

5-2-1982

Captive Elephant Population of North America: 1982 Update

Sandra S. Lash

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/elephant>

Recommended Citation

Lash, S. S. (1982). Captive Elephant Population of North America: 1982 Update. *Elephant*, 2(1), 147-150. Doi: 10.22237/elephant/1521731920

This Brief Notes / Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Access Journals at DigitalCommons@WayneState. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Elephant* by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@WayneState.

CAPTIVE ELEPHANT POPULATION OF NORTH AMERICA: 1982 UPDATE

compiled by Sandra S. Lash

Table I. Summary of captive elephants in 67 North American zoos and 3 private institutions, as reported by the International Species Inventory System (ISIS), for the year ending December 31, 1981, courtesy of Kim Hastings.

	<u>U.S. Zoos</u>	<u>Canadian Zoos</u>	<u>Total</u>
African elephant	116 (18M, 98F) ¹	13 (2M, 11F)	129 (20M, 109F)
Asian elephant	142 (13M, 129F)	4 (1M, 3F)	146 (14M, 132F)
	258	17	275 ²

¹ F=female M=male² Of these 275, 22 were reported captive-born and 178 wildborn, the remainder being of unknown origin. This total includes 9 elephants held in European institutions for which their origins are not indicated separately.

In addition to the data from ISIS, Toby E. Styles has sent us an estimate of the number of elephants in Canada, as of 16 March 1982. Among those not represented in the ISIS census are five more institutions, with the following numbers:

African elephant	7 (1M, 6F)
Asian elephant	2 (2F)

Recent figures for the number of elephants held in circuses have not been compiled. In 1979, Richard J. Reynolds, III, listed 277, with 13 African elephants in the total (Reference No. 801). Until a more accurate accounting is made, we are using this number as an estimate.

Table II. Summary of estimated numbers of elephants in North America, 1981.

Elephants held in captivity as given by ISIS	275
Elephants held privately in Canada as given by Toby E. Styles	9
Elephants held in circuses as given by Richard J. Reynolds, III	<u>277</u>
Total (as of December 31, 1981)	561

It is noteworthy that in the past five years the total captive elephant population in North America has increased steadily although elephants are not

being imported. This apparent increase may be due to incomplete listing in previous years or alternatively it may be attributed to an increase in births over deaths. Successes in breeding Asian elephants over twenty years have brought us into the second generation of captive-born Asians in the U.S.A., and at least ten Africans have been born in the past four years.

The purpose of the table (on following page) is threefold: to provide a chronological listing for purposes of analysis, to inform our readers of births and deaths of elephants so that elephant owners and others may contact each other for particular information or advice, and to include the names of elephants for the sake of not repeating elephant names. (See, for example, the confusion surrounding "Old Bet" in Elephant, 1(4):235-237.) For additional names of elephants that appeared in Elephant please refer to "Elephants, individual" in the Index following Supplement to Elephant Volume 1. Listings of elephants by name have also appeared in Circus Report.

Notes for Table III.

- 1 This list may or may not include elephants already listed as part of the ISIS census. Since the first recorded birth of a captive Asian elephant in the U.S.A. was on April 3, 1880 (see Elephant, 1(4):237), we have started this compilation with the first birth of a captive African elephant in 1978 in the U.S.A. Prior to 1978, 16 Asian elephant calves had been born at one institution alone: the Washington Park Zoo, Portland, Oregon.
- 2 F=female M=male
- 3 Age is given in years, unless stated otherwise.
- 4 Also known as Sapphire.
- 5 In a letter dated 22 January 1982, David P. Thompson, Deputy Director of Gladys Porter Zoo, included the following "The most obvious difference noticed between the two pregnancies is that the second female, 'Juju', had a great deal of local swelling (thut). At times the pendulous mass would nearly touch the ground. During the final stages of labor, 'Juju' repeatedly kicked at the mass as if it were of considerable concern to her."
- 6 See "ELEPHANTINE SURGERIES" in Elephant, 1(4):209. Kumi died June 5, 1982.
- 7 The name of this elephant at the WPZ was Rajah.
- 8 Correct name is Shoney, not Herbert. Bucky Steele is the owner for both sire and dam. See Circus Report Number 10, March 8, 1982, pages 20,21,23.
- 9 Also known previously as 'One-eyed John'.

On July 6, 1982, we received news that two more African elephant calves were born at San Diego Wild Animal Park: May 24, 1982, a female (Margo) to Chico (17-19 years) and Wankie (13-14 years); June 22, 1982, a male, unnamed as yet, was born to Chico and Hatari (21-22 years).

NOTE: As of July 7, 1982, there have been 14 births of Africans, of which 3 have died, and 6 Asians of which 2 have died.

