

Gillian Anderson

December 8, 2003

Kevin Bell, Director
Lincoln Park Zoo
2001 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60614-4757

Dear Mr. Bell:

I was horrified to learn from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) that three aging elephants from the San Diego Zoo, who had lived there since they were infants, were recently transferred to the Lincoln Park Zoo, where they are now getting their first taste of winter in one of the coldest regions of this country.

These elephants were accustomed to being outdoors year-round in San Diego's warm climate. Now, when the temperature dips below 40 or 50, they will be confined and isolated from one another in a small concrete back room. I understand that Peaches, one of the oldest African elephants in captivity, suffers from chronic lameness, colic, nail abscesses, and facial sores and recently broke off a tusk. Her long-time companions, Wanki and Tatima, reportedly suffer from recurring colic, and one has developed a serious limp since arriving at your zoo while the other shows signs of being angry and frustrated.

I kindly ask that you give serious thought to letting these three elephants retire to a warmer climate where they will have lots of room to roam, forage, play, swim in a pond, or do anything else that comes naturally to them. The Elephant Sanctuary, which operates on several thousand acres in the town of Hohenwald, Tennessee, has eagerly offered to take these elephants under its wing so that they can rest, recuperate, and live out the rest of their days in a more natural habitat with other African elephants. PETA would be happy to pay for transportation costs.

I hope you'll take the best interests of these elephants into thoughtful consideration and release them to a well-reputed sanctuary. I look forward to your reply. You can reach me through Debbie Leahy, PETA's director of captive animals and entertainment issues, at 630-393-9627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gillian Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gillian Anderson