



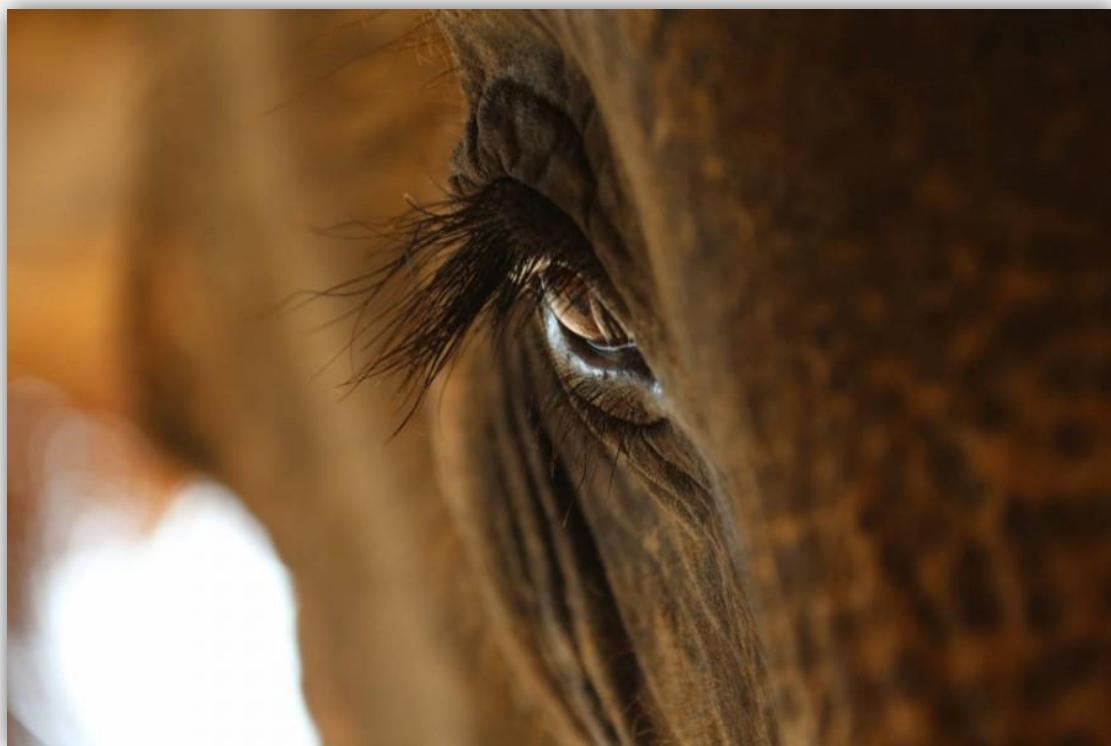
Save Elephants

VOLUNTEERPACKAGE

Long-term volunteer (1month) at ElephantsWorld, Kanchanaburi, Thailand

Do you really want to do something for the Asian elephants in Thailand? Do you want to work with elephants, with their mahouts, and help ElephantsWorld? If your answer is yes to these questions, then we invite you to read further about this project and to consider volunteering with us at ElephantsWorld.

As a volunteer your main job will be guiding our visitors around ElephantsWorld but also doing general tasks, special projects, and whatever else needs to be done. If you have any additional questions after reading this information package, please contact us at volunteers@elephantsworld.org.



At ElephantsWorld we bring humans and animals together.

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1. What is ElephantsWorld?

ElephantsWorld is near the town of Lada and is situated 32 Kilometers from the city of Kanchanaburi (famous for the Bridge over the River Kwai). It is near the forest, surrounded by mountains and next to the river... it is an oasis of silence and peace.

ElephantsWorld is a homestay for sick, old, disabled, abused, rescued and street elephants that have come here to receive the rest and joy they deserve after a hard working life. Here, they can enjoy themselves in their own natural environment until the moment they exhale their last breath. Occasionally we also take in nearby elephants for a short time. These elephants are sick and need good medical care and rest. We are an elephant care center for them.

ElephantsWorld is a non-profit organization that was founded by a local Thai veterinarian in May 2008. It was developed to take care of elephants in a natural habitat, without them having to work like they had done in the past. Previously, our land was used by the organization "Elephants and Friends", but the project had to stop due to various reasons. We formed an understanding with the owner of the land and began using it to run this project. And so ElephantsWorld came to be: a homestay for retired and rescued elephants.

Together with volunteers from all over the world, we made ElephantsWorld the professional organization that it is today. Every single volunteer is a link in the chain, we could not have done this without any of them. Together we make the bracelet that is ElephantsWorld.

Since 2015 we also started working with Thai guides.

Our main rule is: "We work for the elephants and the elephants not for us". They can stay here for the rest of their lives, and never have to work again. We help bathe them, gather food for them, feed them and provide them with medical care. Every moment you can see these special, huge, intelligent and sensitive animals enjoy their new lives.

ElephantsWorld is a homestay and not a camp!



Save Elephants

History of ElephantsWorld and Asian elephants

In the past, elephants in Thailand were used for logging in the forest. The Thai Government prohibited logging with elephants in 1989, which resulted in a high unemployment of mahouts and their elephants. Many mahouts took their elephants to the cities and started to beg for food and money on the streets. Many mahouts also brought their elephants to work in elephant camps across the country. Today these camps are among the most famous and popular tourist attractions in Thailand.

This development did not lead to a better situation for the biggest land animal in the world. Elephants were moved from the extremely bad living conditions in the forest to tough working environments and often bad living conditions in the cities and camps. What most of the tourists do not know is that riding the back of an elephant is a very heavy burden for this huge animal. The heavy load is not the only problem; sometimes the elephants have to work for 10 hours or more every day. Besides that, some camps are providing a one-sided diet or too little food for the elephants. For some elephants, this literally leads to exhaustion. So as you read this, we ask that you please tell everybody this shocking fact to promote informed decision making regarding visiting elephants.

