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CAPTIVE ELEPHANT POPULATION OF NORTH AMERICA: 1986

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Table I. Summary of captive elephants in 76 North American zoos and 5 private institutions, as reported by the International Species Inventory System (ISIS), for the year ending December 31, 1985, courtesy of Nathan Flesness.

	<u>U. S. Zoos</u>	<u>Canadian Zoos</u>	<u>Total</u>
African elephant	129 (20M, 109F) ¹	15 (3M, 12F)	144 (23M, 121F)
Asian elephant	128 (13M, 115F)	5 (2M, 3F)	133 (15M, 118F)
Totals	257	20	277 ²

¹ F=female M=male

² Of these 277, 6 Asian and 8 African were reported captive-born, since 1979.

In addition to the data from ISIS, Toby E. Styles has sent us an estimate of the number of elephants in Canada, as of June 1986. Among those not represented in the ISIS census are four more reports, with the following numbers:

African elephant	1 (0M, 1F)
Asian elephant	5 (1M, 4F)

Recent figures for the number of elephants held in circuses have been compiled in part by several groups of people and individuals. To the best of our ability we have compared various lists and attempted to give as accurate an accounting as possible. These figures are being compiled by the Species Survival Committee for the Asian Elephant (Alan Rost), Susan Fraser and Linda Rohr, Gordon Taylor, William "Buckles" Woodcock, Bobby Gibbs and Don Marcks (The Circus Report, February 24, 1986). Richard J. Reynolds, III, had previously (1977) listed 277 elephants with 13 being Africans (Reference No. 801). Precise numbers are not possible because of the large and frequent numbers of African elephants being imported and some re-exported after training. In addition to detailed lists by name, there are approximately 100 more African elephants held by importers and private ranches. Please note that Asian elephants have also been imported in the past six years, under special arrangements. The detailed list numbers 315 elephants (227 Asian, 88 African), bringing the total of elephants held in circuses, parks and private institutions to 415.

Table II. Summary of estimated numbers of elephants in North America, 1986.

Elephants held in captivity as given by ISIS	277
Elephants held in Canada, in addition to ISIS	6
Elephants held in circuses, parks and private institutions	<u>415</u>
Total (as of October 1986):	698

The purpose of the table (Table III) on the following pages 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. Record keeping has been especially difficult because of the frequency of certain names and leasing of animals. It would benefit future breeding programs if owners would retain records of original names and refer to these when censuses are taken. Also it is important for census takers to specify owners of animals and their ages in order to keep distinct entries.

Please note that this table was started with the first birth of a captive African elephant in 1978 since the first recorded birth of a captive Asian elephant in the USA was on April 3, 1880 (see Elephant, 1(4):237). The first part of the table appeared in Elephant, 2(1) in 1982 (pages 149-150). Some deaths prior to 1982 were not recorded in the previous publication and have therefore been included here, beginning with 1980.

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: Darryl Atkinson, Judith K. Berg, Richard Chiger, Charles Dailey, Susan O. Fraser, Kathryn Gard, Charles Gray, Thomas P. Hayes, Jr., Warren J. Iliff, Barbara L. King, John Lehnhardt, Donald S. Marcks (The Circus Report), Raymond (Sabu) Moreau, Donald Redfox, Ron Ringer (SSP Asian Elephant Studbook), Bucky Steele, Toby E. Styles, Lucille Sweeney, C. Gordon Taylor, Randy Wolfe, William (Buckles) Woodcock.

Notes for Table III appear at the end of Table.

TABLE III. KNOWN BIRTHS AND DEATHS AMONG CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS IN NORTH AMERICA SINCE 1980¹

A. For the African elephant (Loxodonta africana).

<u>Birth/ death</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sex²</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sire(age)/Dam(age) or age at death and cause³</u>	<u>Institution at time⁴</u>
death	April 13, 1980	F	Zelda	2 years; viral infection	North Carolina Zoo, A sheboro, NC
death	April 25, 1980	F	Cookie	3 years; viral infection	North Carolina Zoo, NC
death	1981	M	Tano	16 years; reaction to Rompun	Lion Country Safari, L aguna Hills, CA
death	Feb. 24, 1981	F	unknown	11 years; cause unknown	Abilene Zoological Gardens A bilene, TX
death	Sept. 2, 1981	M	Thor	unknown; injury by adult	San Diego Zoo, S an Diego, CA
stillborn	Feb. 16, 1982	M	Thor?	Congo(24)/Cita(16)	Lion Country Safari, CA
death	Spring 1982	F	Arusha	38 years; degenerative joint disease	Highland Park Zool. Gardens Pittsburgh, PA
death	May 7, 1982	M	Kumi	Chico(17-19)/Mandavu(12/13)	Wild Animal Park, CA
death	May 7, 1982	F	Juma	3 years; intestinal problems	Phoenix Zoo, Phoenix, AZ
birth	May 24, 1982	F	Margo	Chico(17-19)/Wankie(13/14)	Wild Animal Park, CA
death	June 1982	F	Kenya	17 years; salmonella	Louisville Zoo, L ouisville, KY
death	June 6, 1982	M	Kumi	29 days; rejected by mother	Wild Animal Park, CA
birth	June 22, 1982	M	Tsavo	Chico(17-19)/Hatari(21/22)	Wild Animal Park, CA
birth	August 25, 1983	F	Tumpe	Tantor(16)/Tequila(15)	Metro Toronto Zoo, Toronto O ntario, Canada
death	Fall 1983	F	Opel	14 years; unknown	Knoxville Municipal Zoo, K noxville, TN
death	October 27, 1983	F	Mandavu	15 years; intestinal inflammation	Wild Animal Park, CA

