

Bamboo to WPZ
Correspondence



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Park Commissioners

FROM: Jack C. Wilson, Executive Director

DATE: March 17, 2006

SUBJECT: **Bamboo the Elephant to return to Woodland Park Zoo**

On March 20th Woodland Park Zoo and Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium will issue a joint press release announcing that Bamboo will return to WPZ sometime in the next few months. As you recall, Bamboo was sent to PDZA last August in the hope of integrating her into the existing herd of two female Asian elephants—Suki and Hanako.

Over the last six & one-half months our expert elephant care staff, in close consultation with WPZ, have worked diligently to bring the three elephants together. Unfortunately, the integration has not worked out as we had hoped. In fact Suki and Hanako have refused to accept Bamboo. WPZ, after full discussion with our staff has concluded that it is in the best interest of all three elephants for Bamboo to return to WPZ; we agree with this assessment.

As you know, animal behavior is often unpredictable. While staff at both zoos were initially optimistic about moving Bamboo to PDZA there were no guarantees it would work out.

You can expect a flurry of media interest early next week particularly because of the high profile of elephants currently in the animal activist community. There is no urgency about the timing of the move, and Bamboo will continue to receive excellent care at PDZA, but it will take a couple of months to arrange for this special transport.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue please call Gary Geddes at 318-2594.

Karen Goodrowe

From: Miller, Michael [MMILLER2@ci.tacoma.wa.us]

Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 4:13 PM

To: Karen Goodrowe

Subject: RE: elephant meeting

Karen:

I am going in for double hernia surgery tomorrow (6-2-06). I am trying to find a supervisor to run the security detail. Gary Smith will attend this meeting, along with a supervisor if I can find one. We will attend to the security issues of this move and I will let you know who will be in charge as soon as I can.

Captain Michael R. Miller
Operations South Division
3701 S. Pine St.
Tacoma, WA 98409
(253) 591-5942

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

From: Karen Goodrowe [mailto:Kareng@tacomaparks.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 1:40 PM

To: craig.elebarn@pdza.org; shannon.elebarn@pdza.org; aimee.elebarn@pdza.org; John Houck; Carolyn Cox; Miller, Michael; acase@pdza.org; Stan Chapin; Scott Clarke

Subject: elephant meeting

We will be meeting at 1000 on Tuesday, June 6th to discuss the logistics of Bamboo's move. Hope to see you or a designate there!

(elephant barn staff - no need for Shannon to come in on OT).

KGB

Karen L. Goodrowe, Ph.D.
General Curator
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
5400 N. Pearl St.
Tacoma, WA 98407

(253) 404-3680
kareng@tacomaparks.com

Dr Allison Case

From: Allison Case [acase@pdza.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 7:47 PM
To: 'Kelly Helmick'
Cc: 'craig.elebarn@pdza.org'; 'Julie Lemon'
Subject: RE: Elephant preshipment examination & testing updates?

Kelly, thanks for the reply. Holly mentioned Bamboo might be due for tetanus toxoid... I see in her WPZ record that she was vaccinated in '94 and '04... how often do you administer tetanus toxoid and is this something you want done before she leaves?

Also, regarding the request that she receive electrolytes prior to shipment, I see in her record the electrolyte of choice has been Gatorade, but no volume is listed. How much would you like her to receive on Saturday?

Many thanks and see you Sunday.

allison

Allison L. Case, DVM
 Associate Veterinarian-
 Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
 Senior Veterinarian-
 Northwest Trek Wildlife Park
 253.404.3655 - office
 404.3827 - fax
 acase@pdza.org

From: Kelly Helmick [mailto:Kelly.Helmick@Zoo.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 5:01 PM
To: Allison Case
Cc: Bruce Upchurch
Subject: RE: Elephant preshipment examination & testing updates?

hi allison. thanks for the update. now that darin is gone this weekend, i will be your WPZ contact.

if there is anything you need from us on this end, please contact me. i'm off friday-saturday, but can be reached through AHD staff on these days.

the WPZ staff traveling with you will have my cell phone number and know how to contact me if there is anything i need to know before everyone arrives.

looking forward to meeting you. thanks, k.

From: Allison Case [mailto:acase@pdza.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2006 2:02 PM
To: Darin Collins; Kelly Helmick
Cc: bongovet@msn.com; klarson@pdza.org; craig.elebarn@pdza.org; juliel@tacomaparks.com
Subject: RE: Elephant preshipment examination & testing updates?

11/19/2007

Greetings Drs Darin and Kelly,

I had the opportunity to meet Bruce this morning at our Bamboo transport meeting. (Kelly, I was very sorry to not have a chance to finally meet you, but understand you must be extremely busy.)