Wandering around the city with an elephant and begging for food and money is even worse. First of all, they are removed from their natural surroundings. They get a one-sided diet and must sleep under bridges and viaducts. The elephants have to walk on the hot asphalt all day (because of the sun), which is very painful for their sensitive feet. This way of living is very dangerous and stressful for elephants because they can be hit by vehicles. The Thai government does not allow elephants to wander around cities any longer. In the last few years the police have become very strict and will arrest the mahout if he takes his elephant into the city. If you see an elephant in the city please contact the Bangkok City Police (1555).

Despite the fact that using elephants in logging is illegal, it still happens today. The loggers use elephants because the trucks cannot transport the tree-trunks in the deep jungle. The elephants can walk between the trees, over very steep slopes or through deep valleys. Because there are not many elephants that work in the forest, the ones that do have to work there, work very hard. The loggers abuse the elephants as they force them to work harder and harder. If something happens to the elephant (a broken leg, for example), most of the time the owners will leave the poor creature behind to ultimately die. Another thing that often happens in the forest is that people take the ivory tusks from the elephants and sell them for a lot of money. Removing the tusks is unbelievably painful for the elephant and it often causes many infections. The wounds can take several years to heal.

Old elephants that are no longer capable of working (be it on the streets, in trekking camps or in the forest) are often "dumped" if the owner can no longer make money from the animal and cannot afford to feed it anymore. Of course it is a nice thought that the elephant may live a life of freedom in the forest, but they are not able to know where to find food for themselves or how to survive because they were taken from their mothers and families before they were able to learn such things. That, paired with the fact that they have been around humans for so long means that they will never survive alone in the wild. ElephantsWorld takes care of these discarded elephants.

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2. What am I going to do as a month volunteer?

Our main rule is that we work for the elephants and the elephants not for us!
 Your day will generally start around 08:00 AM and begin with preparations for the day. You will have your breakfast with the other volunteers and visitors (if present) around 8:30 AM.

Your main role at ElephantsWorld will be guiding visitors and educating them about our elephants and Asian elephants in general, this is why it's important to learn the information in this package well. Every day at 10:00 AM the visitors will arrive. Tasks from our day program (to learn more about our programs, please check our website: www.elephantsworld.org), that you will often do with the visitors include feeding the elephants, cleaning certain areas, gathering food (either cutting banna-grass, sugarcane or banana trees), planting food crops, making sticky rice and bathing the elephants.

Around 4.00PM the visitors will leave and the elephants will go back to the forest (to a different place everyday), where they will spend the night.



Not one day is the same at ElephantsWorld! You will be involved in the coordination of daily activities and volunteers will do different things each day. We like to use your personal qualities and we try to combine these with the activities at ElephantsWorld. So if you like marketing, you can help us develop our brand awareness or if you are good at social media you can help us with that. This is the reason why we ask you to send your CV (resume), so that we can look for activities which will best suit your abilities!

3. How do I live as a month volunteer?

You and the other volunteers will live together. You will eat together, work together and take care of the tasks together; you have to be a team player. This is a great experience and you will learn a lot about Thai culture. You'll sleep in a ElephantsWorld area. The volunteer housing is a shared room with fans, where you will have a bed with a mosquito net. There are showers and toilets nearby. At certain times of the day there will be wi-fi available.

ElephantsWorld is quite secluded, so you have to arrange your own transport if you want to go to the city. But you must always sleep at ElephantsWorld. This is one of our house rules.

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ElephantsWorld is situated 32 kilometers from the city of Kanchanaburi. The nearest town is Ladya, which is located 15 kilometers away. In Ladya you can find ATM's, a post office, a local market, supermarkets and a hospital. We visit Ladya every Sunday after work. At ElephantsWorld there is a small shop for drinks & snacks.



4. How much does it cost to be a month volunteer?

You can volunteer with us for a period of 1 month only, during which you only pay for your food and accommodation. When you arrive at ElephantsWorld, you will have to pay 15.000 Baht for 1 month (and don't forget to bring some extra pocket money). The price includes food (3 meals a day, coffee, tea and drinking water), transportation to and from the city of Kanchanaburi (when you arrive and when you leave) and your accommodation.

There's no need to change money at home; it's expensive and you can do it when you arrive in Bangkok. Instead of changing money, you can get Thai Baht from ATMs.



5. What requirements does a month volunteer need to meet?

Do you love animals, especially elephants? Do you love nature? Can you work as part of a team with other international people? Are you interested in Thai culture and can you accept and respect the local customs? Do you speak English?

These are the most important questions you have to ask yourself when you are thinking about volunteering at ElephantsWorld. We really need volunteers, but it is important that you adapt to working "Thai-style" and that you respect the culture. Be enthusiast, flexible, open minded, cheerful, and a team player.

The most important thing is that you contribute something to ElephantsWorld and that you have fun at the same time!

These are the things that are required for our long-term volunteers:

- You will stay for a period of one month only
- The minimum age is 21 years
- This is a real job with responsibilities
- It is required to **study this volunteer package** before arriving at ElephantsWorld.
- We ask for flexible, enthusiastic people with a professional attitude. Not only during the day at work time, but also in the evenings when there are overnight visitors
- At ElephantsWorld we help each other, so the volunteers need to show initiative
- You must be aware of the safety rules at all times; not only for yourself, but also for the visitors, the staff and the elephants. It is one of the most important responsibilities.

Do you like the idea of working for the elephants and helping to give them a better life?