We are greatly indebted to all institutions and owners who have sent us information to be included in this compilation. We also wish to acknowledge the following individuals who have provided us with data: Judith K. Berg, Kenneth Kawata, Rachel Prance, V. Louise Roth.

Table III. Known births and deaths of captive elephants in North America (1978-1982)¹

A. For the African elephant (Loxodonta africana)

Birth/ death	Date	Sex ²	Name	Sire(age)/Dam(age) or age at death ³	Institution or owner at time of birth/death
born	Mar. 2,	1978	F	Little Diamond	Ole Diamond(28) Toto(13) Knoxville Zoological Park(KZP) Knoxville, Tennessee
born	May 16,	1978	F	Hillary	Ole Diamond(28) Hazel(17) ⁴ KZP
born	May 20,	1979	F	Fanti	Macho(13) China(13) ⁵ Gladys Porter Zoo(GPZ) Brownsville, Texas
died	Sept. 10,	1980	M	Ole Diamond	age: about 30 KZP
born	Oct. 18,	1980	F	Thika	Tantor (13) Tequila(12) Metro Toronto Zoo Toronto, Ontario, Canada
died	Dec. 11,	1980	F	Hazel ⁴	age: 19 KZP
born	Mar. 2,	1981	F	Tesse	Semo(12-14) Mary (12-14) Parc Safari Hemmingford, Quebec, Canada
born	Mar. 3,	1981	M	Bulwagi	Peter(18) Mama(13) Lion Country Safari West Palm Beach, Florida
died	Mar. 13,	1981	M	Tschombai	age: about 17 Randall Moore Largo, Maryland
born	Aug. 22,	1981	M	Thor	Chico(17-19) Deteema(11-12) San Diego Zoo(SDZ) San Diego, California
died still-	Sept. 2,	1981	M	Thor	age: 4 days SDZ
born	Oct. 17,	1981	F	unnamed	Macho(13) Juju(13) ⁵ GPZ
born	Nov. 3,	1981	F	Keana	Rip(12-13) Tanya(14-15) Six Flags Great Adventure Safari Park, Jackson, New Jersey
born	Jan. 29,	1982	F	Tavi	Chico(17-19) Sharpi(12-13) San Diego Wild Animal Park (WAP) San Diego, California
born	April 6,	1982	M	?	Congo(?22) Rafiki(?14) Lion Country Safari Laguna Hills, Callifornia
born	May 7,	1982	M	Kumi	Chico(17-19) Mandavu(12-13) WAP ⁶

B. For the Asian elephant (Elephas maximus)

Birth/ death	Date	Sex ²	Name	Sire(age)/Dam(age) or age at death ³	Institution or owner at time of birth/death
born	Mar. 15, 1978	F	Sumek	Pachy(16) Hanako(15)	Washington Park Zoo(WPZ) Portland, Oregon
died	April 29, 1978	F	Sumek	age: 6 weeks	WPZ
born	May 19, 1978	M	Kuhn Chorn	Pachy(16) Me-Tu(16)	WPZ
died	May 1978	M	Teak ⁷	age: 12	WPZ/Morgan Berry
died	June 1979	M	Buddha	age: 13	The Berry Family Woodland, Washington
died	1979	M	Hans	age: 64	Houston Zoo Houston, Texas
born	Oct. 5, 1979	M	Thongtrii	Pachy(17) Rosy(30)	WPZ
died	July 8, 1980	F	Iki	age: about 46	Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
died	Dec. 12, 1980	F	Shirley	age: 19	Circus Vargas(Rex Williams) Lakewood, California ⁶
died	Mar. 9, 1981	F	Tulsa	age: 34	Bucky Steele Seagoville, Texas
born	July 2, 1981	M	Spike or Ganesh	Dahlip(16) Seetna(16)	Metrozoo Miami, Florida
born	Aug. 20, 1981	M	Astor	Groucho(11) Patty(11)	Bronx Zoological Gardens Bronx, New York
died	Sept. 2, 1981	F	Toose	age: 18	Circus Vargas
died	Sept. 21, 1981	F	Marie	age: 34	Carson & Barnes Circus Hugo, Oklahoma
died	Oct. 1981	F	Gunni	age: 9	Baltimore Zoo Baltimore, Maryland
born	Oct. 22, 1981	M	Shoney ⁸	Buke(13) Whimpy(12)	Bucky Steele
died	Jan. 15, 1982	M	Ned ⁹	Age: 18	William Bouthillier
died	Jan. 19, 1982	F	Omy	age: 9	Hubert Castle International Circus Sarasota, Florida
died	May 1982	M	Shoney	age: 7 months	Bucky Steele