I have given Bruce a folder containing all the pre-ship test results you requested. He mentioned he was headed back to your zoo today and could pass the folder on to you.

Holly mentioned she had difficulty finding one of the several fecal results, so we sent out another sample which came back negative today. I'm happy to have our tech fax that result to you if you like.

Psyllium has been initiated. The keepers here feed bran and oil on the 1st and 15th of every month. We plan to proceed with your request for a bran/oil dose this Thursday unless you feel this is overkill. I see in her record, the electrolyte of choice has been Gatorade, but no volume is listed. How much would you like her to receive on Saturday?

I plan to follow the transport group on Sunday... I very much look forward to meeting you and seeing your zoo. Our interim vet, Dr Kathy Larson, would like to come along as well, if you don't mind.

Cheers,

allison

Allison L. Case, DVM
Associate Veterinarian-
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Senior Veterinarian-
Northwest Trek Wildlife Park
253.404.3655 - office
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From: Darin Collins [mailto:Darin.Collins@Zoo.org]
Sent: Saturday, June 03, 2006 12:45 PM
To: Allison Case
Cc: hreed@pdza.org; Kelly Helmick
Subject: Elephant preshipment examination & testing updates?

Hi Allison:

Are you coordinating the upcoming elephant shipment/transfer that's happening on 11-June - that's just one-week away now. Do you have any results to share from the preshipment examination & testing requests that I sent. I'm trying to consolidate all the information that Kelly will need to have on-hand for the elephant's return since I will be out of town on 11-June.

We also need to coordinate any technical veterinary aspects, such as if a vet needs to accompany the shipment. Otherwise, Kelly is working on 11-June is will be here when the elephant arrives.

OK to call if that's easier - thanks.

Darin

Darin Collins
Animal Health Department, Director
Woodland Park Zoo
601 North 59th Street

11/19/2007

Seattle, Washington 98103
USA
206-684-4 889 *vox*
206-684-4 873 *fax*
erin.collins@zoo.org
www.zoo.org

Karen Goodrowe

From: Bruce Upchurch [Bruce.Upchurch@Zoo.org]
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 1:03 PM
To: Karen Goodrowe; Nancy Hawkes; Patrick Maluy; Steve Cremer; Charles Harke; Peter McLane; Russ Roach; Bret Sellers; Trinidad Alcaraz; Gigi Allianic; Bruce Bohmke; Kelly Helmick; Susan Fisher
Subject: RE: phone numbers
Attachments: WPZ-PDZA cell phone numbers june 06.doc

See attached. If there are others that might find this list useful, either forward, or let me know and I'll send it along.
B

From: Karen Goodrowe [mailto:Kareng@tacomaparks.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 12:53 PM
To: Bruce Upchurch
Subject: phone numbers

Bruce:

Cell phone numbers for our staff that you might need are:

Karen Goodrowe Beck (253) 677-9988
Dr. Allison Case (253) 307-4322
Carolyn Cox (marketing) (253) 677-3391
John Houck (253) 208-8526

Let me know if you need anything else.

KGB

Karen L. Goodrowe, Ph.D.
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Dr Allison Case

From: Allison Case [acase@pdza.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2006 3:45 PM
To: 'Kelly Helmick'
Subject: shipment comment

Hi there Kelly! Sorry for the delay over here... many thanks for the reminder. Glad to hear Boo is doing well. It was so enjoyable to see how happy she was to be home with familiar faces. Great to finally meet you in person too. Sure hope the press is not causing you too much hassle.

As per your request, here's a statement of Bamboo's load-up and our findings upon unload at WPZ for your records:

11 June 2006: Transfer to Woodland Park Zoo. Detailed visual exam prior to shipment. There are no active skin lesions. While walking into the trailer, Woodland Park curator, Bruce, noticed Bamboo mildly abraded the left hind (LH) foot. He reported a slight abrasion to a LH cuticle which produced very minor bleeding. Excellent transport to WPZ. Bamboo unloaded from the trailer quietly and smoothly. Detailed visual examination with Dr. Helmick at WPZ revealed minor bleeding had occurred from the LH cuticle of the 3rd digit (keepers call it nail #2). There was no lesion visible on the cuticle and the bleeding had already resolved. No other problems. Wonderful transition into the yard and exhibit.

Take care, and see you in July!

allison

Allison L. Case, DVM
Associate Veterinarian-
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Senior Veterinarian-
Northwest Trek Wildlife Park
253.404.3655 - office
253.404.3827 - fax
acase@pdza.org

11/19/2007

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

Bret Sellers	Brown Infiniti QX4	NBK 520
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PDZA Cell phone numbers

John Houck	253-208-8526
Karen Goodrowe	253-677-9988
Dr. Alison Case	253-307-4322
Carolyn Cox	253-677-3391

* WPZ Personnel listed below will not be accompanying the shipment.