If so, please send an email to volunteers@elephantsworld.org

***When you get no reply, you can send an email to
info@elephantsworld.org***

- ***Let us know why you want to volunteer (your motivation);***
- ***when you want to come;***
- ***attach your CV.***

Once we receive your email with your motivation, CV, and the time you want to volunteer for, we will get back to you as soon as the coordinator has reviewed your materials. Thank you for your interest!

If you are accepted as a volunteer, ***when you come, you must bring the following things in a folder:***

- Paper copy of your CV, motivation and your passport***
- Input form & house rules that we will send you later***

6. Preparation before coming to Thailand

Visa

There are a few options for getting a visa for Thailand.

- For most countries you can get a free 30-day visa on arrival when you arrive at the Bangkok airport. **If you enter Thailand by land, you may only get a visa for 15 days!**
- To get a visa which is valid longer, please contact the Thai embassy in your own country. You can usually get a 60-day tourist visa in advance.

Health

- It's important that you have a good worldwide insurance; we cannot take care of this; it's your own responsibility.
- The health insurance you have in your own country could be valid in a foreign country, but you'll have to check this with your own insurance company.
- Swimming: we advise you not to swim in the river or take a shower when you have (small) open wounds because they can get infected.
- Once a wound starts to get infected, we advise you to go to the doctor before it gets worse. Inform us!
- We advise you to brush your teeth with bottled water.
- You should bring a (small) first aid kit for tropical areas. Waterproof plasters (band aids) and plasters for blisters are especially important.
- Contact your travel clinic/doctor for information about vaccinations. There is no malaria in this area, our staff do not use any medication for malaria. It is advisable to bring your yellow book for vaccinations.
- It's advisable to know your blood type

Emergency

Please leave the following contact information with your friends and family as a way for them to get in touch with you here in case of emergency.

Info@elephantsworld.org

Our Telephone numbers are:

+66 8 63355332(Office)

+66 9 83658788 (Agnes)

Please use this email address and the phone numbers only in the case of an emergency.

7. How to get to ElephantsWorld?

Route to Kanchanaburi from Bangkok

There are several possibilities for traveling to ElephantsWorld.

Bus

You can take a bus from the Southern bus station in Bangkok to Kanchanaburi, they depart regularly. There are busses leaving a few times an hour .Bus 81 goes to the bus station in the city of Kanchanaburi.

Other places to get a minivan from are Mo Chit bus station, Victory Monument and Kao San Road.

Train

Another possibility is to travel to Kanchanaburi by train. This trip takes around three hours and starts at the Thon Buri train station. After you have arrived at the airport, you can take a taxi (walk outside on the arrivals level and join the queue for a public taxi) to Thon Buri train station. At the station you can buy a ticket to Kanchanaburi.

Private taxi

In case you want to come by private taxi, you can contact Jonney:
0814952693 or Jonney_taxi_guide@yahoo.com

From Kanchanaburi to ElephantsWorld

Its best to spend the evening before at a hotel in Kanchanaburi

The day before you arrive at ElephantsWorld, let's know at which guesthouse in the city of Kanchanaburi you will be staying. We can pick you up at 9.00AM the following morning. You can call +66863355332 (Thai/English)

8. Packing list

- VERY IMPORTANT! Swimming shirt and pants! It's not permitted to swim in a bathing suit. Please respect Thai culture (No revealing clothes!!!!)
- For women; Long shorts are OK**
- A big candle and a **flash light** (a headlamp is most practical)
- Mosquito repellent and something for the bites (you can also purchase this in Thailand)
- Long trousers.
- A hat/cap.
- Flip flops & closed shoes
- Sunblock! Even when it's cloudy you will burn easily.
- Old clothes, dark colors are best because they don't show stains as much. (It would be nice if you leave some clothes here for the local people).
- Sunglasses
- Camera, with a lot of memory space!
- **First aid kit for yourself including ORS, you will need this!!**
- **Waterproof plasters and plasters for blisters! There is no pharmacy nearby, so don't forget to bring these things.**
- A little game (which you can play with the volunteers/staff)
- DVD and/or books about elephants/animals for our small library
- Your normal travel equipment.
- **A cell phone with a Thai SIM card and credit is a must!** Our area is very big so we communicate by phone. You can buy a Thai sim card at the 7Eleven. AIS or DTAC are providers people often use. Don't forget to also buy credit.
- You don't need a car charger

Request!!

Fundraising:

If you do become a month volunteer at ElephantsWorld, **it would be really nice if you could do a little fundraising with your friends and family to raise money for ElephantsWorld.** We would really appreciate this, but it is not a must. If you are having trouble coming up with ways to raise money, here are some suggestions:

- If you are a good cook, you can organize a fancy dinner for your friends. At the end of the evening, everyone can drop something in a special box.
- See this as an opportunity to clean up your house. Old stuff or clothes you don't use anymore? Sell them on E-bay or in a garage sale.
- Are you a good painter, can you repair cars, or make delicious cakes? Tell your friends and relatives.
- Send an e-mail to all of your friends and family and tell them about the importance of this project. Maybe they are willing and able to help in some way.

Your local newspaper

A nice idea is to go to your local newspaper and tell them that you're going to volunteer at ElephantsWorld. We're a young non-profit foundation and we're still growing, so this could really help us.

