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Captive Elephant Population of North America: 1979 Update

Elephant Editors

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CAPTIVE ELEPHANT POPULATION OF NORTH AMERICA: 1979 UPDATE

As in the previous two issues, we have summarized information about captive elephants in North America into table form. The information was graciously provided by Janice Olsen of the International Species Inventory System (ISIS).

	<u>U.S. Zoos</u>	<u>Canadian Zoos</u>	<u>Total</u>
African Elephant	81	11	92
Asian Elephant	<u>122</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>126</u>
Total	203	15	218

All in all, 218 elephants were held captive in eighty-five North American zoos (excluding circuses) as of December 31, 1978. Total known elephant population in North America can be summarized as:

Elephants held in zoos as given by ISIS	218
Elephants held in Canada as given by Toby Styles (see newsletter No. 2, pp. 32-33)	12
Elephants held in circuses as given by Richard J. Reynold, III. (Of these, 13 were African; see reference 801)	<u>277</u>
Total (as of April 30, 1979)	507

IVORY AND IVORINE**IVORY**

Below are excerpts from a news release sent to us by the Fund For Animals on March 12, 1979.

"The worldwide demand for ivory, combined with destruction of the elephant's habitat, are annually wiping out hundreds...of these animals,...endangering their future survival. Last year the U.S. Department of Interior placed the African elephant on the threatened species list...(see Elephant Newsletter No. 2, pp. 10-13)."

Ten days later we received a letter from Congressman Anthony C. Beilenson entitled "Beilenson to Reintroduce Legislation to Protect Elephants and to Ban the Importation of Elephant Ivory."

"We must take immediate action to curtail the international trade in elephant ivory if we want the elephant to survive,' Congressman Beilenson stated."

"Unfortunately, these regulations (stated in H. R. 10083) have not been very effective,' Beilenson said. 'The partial ban is difficult to enforce