Gigi Allianic	206-300-0190	
Wendy Hochnadel	206-349-3533	
Trini Alcaraz	206-295-0078	pgr - 206-541-1201
Dr. Darin Collins	206-290-9077	pgr - 206-997-3115
Bruce Bohmke	206-684-4057	

Key Message Points for Senior Staff, Keepers, Education

- After careful attempts at introductions, Suki and Hanako have made it clear that they will not accept Bamboo. We've said all along that we would take our cues from the behavior of the elephants, and this is what we've done in reaching this decision with our colleagues from Woodland Park Zoo.
- Bamboo was brought here because elephant experts at both zoos believed that she could become part of the existing herd at PDZA. We believed it would be a good social fit, based on the temperaments and ages of all three elephants, their social skills, and our past successes with socializing new elephants. Like humans, however, animals do not always get along.
- Woodland Park Zoo decided to take Bamboo back because both zoos agree that is in her best interest. Our staff has grown very fond of Bamboo. She is cooperative and sweet-natured, and we will miss her. But we want what's best for her, as well as for Suki and Hanako.
- Moving Bamboo back to Woodland Park Zoo is not an emergency situation. She is safe and will receive the best of care from our staff until Woodland Park Zoo is able to make arrangements for transportation back to Seattle. We expect that will take a few months.
- Suki and Hanako have formed a tight bond. Point Defiance Zoo has no plans at this time to add another elephant.

(If visitors persist in questions, please refer them to Public Relations)

- If you'd like more information, I can contact our Public Relations staff for you.

Bamboo Move

Media Interview Questions – March 20, 2006

Will Bamboo stay at Woodland Park Zoo? Will you try to find her another home?

- **The well being and health of Bamboo remains our priority.** We will carefully evaluate other institutions accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association to identify the most appropriate home that fulfills Bamboo's needs.

Doesn't this validate the need to send her to a sanctuary?

- **We have cared for Bamboo for 38 years. We have the scientific, veterinary and animal care expertise. We are the professionals and we know our elephants. We want what's best for her – bonding with other elephants and other people.** We will look at AZA-accredited zoos and base our decision on what we believe will fulfill Bamboo's needs.

Isn't this putting a lot of trauma onto Bamboo, putting her back onto a truck and bringing her back now?

- **We have cared for Bamboo for 38 years and she is used to lots and lots of attention from people.** While she is receiving excellent care and interacting quite well with animal care staff at Point Defiance, this is not the best social environment for her. We want her to have regular social contact with other elephants.
- **We work only with experts on shipping elephants.** Bamboo handled the transport from Seattle to Tacoma very well and we believe she'll handle the return trip equally well.

How will she get along now with the elephants at Woodland Park Zoo? Will they accept her back?

- **Bamboo was well integrated with the two Asian elephants at Woodland Park. We will focus our training on the Asian herd, particularly with our 5-year-old calf, to foster stronger affiliative behavior.**
- **We are experienced with successfully re-integrating an elephant back into the herd.** We sent Chai on a breeding loan for one year and upon her return, we successfully re-socialized her with the herd. Bamboo may also spend time with our African elephant under close management.

Is it true that Point Defiance wants Bamboo sent back because of the negative publicity around her?

- **Bamboo and the two Asian elephants at Point Defiance were not compatible and have not integrated into one herd. We're returning Bamboo to Woodland Park Zoo so that she may have increased social contact with other elephants.** Our priority is to provide the best social environment for her.

Will you rethink your previous stance on keeping her at a zoo and not at a sanctuary? If she doesn't get along with the elephants at Woodland Park and at Point Defiance, doesn't that make sense to rethink?

- **We made a very educated decision to send Bamboo to Point Defiance based on the needs of all three elephants, their temperaments and ages, their social skills and Point Defiance's past successes with socializing new elephants. We believed it would be a good fit.** Unfortunately, that was not the case. **Simply put, the three elephants were not compatible.**

- While Bamboo and our African elephant did not have a strong bond, they did spend time together. Bamboo was integrated with the Asian herd at Woodland Park. We want the best social environment for Bamboo and will evaluate other AZA-accredited zoos to find a suitable home for her.
- We will keep the option open of keeping Bamboo at Woodland Park for the rest of her life.

If Chai becomes pregnant, will Bamboo be sent elsewhere because of space?

- **Our priority is to provide the best care and social environment for Bamboo.** A pregnancy and birth would not create an urgent timeline to find a new home for Bamboo. What's most important is finding a suitable home that fulfills Bamboo's needs.