9. Furthermore

Registration at your embassy

At most embassies it is possible to register as a visitor of Thailand. It is important to do this before you enter Thailand. In case of an emergency they can inform you by SMS (text) or email about which places you should avoid. For example the Dutch embassy: <http://www.netherlandsembassy.in.th/>



House rules ElephantsWorld – Month Volunteers

General

- Alcohol is only allowed after 5.00 PM and in moderation.
- Relationships with our staff are forbidden.
- Don't buy bottles of alcohol for the mahouts, sharing is okay.
- Smoking is not allowed in the buildings, nor in the presence of visitors.
- Owning or using hard or soft drugs is not allowed.
- Loud music is not allowed.
- All the tips that you receive will go to the donation box.
- It is your own responsibility to watch your belongings. EW is not responsible for any lost items.
- If you break, damage or lose any belongings of EW, you will be required to pay an indemnity to EW.
- ElephantsWorld is an ecological responsible organization. This means that you, as a volunteer, have respect for nature and behave accordingly.
- You respect the Thai standards/culture and behave according to this.
- If you need to go to the doctor, you will have to pay for your own transport.
- If you end your volunteering sooner than planned, you not receive a refund. It is also not possible to divide your month of volunteering over different months, (for example two weeks in January and two weeks in March).

Tasks

- EW expects that you, as a month volunteer, work with full enthusiasm, accomplish your tasks and accomplish tasks on request from the manager present at the time.
- Be always explicit and clear to your colleagues, and respect each other. EW likes a "homely" atmosphere, so bullying, slander etc. is not allowed!
- You should always look representative to our visitors, for example: always wear an ElephantsWorld shirt (when there are visitors).
- Always behave like a host to the visitors.
- Always be aware of the safety of our visitors.
- Involve the mahouts with the visitors, treat them equivalent and listen to their knowledge; they know a lot about the elephants.
- Always remember the main rule of EW:

You work for the elephants, the elephants not for you!

Safety

- You are responsible for your own safety.
- You are responsible for your own (health) insurance.

We ask you to read through the rest of the information in this package before you get to ElephantsWorld. You will learn about Asian elephants in general and about our elephants. By reading this information you will be prepared for your role as a guide at ElephantsWorld.

Updated September 2016

The Asian Elephant

ElephantsWorld
Thailand Kanchanaburi



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Profile of the elephant

a. Asian elephant

The Asian or Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas maximus*), sometimes known by the name of one of its subspecies, the Indian Elephant, is one of the two living species of elephant. It is the largest living land animal in Asia. The species is found primarily in Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Indochina and parts of Nepal and Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, China, Bhutan, and Sumatra. It is considered endangered due to habitat loss and poaching, with between 41,410 and 52,345 left in the wild. Asian elephants are rather long-lived, with a maximum recorded life span of 86 years.

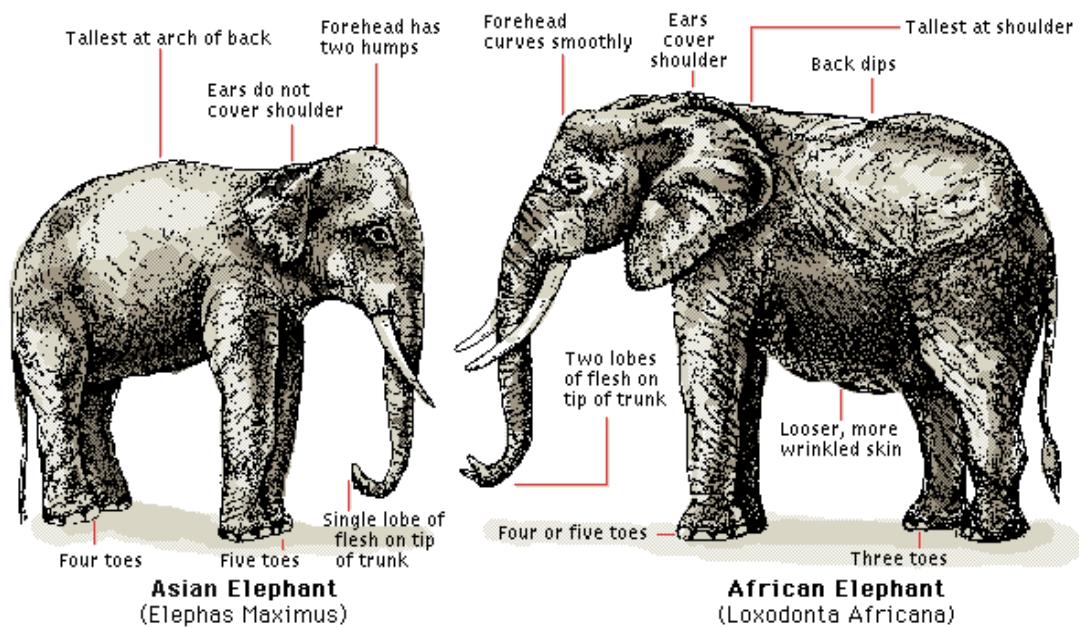
This animal is widely domesticated, and has been used in forestry in South and Southeast Asia for centuries and also in ceremonial purposes. Historical sources indicate that they were sometimes used during the harvest season primarily for milling. Wild elephants attract tourist money to the areas where they can most readily be seen, but damage crops, and may enter villages to raid gardens.



b. Asian or African elephant

The Asian Elephant is slightly smaller than its African relatives; the easiest way to distinguish the two is that the Asian elephant has smaller ears. The ears help the animal to lose heat on the sunny open country it inhabits in Africa. The Asian elephant -- *Elephas*, is a native of thick forest, so is smaller, with much smaller ears. Asian elephants keep their ears in constant motion in order to radiate the heat they generate and therefore cool themselves. The species are reported to have well developed hearing, vision, and olfaction, and are also fine swimmers.

