

KEY FINDINGS OF IDA SURVEY OF ZOO MEDICAL RECORDS

Total Zoos: 35

Total elephants: 132

Survey period: 2000 – 2005

<u>Health Issues</u>	<u>No. of Elephants</u>	<u>Percent of Elephants in Survey</u>
Foot Disease	82	62
Joint Disease	55	42
Tusk Injuries	47	36
*Aggression	37	28
Injuries from other elephants	32	25
Digestive (mostly colic)	30	24
Reproductive Disorders	28	25
**Death	27	20
Birth Complications	11	73 (of 15 pregnancies)
Stillbirths	9	60
Live Births	5	33

** Aggression refers to aggression between elephants and from elephant to keeper. The percentage is probably higher, because aggression is not always considered a medical problem that is noted in veterinary records.*

*** Deaths of elephants in IDA's survey. Includes 4 deaths in 2006. See causes of death below.*

SPACE (data available for 30 of 35 zoos)

28 have outdoor yards of 1-acre or less

2 give elephants access to more than one acre at any given time.

SUBSTRATE (data available for 21 zoos)

Concrete – 15 zoos

Concrete modified by poured rubber or rubber mats in part or all of barn: 6

CAUSE OF DEATH FOR SURVEY ELEPHANTS

Red indicates deaths related to arthritis and/or foot disease.

2006

1. **Gita, L.A. Zoo** (6/10/06) – Cardiac arrest after prolonged recumbency (necropsy says Gita's arthritis or the huge abscesses on her back may have led to the systemic blood clotting that stopped her heart. This, of course, is after prolonged recumbency. 48 years old at death.
2. **Toni, National Zoo** (1/25/06 – Arthritis and foot disease. 39 years old at death.
3. **Pet, Oregon Zoo** (8/2/06) – Foot disease, osteomyelitis, arthritis. 51 years old at death.
4. **Lucy, Milwaukee Zoo** (9/1/06) – Arthritis. Found down several times, unable to rise without assistance. Records show she was arthritic. 46 years old at death.

2005

1. **Kedar, Rosamond Gifford Zoo** (8/4/05) – Died from complications after nearly drowning in pool. Only 4 days old.
2. **Tinkerbelle, San Francisco/PAWS** (3/24/05) – Foot disease, arthritis. 39 years old at death.

2004

1. **Tara, L.A. Zoo** (12/15/04) – Cardiac arrest after prolonged recumbency. Official cause of death was “heart failure.” Tara suffered severe arthritis that likely led to her collapse. She had been found down on two previous occasions and required assistance to rise.
2. **Calle, San Francisco** (3/8/04) – Arthritis and foot disease.
3. **Maybelle, San Francisco** (4/2/04) – Collapsed during night and could not get up. At the time of her death, she had abscesses on 3 of 4 feet and the autopsy found joint disease in most of her joints. Official cause of death: Cardiovascular collapse following recumbency.

2003

1. **Preya, Rosamond Gifford Zoo** (4/12/03) – Herpes
2. **Casey, Kansas City Zoo** (9/24/03) – Lordosis, degenerative joint disease, foot abscesses. Suffered foot problems for 22 years. Chronic abscess for 15 years on left foot.
3. **Dale, Kansas City Zoo** (11/3/03) – Flavi virus.
4. **Nita, North Carolina Zoo** (10/10/03) - No cause of death; recumbency; necropsy found ulcers, kidney damage; had been on NSAIDs
5. **Tina, Six Flags-Vallejo** (11/5/03) – Arthritis, foot disease, osteomyelitis.
6. **Hugo, Oregon Zoo** (1/20/03) – High coliform in pool.

2002

1. **Onyx, Dickerson Park Zoo** (2002) – Intestinal rupture/mesenteric torsion.
2. **Haji, Dickerson Park Zoo** (2002) – Herpes.
3. **Cindy, Point Defiance Zoo** (11/19/02) - Arthritis; severe erosion in L front shoulder.

4. Belinda, Riverbanks Zoo (11/13/02) – No cause of death.
5. Tika, Six Flags-Vallejo (11/25/02) – Massive infection due to carrying dead fetus.

2001

1. **Mona, El Paso Zoo** (10/7/01) – Zoo states cause of death was old age; necropsy showed severe arthritis in the hip.
2. Babe, Milwaukee Zoo (1/16/01) – Impaction in digestive system.

2000

1. Kala, Dickerson Park Zoo (Oct. 2000) – Herpes.
2. Pete, Dickerson Park Zoo (4/12/00) – Died same day, respiratory arrest.
3. **Nancy, National Zoo** (8/22/00) – Foot and joint disease.
4. Carolyn, St. Louis Zoo (4/11/00) – Age 32; kidney failure; TB found in lymph node on necropsy. Autopsy found defects on feet and arthritis in 3 of 4 limbs.
5. Kala, Six Flags-Vallejo (11/29/00) – Herpes.