



IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS

Sanctuaries: Setting the Standards of Care for Elephants in Captivity Today

It is not zoos, but two U.S. sanctuaries that are setting the standard for the care of elephants in captivity today. The Elephant Sanctuary, located in Tennessee, and the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in California, provide a high quality of life for elephants because of conditions that are better suited to meeting elephants' unique and complex needs. In addition, each facility provides exceptional husbandry and veterinary care.

What these sanctuaries offer:

- Open areas of natural habitat ranging from 40 to more than 2,000 acres
- Varied terrain, including hills, pastures, creeks and ponds and natural substrate
- Live vegetation for foraging and a valuable source of nutrition
- Freedom of choice in companions and daily activities
- Year-round access to the outdoors
- Gentle training that never employs bullhooks, negative reinforcement or physical punishment
- 24-hour monitoring and care



These conditions help to “reinstatement the elephant’s natural biology” and have restored quality of life to physically and psychologically debilitated elephants who have come from zoos and circuses to the sanctuaries.

Eleven zoos have placed a total of 14 elephants at The Elephant Sanctuary or PAWS, including: L.A. Zoo, Philadelphia Zoo, Detroit Zoo, Milwaukee Zoo, Chehaw Wild Animal Park, San Francisco Zoo, El Paso Zoo, Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo (Louisiana), Henry Vilas Zoo (Wisc.), Mesker Park Zoo (Indiana), and Alaska Zoo.