The Asian Elephant has other differences from its African relatives, including a more arched back than the African, one semi-prehensile "finger" at the tip of its trunk as opposed to two and four nails on each hind foot instead of three. Also, unlike the African Elephant, the female Asian Elephant usually lacks tusks; if tusks — in that case called "tushes" — are present, they are barely visible, and only seen when the female opens her mouth. Some males may also lack tusks; these individuals are called "filsymakhnas", and are especially common among the Sri Lankan elephant population. Furthermore, the forehead has two hemispherical bulges, unlike the flat front of the African elephant.



c. Size and diet of the Asian elephant

The sizes of (especially African elephants) elephants in the wild have been exaggerated in the past. However, record elephants may have measured as high as 3.7 meters (12 ft) at the shoulder. Asian elephants are smaller and 2.7 meters at the shoulder is average. Height is often estimated using the rule of thumb of twice the forefoot circumference. Some more facts are listed below about their size:

- A bull can stand 2.7m (9ft) in height
- Weigh between 3 - 5 tonnes (3,200 - 4,500 kg or 7,000 - 12,000 lbs.)
- Cows can stand 2.3 m (7.5 ft) in height
- Weight between 2.3 - 4.5 tonnes (2,300 - 4,500 kg or 5,000 - 10,000 lbs.)
- Newly born baby elephants (calves) stand at around (0.9m) 3ft
- They weigh 90kg (200 lbs.)
- Despite it's huge size the elephant has an extraordinary sense of balance and extremely high tactile sense.
- The brain of the elephant weighs about 5 kg or 11 lbs. (4 times the weight of a human).

Elephants eat up to 150–170 kg of vegetation a day. More than two thirds of the day may be spent feeding on grasses, but large amounts of tree bark, roots, leaves and small stems are also eaten.

- Water and trunk: To drink its 9 litres of water at a time, the elephant uses its trunk which weighs 113 kilograms.

Cultivated crops such as bananas, rice and sugarcane are favoured foods. They sometimes scrape the soil for minerals. Because they need to drink at least once a day, the species are always close to a source of fresh water. They need 80–200 litres of water a day, and use more for bathing. Elephants only digest about 40% of what they eat and therefore, they need to spend two-thirds of every day eating. They sometimes eat their own feces if hungry.



d. Sensory organs

- Sight:** Rather poor vision capable of seeing clearly only at very short distances up to about 10 metres.
- Hearing:** Excellent hearing superior to human standards. Large ears act as amplifiers and warn of possible dangers.
- Smell:** Highly developed sense of smell thought to be superior to that of any other land mammal.
- Taste:** Comparable to all higher animals and can easily distinguish between unsuitable, suitable and favoured fodder.
- Touch:** Acute deftness of balance achieved by high tactile sense. The trunk, an incredibly versatile organ, contributes greatly to this ability and is covered in the section below

The trunk is an amazing organ of extreme dexterity: it is the single most important feature of an elephant, and gives the Order Proboscidae its name. The trunk is very strong, which is its ideal tool for eating. It is actually a fusion between the nose and upper lip, and consists of some 100.000 muscle units, which allow the elephant to move the trunk with such a wide range of movement. Elephants use their trunks to, among other things: breathe through, smell with, to pick up water to drink (the trunk can hold 8.5 liters), to pick leaves, fruit, etc., either off trees or off the ground, to cover themselves with mud, water or dust, and to communicate with each other, via touch, smell and the production of sound. It is also used for lifting objects and as a weapon.

- Experience of a mahout: "The trunk is a highly sensitive organ -- capable of very delicate manipulations. I saw an elephant with an itchy leg pull down the branch of a tree to scratch itself. This did not quite do the trick, so it put one end of the branch in its mouth and chewed it a little, then tried again, with better results. This was a clear example of tool making and using -- which used to be a definition of 'human'."

e. Elephants lifespan

Asian elephants are rather long-lived, with a maximum recorded life span of 86 years. (Natural) Death is usually caused by disease or wearing out of their molars. The Elephants normally change their molars six times during their lifetime (see table below), when older molar gets worn-out, they get replaced horizontally from new ones. When the last supplement gets worn-out, they die out of starvation. (The "natural" dead-cause of almost all herbivores, which doesn't fall prey to disease or predators.) In some cases, the replacement is difficult, and the molar has to be removed. Increased daily supplement of branches over several months may solve the problem, otherwise the molar has to be removed by a Vet. The removal of an elephant's molar tooth is always a difficult surgical undertaking, although it has been performed successfully on numerous occasions

Molar	Molar Appearance	Molar Loss
I	birth	2 years
II	birth	6 years
III	1 year	13-15 years
IV	6 years	28 years
V	18 years	43 years
VI	30 years	65+ years

2. Behavior of the elephant

a. Group behavior

Asian elephants are extremely sociable, forming groups of 6 to 7 related females that are led by the oldest female, the 'matriarch'. Like African elephants, these groups occasionally join others to form herds, although these associations are relatively transient.

- Matriarch: Elephant herds consist of females and the young. A herd is led by a matriarch (grandmother). As young males reached maturity they are chased away by the herd. Bull elephants join the herd only for mating.

In the wild, elephant herds follow well-defined seasonal migration routes. These are made around the monsoon seasons, often between the wet and dry zones, and it is the task of the eldest elephant to remember and follow the traditional migration routes. When human farms are founded along these old routes there is often considerable damage done to crops, and it is common for elephants to be killed in the ensuing conflicts. The adult Asian Elephant has no natural predators, but young elephants may fall prey to tigers.

When families give birth, after a gestation period of 22-24 months, she goes to a grassy, comfortable spot with a 'friend', who acts as midwife. This friend clears up the afterbirth and placenta, and keeps mother and baby apart. There are cases of mothers, confused and exhausted, killing their new-born, if there is no friend to stop it. There is nothing sadder than a mother elephant who gives birth to a still born baby. She will stay with the dead body for several days, grieving. The usual cause of death in the wild is the teeth, which were out. After the fifth and last change of teeth the elephant will not be able to grind food anymore and will die of starvation.

- Elephants only sleep for three or four hours a day, usually from 11pm to 3am. They simply lie down, yawning and later snoring just like humans. Only sick elephants sleep standing up.

