



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

Zoos Are Getting Out of the Elephant Business

17 zoos have closed or will close their elephant exhibits

14 zoos have closed their exhibits:

Lion Country Safari (2010)
Philadelphia Zoo (2008)
Abilene Zoo, Tex. (2007)
Alaska Zoo (2007)
Gladys Porter Zoo, Tex. (2006)
Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo (2005)
Detroit Zoo (2004)
San Francisco Zoo (2004)
Chehaw Wild Animal Park, Ga. (2004)
Henry Vilas Zoo, Wisc. (2000)
Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo (1999)
Mesker Park Zoo, Ind. (1999)
Frank Buck Zoo Tex. (1998)
Sacramento Zoo, Calif. (1991)

3 zoos will phase out their exhibits

Bronx Zoo, NY
Central Florida Zoo
Santa Barbara Zoo, Calif.

11 zoos have sent a total of 15 elephants to sanctuaries

The Elephant Sanctuary (Tenn.): Philadelphia Zoo (Dulary, 2007), Chehaw Wild Animal Park, Ga. (Tange and Zula, 2004), Henry Vilas Zoo, Wisc. (Winkie, 2000), Mesker Park Zoo, Ind. (Bunny, 1999), Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo (Shirley, 1999), El Paso Zoo (Sissy, 1998)

PAWS Sanctuary (Calif.): Alaska Zoo (Maggie, 2007), Los Angeles Zoo (Ruby, 2007), Detroit Zoo (Winky and Wanda, 2004), San Francisco Zoo (Tinkerbelle and Lulu, 2004), Milwaukee Zoo (Annie and Tamara, 1995)

No zoo has lost its AZA accreditation for moving elephants to sanctuaries.

Reasons for closing elephant exhibits

Lack of adequate space; elephant deaths and health problems related to lack of space; lack of funding for exhibit expansion; and recognition that a traditional zoo cannot meet elephants' needs for vast space for movement and health maintenance, mental stimulation, and healthy social groups. The Bronx Zoo recognized that elephants must be protected in their natural homes, stating it would "rather steer its money toward preserving elephants in the wild in Africa and Asia..."