Table III. Continued:

<u>Birth/ death</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sex²</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sire(age)/Dam(age) or age at death and cause³</u>	<u>Institution at time⁴</u>
death	Winter 1983-84	1 M	names	ages unknown; long term toxicity	Parc Safari African, Hemmingford, Quebec, Canada
death	February 1984	3 F	unknown		Busch Gardens, Tampa, FL
death	February 1984	F	Tinkerbelle	14 years; cause unknown	
birth	June 28, 1984	F	?	Tantor(17)/Toka(12)	Metro Toronto Zoo
death	Oct. 26, 1984	F	Mbili	6 years; blood abnormality	Dallas Zoo, Dallas, TX
death	Nov. 2, 1984	F	Moesha	21 years; degenerative joint disease	Knoxville Municipal Zoo Knoxville, TN
death	January 1985	M	Timbo	24 years; lesions on lungs	Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma City, OK
birth	August ?, 1985	F	?	Macho(17)/Juju(17)	Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, TX
death	March 25, 1986	F	Hillary	8 years; kidney failure	Knoxville Municipal Zoo, TN
death	March 31, 1986	F	McClain	16 years; fell into moat (broken neck)	Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angeles, CA
death	Winter 1986	F	Trixie	6 years?; unknown	Ford Bros. Circus, Hugo, OK
death	Winter 1986	F	Pixie	6 years?; unknown	Ford Brox. Circus, Hugo, Ok
death	March 31, 1986	M	Sampson	23 years; anaesthetized for shipment to Mexico	Los Angeles Zoo, CA
death	May 29, 1986	M	Paj	20+ years; cardiac arrest during surgery	Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, NE
death	Summer 1986	F	Delilah	3 years; pneumonia	Liebel Family Circus, GA
born	October 5, 1986	M	unknown	Sneezy(14)/Tooma(20)	Tulsa Zoological Park Tulsa, OK

Table III. Continued:

B. For the Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*).

<u>Birth/ death</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sex²</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sire(age)/Dam(age) or age at death and cause³</u>	<u>Institution at time⁴</u>
death	March 6, 1980	F	Sally	32 years; overreaction to anesthesia	Highland Park Zool. Garden, Pittsburgh, PA
death	1980	F	Amber	31 years; unknown cause	Toledo Zoo, Toledo, OH
death	March 21, 1980	F	Polly	12 years, unknown cause	Wild Animal Park, San Diego, CA
death	July 26, 1980	M	Modoc	16 years; allergic reaction	Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angeles, CA
death	Oct. 5, 1980	F	Rose	37 years; over-reaction to anesthesia	Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs, CO
death	May 5, 1980	F	May	55 years; unknown cause	San Francisco Zoo, San Francisco, CA
death	Oct. 30, 1981	F	Princess	9 years; circulatory system problems	Henry Vilas Zoo, Madison, WI
death	1981	F	Mary	unknown age; unknown cause	Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma City, OK
death	Dec. 2, 1981	M	Sabu	16 years; chronic laxated hip	Randolph Park Zoo, Tucson, AZ
death	February 1982	F	Unknown	20+ years; unknown	Nature Center, Asheville NC
death	May 16, 1982	F	Laverne	12 years; salmonella and sand impaction	New York Zoological Society, Bronx, NY
death	June 9, 1982	F	Trumpet	5 years; accidental electrocution	Royal Hanneford Circus, Sarasota, FL
death	September 1982	F	Winkie	51 years; unknown	Wildlife Safari Park, Winston, OR
birth	Oct. 1, 1982	M	Look-Chai (now Sabu)	Tunga(19)/Hanako(20)	Washington Park Zoo, Portland, OR
death	December 1982	F	Puppi	50's; natural causes	Ringling Bros./Circus World, Haines City, FL
birth	December 26, 1982	F	Sung-Surin	Packy (20)/Pet(30)	Washington Park Zoo, OR

Table III. Continued:

<u>Birth/ death</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sex²</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sire(age)/Dam(age) or age at death and cause³</u>	<u>Institution at time⁴</u>
death	January 26, 1983	M	Astor	1.5 years; heart failure	NYZS (Bronx Zoo), NY
death	January 1983	F	Nancy	mid-20's; emaciated (tooth problems)	Jurgen C. Schulz, Catskill, NY
death	March 1983	F	Pumie	30 years; arthritis	St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis, MO
death	April 20, 1983	F	Tua-Hoa	28 years; arthritis	Washington Park Zoo, OR
death	April 1983	F	Sue	10 years; dislocated leg, emaciated	William Neville (from Des Moines Zoo Des Moines, IO)
birth	April 1, 1983	M	Rama	Packy(21)/Rosy(34)	Washington Park Zoo, OR
birth	April 23, 1983	M	Shani	Thai(16)/Indu(18)	Houston Zoo, Houston, TX
death	May 1983	M	Shani	4 weeks; failure to nurse	Houston Zoo, TX
birth	August 23, 1983	F	Barbie (now Tonka)	Hugo(23)/Minyak(17)	Circus World, Inc., Haines City, FL
birth	September 9, 1983	M	Roman	Hugo(22)/Sid(19)	Circus World, Inc., FL
death	October 1983	F	Myrtle	unknown age; cause unknown	Jules & Beck Circus (on loan from Dorey Miller?)
birth	November 23, 1983	F	Targa	Vance(22)/Birka(16)	Circus World, Inc., FL
death	November 1983	M	George	20 years; euthanized	William Woodcock, Ruskin, FL
birth	January 1, 1984	F	Nancy (now Luna)	Hugo(24)/Patna(unknown age)	Circus World, Inc., FL
birth	February 1, 1984	M	Beau-Thai (Bopper)	Thai(17)/Abbie(Me-Thai) (19)	Houston Zoo, TX

Table III. Continued:

<u>Birth/ death</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sex²</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sire(age)/Dam(age) or age at death and cause³</u>	<u>Institution at time⁴</u>
birth	February 3, 1984	M	Rhani	Hugo(24)/Mala(unknown age) (now Smokey)	Circus World, Inc., FL
death	April 17, 1984	F	Ellie	unknown age; accidental electrocution	Roller Bros. Circus (lease from Carson & Barnes)
death	1984	M	McClane (Gabriel, Albert)	11 years; arthritis	Circus Vargas, Candlewood, CA
death	1984	M	Too Mai (Bimbo)	13 years; unknown cause	Gary Jacobsen (from Wild Animal Park, CA)
death	May 1984	F	Twinkles	13 years; unknown cause	Atlanta Zoo (on loan to circus)
death	August 30, 1984	M	Jayathu	25 months; schistosomiasis and cardiac arrest	National Zoo, Washington, D.C. (gift from Sri Lanka)
birth	January 18, 1985	M	Myakka	Gardner(17)/Gyp(18)	Rex Williams, Myakka City, FL
death	June 10, 1985	F	Cookie	39 years; reaction to anesthesia	Denver Zoo, Denver, CO
stillborn	June 12, 1985	F	unnamed	Onyx(23)/Connie(22)	Dickerson Park Zoo, Springfield, MO
death	July 10, 1985	F	Susie	32 years; unknown	Prospect Park Zoo, Brooklyn, NY
birth	October 28, 1985	F	Pearl	Dahlip(20)/Seetna(20)	Miami Metro Zoo, Miami, FL
death	October 30, 1985	F	Pearl	3 days old; unknown	Miami Metro Zoo
birth	November 24, 1985	M	Sabu	Vance(22)/Tillie(19)	Circus World, Inc., FL
death	January 1986	M	Mac	12 years; anaesthetized for surgery and died	William Woodcock, Ruskin, FL
death	Winter 1986	F	Sis	unknown; human virus TB?	Carson & Barnes Circus Hugo, OK

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Table III. Continued:

<u>Birth/ death</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sex</u> ²	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sire(age)/Dam(age) or age at death and cause</u> ³	<u>Institution at time</u> ⁴
death	April 14, 1986	F	Empress	52 years; euthanized due to foot problems	Honolulu Zoo, Honolulu, HA
birth	August 11, 1986	M	Chanda	Bandara (11)/Kamala(11)	Calgary Zoo, Calgary, Canada
death	Sept. 26, 1986	F	Coca II	43 years; euthanized due to foot problems	Atlanta Zoo, GA
death	October 26, 1986	F	Emma (M&M)	13 years; euthanized due to degenerative arthritis	Busch Gardens, Tampa, FL (born at Washington Park Zoo, Portland, OR)
death	October 30, 1986	F	Twinkles	24 years; died while being readied for transport	Sold to Scott Riddle/ Gary Jacobsen by Garden City Zoo Garden City, KS

Notes for Table III.

¹ This list may or may not include elephants already listed as part of the ISIS census.

² F=Female M=Male

³ Age is given in years, unless stated otherwise.

⁴ Two-letter abbreviations (e.g., NC=North Carolina) for states and districts in the United States are used here as employed by the US Postal Service.

Summary: Since August 1, 1982, there have been 7 births of Africans, of which 1 has died, and 15 Asians, of which 4 have died. Total number of deaths since March 2, 1978, recorded in Elephant, 2(1):149-150 and in this issue: 30 Africans and 51 Asians.

A request: We ask our readers to please send us any information on births and deaths of elephants, especially data on births, providing the following information: names and ages of parents; length of gestation period (in days); weight and sex of the newborn. In case of death: Was it a stillborn?; Cause of death (look particularly if there were any abnormalities in the pulmonary=lung system)?; and number of "toenails" present on all four feet soon after death. Thank you.