Elephants' life spans have been exaggerated in the past and live on average for 60 years in the wild and 80 in captivity. Elephants use infrasound to communicate; this was first noted by the Indian naturalist M. Krishnan and later studied by Katharine Payne.

b. Male behavior

Bull elephants may form small groups known as 'bachelor herds', but bulls may also roam independently at various times. Bulls will fight one another to get access to estrous females.

- Fighting: The longest recorded fight between two elephants was recorded at 10 hours and 56 minutes.

Males reach sexual maturity around age 12-15 (younger in captivity). By their late teens or early twenties, bulls undergo an annual phenomenon known as "musth". This is a period where the testosterone level is high (up to 100 times greater than non-musth periods) and they become extremely aggressive. Secretions containing pheromones occur during this period, from the paired temporal glands located on the head between the lateral edge of the eye and the base of the ear. At the height of musth, bulls also become urine incontinent, and will discharge urine continuously. Over time, their penises turns greyish/green, which has been termed 'green penis'.

Often, elephants in musth discharge a thick tar-like secretion called temporin from the temporal ducts on the sides of the head. Temporin remains largely uncharacterised, due to the difficulties of collecting samples for analysis; however, secretions and urine collected from zoo elephants have been shown to contain elevated levels of various highly odorous ketones and aldehydes. The elephant's aggression may be partially caused by a reaction to the temporin, which naturally trickles down into the elephant's mouth. Another contributing factor may be the accompanying swelling of the temporal glands; this presses on the elephant's eyes and causes acute pain comparable to severe root abscess toothache. Elephants sometimes try to counteract this pain by digging their tusks into the ground.



Although it has often been speculated by zoo visitors that musth is linked to rut, it is unlikely there is a biological connection because the female elephant's estrus cycle is not seasonally-linked, whereas musth most often takes place in winter. Furthermore, bulls in musth have often been known to attack female elephants, regardless of whether or not the females are in heat. There has been speculation that there may be a connection between musth and dominance behaviour.

Musth is linked to sexual arousal or establishing dominance, but this relationship is far from clear. Cases of elephants goring and killing rhinoceroses in national parks in Africa have been documented and attributed to musth in young male elephants, especially those growing in the absence of older males. Studies show that reintroducing older males into the elephant population of the area seems to prevent younger males from entering musth, and therefore, stop this aggressive behavior.

A musth elephant, wild or domesticated, is extremely dangerous to humans. During this period they are chained separately for nearly a month and given special medicinal food. During this time, they are not used for work or religious processions. In zoos, musth has been the cause of incidents in which elephant keepers (Mahouts) have been killed. News reaches local newspapers every now and then, how elephants destroyed a number of villagers' houses, plantation area, how villagers were hurt in the attacks and also about criminative revenge-killings of wildlife by angry local people.

While elephant charges are often displays of aggression that do not go beyond threats, some elephants, such as rogues, may actually attack.

In regard to movement on land, Mr. Sanderson says that "the only pace of the elephant is the walk, capable of being increased to a fast shuffle of about fifteen miles (24 km) an hour for very short distances. It can neither trot, canter, nor gallop. It does not move with the legs on the same side together, but nearly so. A very good runner might keep out of an elephant's way on a smooth piece of turf, but on the ground in which they are generally met with, any attempt to escape by flight, unless supplemented by concealment, would be unavailing."

When an elephant does charge, it requires all the coolness and presence of mind of the sportsman to avoid a catastrophe- "A grander animated object," writes Mr. Sanderson, "than a wild elephant in full charge can hardly be imagined. The cocked ears and broad forehead present an immense frontage; the head is held high, with the trunk curled between the tusks, to be uncoiled in the moment of attack; the massive fore-legs come down with the force and regularity of ponderous machinery; and the whole figure is rapidly foreshortened, and appears to double in size with each advancing stride. The trunk being curled and unable to emit any sound, the attack is made in silence, after the usual premonitory shriek, which adds to its impressiveness. The usual pictorial representations of the Indian elephant charging with upraised trunk are accordingly quite incorrect."

c. Female behavior

Female elephants live in small groups. They have a matriarchal society, and the group is led by the oldest female. The herd consists of relatives. An individual reaches sexual maturity at 9–15 years of age. The gestation period is 18–22 months, and the female gives birth to one calf, or occasionally twins. The calf is fully developed by the 19th month but stays in the womb to grow so that it can reach its mother to feed. At birth, the calf weighs about 100 kg (220 lb), and is suckled for up to 2–3 years. Once a female gives birth, she usually does not breed again until the first calf is weaned, resulting in a 4-5 year birth interval. Elephant mothers are attentive to the needs of their young. Babies are born with almost no instinctive patterns, nearly everything they do has been taught to them by their mothers and aunts. What they get taught will vary according to the matriarch and her herd – different groups face different dangers and bear different responsibilities. The matriarch will determine what is important for that specific herd and mothers teach the young ones accordingly. When she dies, she is normally succeeded by her closest relative from the herd (usually the oldest daughter). Females stay on with the herd, but mature males are chased away.

Human and elephant relations

a. History

In the past, wild elephants were caught and trained. The city of Mae Hong Sorn was founded as a stockade for newly caught elephants, since that region had a high elephant population. This century, the number of elephants has declined so rapidly that the entire domesticated stock are one or more generations from their wild forebears. There are still a few thousand wild elephant in northern Thailand, in remote jungle south west of Chiangmai.

Elephants have been captured from the wild and tamed for use by humans. Their ability to work under instruction makes them particularly useful for carrying heavy objects. They have been used particularly for timber-carrying in jungle areas. Other than their work use, they have been used in war, in ceremonies, and for carriage. They have been used for their ability to travel over difficult terrain by hunters, for whom they served as mobile hunting platforms. The same purpose is met in safaris in modern times.



