through quarantine?

Bamboo will be "quarantined" in the elephant barn. It will not be a true quarantine because she will be exposed to the other two elephants. The vet staff at WPZ gave Bamboo a thorough physical and gave her a clean bill of health for the transfer. Our vet staff will also be monitoring her closely after the move.

What happens if Bamboo doesn't get along with Suki and Hanako? Would you send her back to WPZ?

We have every reason to believe that the three of them will form a compatible herd, and we will monitor their behavior closely.

Why are there protesters outside?

Some people do not understand that the zoo has a mission to promote responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research, and recreational opportunities. Like us, these people believe that they are doing what's best for Bamboo. We disagree on what is the best care for Bamboo. We respect these people's right to protest, but our first priority is the safety of the animals and our guests.

Do elephants live longer in the wild or in captivity?

In general zoo animals live longer than their wild counterparts. Elephants in AZA accredited zoos live at least as long as elephants in the wild, according to a recent study published in the journal Zoo Biology by Dr. Robert J. Wiese and Dr. Kevin Willis. The study shows that the average life expectancy for elephants in professionally managed zoos are comparable with those of free ranging elephant populations for which data are available. Elephants in the wild face more challenges than their zoo counterparts, including parasites, predators, habitat destruction, starvation, drought, disease, and poachers.

What's the difference between an elephant's lifespan and life expectancy? What is the average for elephants in captivity and in the wild?

Maximum lifespan is the longest any individual has lived. Only one elephant has lived to be 70, and it is nothing more than an interesting factoid, like one human lived to be 120 years old. Life expectancy is how long a typical individual will live. Half the individuals will live less, and half will live longer. Do you know how long you will live? You can guess, but there are many factors, including heredity, lifestyle, and luck involved in how long you live.

Does the American public support having elephants in zoos?

According to a Harris Poll survey (an independent organization) in May 2005, 95% of US adults agree that visiting accredited zoos and seeing elephants helps people appreciate them more and encourages people to learn more about them. Another finding shows that 86% of respondents agree that visiting zoos and aquariums encourages people to donate money or time to animal conservation efforts.