You have four elephants already – including one that requires separate herd management. The optimum size of a herd is three. So why are you trying to breed Chai?

- **As an accredited institution of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, Woodland Park is dedicated to continuing our long-term commitment to the Species Survival Plan (SSP) for Asian elephants.** The SSP, a cooperative breeding program to help ensure genetic diversity and demographic stability in North American zoos, recommends elephant inter-birth intervals of four years. The SSP recommended that we breed Chai again, by artificial insemination.
- The Asian elephant population in North American zoos remains in jeopardy due to an aging population, a low birth rate and a low number of breeding bulls. Within the last six months, two Asian elephant births have occurred successfully in North America. A healthy pregnancy and successful birth for Chai will help bolster the population of Asian elephants in zoos.

Sanctuaries offer more space. Don't zoos rob elephants of their most basic needs, including social companionship and adequate space to exercise?

- **Providing quality care and habitat for animals is multidimensional. Emphasizing space alone is overly simplistic.** None of the private elephant facilities has undergone AZA accreditation review. Accredited zoos provide elephants with all of their basic needs and often exceed these "basic" requirements, especially in terms of nutrition, animal husbandry and on-site professional veterinary care. AZA members have a history of going above and beyond AZA standards to provide the best care they possibly can.
- Private elephant facilities cannot replace or replicate the role that zoos play. **Zoos reach more than 100 million people each year and connect them with the majesty of wild animals. Through educational programs zoos are helping teach visitors about the plight of wild elephants.** If people can't experience elephants up close, as they can in zoos, how will they appreciate them and want to care for them? We don't want elephants and their plight to be "out of sight, out of mind."

But a local animal rights organization, NARN, is pressuring you to move Bamboo to a sanctuary. They say a sanctuary would be better for Bamboo.

- NARN is well intentioned but they are misinformed and uninformed. **The organization does not have scientific, veterinary or animal care expertise. We are the professionals and we know our elephants.**
- Elephants at Woodland Park Zoo and in AZA accredited zoos enjoy a high quality of life that includes professional veterinary care, excellent nutrition and safe, comfortable homes enhanced by environmental enrichment activities.

Are sanctuaries dedicated to conservation efforts?

- Private elephant facilities are concerned with the welfare of individual animals, but do not focus on the overall welfare of the species. AZA zoos are committed to ensuring that elephants do not vanish from the planet and are in the world's future. Zoos are the only animal welfare organizations that

focus on care practices, science-based management and field conservation efforts. AZA zoos support conservation projects that further education, research and development, field-based training, habitat restoration, ecotourism and community-based initiatives. These zoos also support national parks and reserves and conduct fundraising to support these projects.

- The wild habitats needed by elephants continue to shrink. Human-elephant conflict continues to escalate. AZA zoos are working hard to help elephants in the wild. We support more than 80 elephant conservation, research and educational projects such as habitat restoration, ecotourism, and community-based initiatives to help reduce negative human-elephant interaction.

8/22 - 1310

Bruce appearance.

don't want to be paid to move
- may not chase it at all.
I am just kidding

who knows / who doesn't?

Org / vets, elephant staff

who needs to know? light group

Tell! can I call to contact them? Holly - talk w/ them

USDA vet? - left messages to call for details.

meeting on wed. Bruce U. -1000 - will be here.
come - or phone call.

WPB - will be carrying firearms.

SPD - will not have an escort - don't involve State Patrol
Suggested to their security officer to talk w/ State Patrol

Bruce B + Nancy met w/
"NARN" group. - letter writing campaign 130/140 letters

Have ~~any~~ little knowledge of elephant issues or bamboo issues.
inaccurate info.

Didn't want to listen - but is some interest in partnering
w/ respect to forming legislation
regarding exotic aspects.

Nancy, Pat, Lark, Kelly, Bruce, Bret
Pat, Chuck

Ed Novack Animal Exchange \$7,500

time in 4:30 / Start elephant 5:00 Ed Novak # from Bruce
sequence
check for Ed.

May 20 -

move truck in Sat night, May 20 -
after closing

move elephants @ first light May 21st

Craig - list things to move: Ice cream stand, prop bin etc.

cell phone # updates - email to Bruce

who has control when? WPTB - when put chains on

LRT - Craig ^{Scott} to assign someone

Perimeter crews # - No. check off staff parking lot

Media - no press release from us

Highway police support - not needed

Who's accompanying Bob - Craig, Annie, Allison,
Bud, Bruce, Pat, Chuck

Communication plan - Craig to call KGB

KGB call John + Carolyn

USDA vet? - Bruce will call

Kelly + Allison to talk.