- Hannibal lived during a period of tension in the Mediterranean, when Rome (then the Roman Republic) established its supremacy over other great powers such as Carthage. Hannibal, who was a Cartaginian, hated the Romans and one of his most famous achievements was when he marched an army, which included war elephants, from Iberia over the Pyrenees and the Alps into northern Italy. In his first

few years in Italy, he won three dramatic victories, Trebia, Trasimene, and Cannae, and won over several Roman allies. Hannibal occupied much of Italy for 15 years, but a Roman counter-invasion of North Africa forced Hannibal to return to Carthage, where he was decisively defeated by Scipio Africanus at the Battle of Zama. Scipio studied Hannibal's tactics and brilliantly devised some of his own. Scipio had learned that when the war elephant would charge, it could only go in a straight line. So when the elephants charged the Romans to break the lines, the Romans simply stepped aside so the Elephants ran through the lines without making any casualties to the Romans. This devastated the morale of the Carthagian troops who had expected the usual slaughter the elephants would inflict and they were soon routed when the Roman cavalry charged them from behind.

The elephant plays an important part in the culture of the subcontinent and beyond, featuring prominently in Jataka tales and the Panchatantra. It plays a major role in Hinduism: the god Ganesha's head is that of an elephant, and the "blessings" of a temple elephant are highly valued. Elephants have been used in processions in Kerala where the animals are adorned with festive outfits.



- While bathing in the kund, Goddess Parvati fashioned Ganesha from the soap suds on Her body, breathed life into Him and placed Him at the entrance as Her guard. Lord Shiva happened to arrive at the spot suddenly and He was stopped by Ganesha. Indignant at this affront, Shiva cut off Ganesha's head and Parvati was inconsolable. She insisted that the boy be brought back to life and Shiva took the head of a wandering elephant and placed it on Ganesha's body. Parvati had Her son back and Ganesha acquired the persona by which He is known all over the Hindu world since then.

b. Now and the future

In the past elephants in Thailand were used for logging work in the forest, for the logging. The Thai Government prohibited the logging around 50 years ago, what resulted in a high unemployment of mahouts and their elephants. Many mahouts went with their elephants to the cities and started begging for food and money. Moreover, many elephant camps over the whole country appeared. They are these days one of the most famous and popular tourist attractions of the country.

This development wasn't much better for this biggest land animal of the world. They were moved from extremely bad living conditions and working circumstances in the forest to tough work and sometimes bad living conditions as well in the elephant camp. What most of the tourists do not know, is that riding on the back of an elephant is a very heavy burden for this huge animal. The neck and trunk are very strong, but the back of an elephant is one of the weaker parts. But this is not the only problem, sometimes the elephants have to work for 10 hours a day or even more. Besides some camps are providing a one-sided diet or too little food for the elephants. For some of them, this is literally leading to exhaustion. But wandering with the elephant in the city and begging for food and money is even worse. First of all they are removed from their natural surroundings. They get one-sided food, are sleeping under bridges and viaducts, and are wandering during the day over the hot asphalt (because of the sun), that is very painful to their sensitive feet sole. This way of living is very dangerous (because of the traffic) but also very stressful. That is also the reason why the Thai Government did not allow the elephants any longer in the cities. The last few years the police are very strict, and arrest the mahout, if he walks with his elephant in the street.



Despite the fact that using elephants in logging is illegal, it is still happening these days. The loggers need the elephants, because the trucks can not transport the tree-trunks in the deep jungle, between the trees, and over very steep slopes or through deep valleys. There are not many elephants that are working in the forest. This means for them, who are working in logging, that they have to work very hard. The loggers abuse the elephants to let them work harder and harder. If something happens with the elephant (for example, break a leg), most of the time they will let the poor creature behind, and in the end he or she will die. What also happens often in the forest: people take the tusks from the elephants and will sell them for a lot of money.

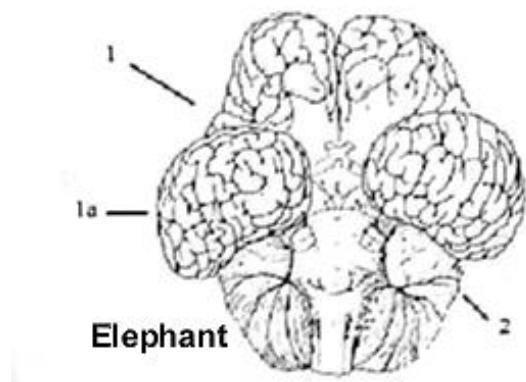
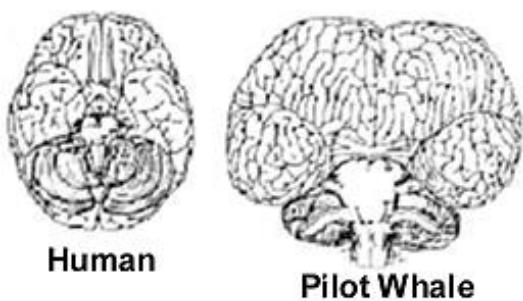
Removing the tusks is unbelievable painful for the elephant, and it also causes many infections, that can take several years to cure.

It happens often that old elephants, which are incapable for work any longer (on the streets, in camps or for logging), are "dumped" in the forest. The owner can no longer make money from the elephant, and it is too expensive to keep the animal fed. Of course it is nice for the elephant to live in freedom in the forest, but because they were too long under human control, they never learned from their mother or group how to find food by themselves. So they will never survive.

