

P.O.Box 152747  
San Diego CA 92195

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been brought to my attention the living conditions of Peaches, Tatima and Wankie; three African elephants now living at the Lincoln Park Zoo, recent arrivals from the San Diego Wild Animal Park. As a former employee of the San Diego Wild Animal Park, I worked closely with Jeff Andrews, the manager for both the Asian and African elephants during the last part of these three elephants' stay at WAP. The nature of the program I ran required visitations into the African Elephant barn. Thus, I was party to necessary elephant knowledge in order to perform my own duties. And compared to the conditions at the Wild Animal Park, the conditions in which they are currently living are disturbing in several ways:

- **One elephant is noticeably limping.** All three elephants, Peaches, Tatima and Wankie, at no time did any of them limp in the current manner- they always appeared in good health every time I saw them. I have first-hand knowledge that some of the elephants were receiving medication for arthritic conditions. The pronounced limp begs the question of whether these elephants are receiving proper medical care and are experiencing a quality of life commensurate to that which they had previously in San Diego.
- **Enclosure size is greatly reduced.** Having worked daily within 50 feet of the African Elephant enclosure at the Wild Animal Park, it is my conclusion that the Lincoln Park Zoo enclosure is considerably reduced in size and opportunities for enrichment. A comparison in square footage of WAP and LPZ enclosures would provide further tangible data.
- **Climatic conditions.** San Diego is a Coastal Desert region with less than 9" of rain per year. The only snow that falls occurs above 4,500' in elevation- the Wild Animal Park is less than 1000' in elevation. Average yearly temperatures along the coast are around 73°. Inland, which is the location of Escondido and the San Pasqual Valley is considerably higher. The San Pasqual Valley is an agricultural area where are grown avocados, a fruit intolerant of frost. Lowest winter temperatures are in the 40's and sometimes down to freezing, but on very rare occasions. The highest temperatures [it is common knowledge in San Diego that it's "always hot" at the Wild Animal Park] during summer are often into the 100's or can remain for long periods in the mid to high 90's. The recent wildfires that devastated San Diego and threatened to burn into the Wild Animal Park are evidence of our dry Southern California climate caused by the above-mentioned environmental conditions. The change to a more temperate, wetter and colder climate is further cause for concern to these elephants' overall welfare.
- **Behavior changes.** The rocking and swaying, "self-stimulating" behavior of the elephants while at the Lincoln Park Zoo are behaviors never witnessed by me while these elephants were living at the Wild Animal Park. This change in disturbing because it calls into question the psychological health of the elephants now that they are at the Lincoln Park Zoo.
- **Experiential knowledge.** For a time, we were not allowed access to the African Elephant cow barn until the overnight temperature reached 65° because the cows were not allowed out into the cold. Once overnight temperatures were high enough, they remained out at night until temperatures went back down. It has come to my attention that these elephants are let outside in considerably colder temperatures.

Additionally, in a discussion I had with Jeff, he made mention of the fact that he was going to be 'getting rid of the girls' because they were too old. For what I asked, and he replied, for having babies. And I also overheard a conversation Jeff was having with his boss, Randy Reiches (sp?), about how baby elephants would be 'a good draw' and that 'people love babies'; I worked in the office next to his and we enjoyed a collegial relationship.

It is distressing to see these innocent animals placed in dismal conditions that could potentially be life-threatening due, in part to their inability to be of breeding stock. It is my wish that this information that I have provided to you will help clarify a better course of action in seeing to the welfare of these beautiful and sensitive animals.

Sincerely,



Colleen Goldsmith  
Science & Math Teacher  
San Diego City Schools