3. Human and elephant similarities

a. Physical similarities to the brain

Elephants are amongst the world's most intelligent species. With a mass just over 5 kg (11 lb), elephant brains are larger than those of any other land animal, and although the largest whales have body masses twentyfold those of a typical elephant, whale brains are barely twice the mass of an elephant's brain. The elephant's brain is similar to that of humans in terms of structure and complexity - such as the elephant's cortex having as many neurons as a human brain, suggesting convergent evolution. A wide variety of behaviors, including those associated with grief, learning, allomothering, mimicry, art, play, a sense of humor, altruism, use of tools, compassion, self-awareness, memory and possibly language all point to a highly intelligent species that are thought to be equal with cetaceans and primates. Due to the high intelligence and strong family ties of elephants, some researchers argue it is morally wrong for humans to cull them. Aristotle once said that elephants were "The beast which passeth all others in wit and mind"



Human, pilot whale and elephant brains up to scale. (1)-cerebrum (1a)-temporal lobe and (2)-cerebellum

Cerebral cortex

The elephant (both Asian and African) has a very large and highly convoluted neocortex, a trait also shared by humans, apes and certain dolphin species. Scientists see this as a sign of complex

intelligence. While this is the widely held belief, there is at least one exception: the echidna has a highly developed brain, yet is not considered to be highly intelligent. Asian elephants have the greatest volume of cerebral cortex available for cognitive processing of all existing land animals. Elephants have a volume of cerebral cortex available for cognitive processing that exceeds that of any primate species, and extensive studies place elephants in the category of great apes in terms of cognitive abilities for tool use and tool making. The elephant brain exhibits a gyral pattern more complex and with more numerous convolutes/brain folds than that of humans, primates and carnivores, but less complex than cetaceans. However, the cortex of the elephant brain is "thicker than that of cetaceans", and is believed to have as many cortical neurons (nerve cells) and cortical synapses as that of humans which exceeds that of cetaceans. Elephants are believed to rank equal with dolphins in terms of problem solving abilities and many scientists tend to rank elephant intelligence at the same level as cetaceans.

Other features of the brain

Elephants also have a very large and highly convoluted hippocampus, a brain structure in the limbic system that is much bigger than that of any human, primate or cetacean. The hippocampus of an elephant takes up about 0.7% of the central structures of the brain, comparable to 0.5% for humans and with 0.1% in Risso's dolphins and 0.05% in bottlenose dolphins. The hippocampus is linked to emotion through the processing of certain types of memory, especially spacial. This is thought to possibly be why elephants suffer from psychological flashbacks and the equivalent of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Brain size at birth relative to adult brain size

Like humans, elephants must learn behavior as they grow up. They are not born with the instincts of how to survive. Elephants have a very long period in their lives for learning, lasting for around ten years. One comparative way to try to gauge intelligence is to compare brain size at birth to the fully developed adult brain. This indicates how much learning a species accumulates while young. The majority of mammals are born with a brain close to 90% of the adult weight. Humans are born with 28% of the adult weight, bottlenose dolphins with 42.5%, chimpanzees with 54%, and elephants with 35%. This indicates that elephants have the highest amount of learning to undergo next to humans and behavior is not mere instinct but must be taught throughout life. It should be noted that instinct is quite different from learned intelligence. Parents will teach their young how to feed, use tools and learn their place in highly complex elephant society. The cerebrum temporal lobes,

which functions as storage of memory are much larger than that of a human.

b. Elephant society

The elephant has one of the most closely knit societies of any living species. Elephant families can only be separated by death or capture. Cynthia Moss, an ethologist specialising in elephants, recalls an event involving a family of African elephants. Two members of the family were shot by poachers, who were subsequently chased off by the remaining elephants. Although one of the elephants died, the other, named Tina, remained standing but with knees beginning to give way. Two family members, Trista and Teresia (Tina's mother) walked to both sides of Tina and leaned in to hold her up. Eventually, Tina grew so weak she fell to the ground and died. However, Trista and Teresia did not give up but continually tried to lift her. They managed to get Tina into a sitting position, but her body was lifeless and fell to the ground again. As the other elephant family members became more intensely involved in the aid, they tried to put grass into Tina's mouth. Teresia then put her tusks beneath Tina's head and front quarters and proceeded to lift her. As she did so, her right tusk broke completely off, right up to the lip and nerve cavity. The elephants gave up trying to lift Tina but didn't leave her; instead, they began to bury her in a shallow grave and throw leaves over her body. They stood over Tina for the night, and then began to leave in the morning. The last to leave was Teresia.

Because elephants are so closely knit and highly matriarchal, a family can be devastated by the death of another (especially a matriarch) and some groups never recover their organization. Cynthia Moss has observed a mother, after the death of her calf, walk sluggishly at the back of a family for many days. Edward Topsell stated in his publication, The History of Four-Footed Beasts in 1658 that "There is no creature among all the Beasts of the world which hath so great and ample demonstration of the power and wisdom of almighty God as the elephant."



c. Altruism

Elephants are thought to be highly altruistic animals that will even aid other species, including humans, in distress. In India, an elephant was helping locals lift logs by following a truck and placing the logs in pre-dug holes upon instruction from the mahout (elephant trainer). At a certain hole, the elephant refused to lower the log. The mahout came to investigate the hold up and noticed a dog sleeping in the hole. The elephant only lowered the log when the dog was gone.

Cynthia Moss has often seen elephants going out of their way to avoid hurting or killing a human, even when it was difficult for them (such as having to walk backwards to avoid a person).

Joyce Poole documented an encounter told to her by Colin Francombe on Kuki Gallman's Laikipia Ranch. A ranch herder was out on his own with camels when he came across a family of elephants. The matriarch charged at him and knocked him over with her trunk, breaking one of his legs. In the evening, when he didn't return, a search party was sent in a truck to find him. When the party discovered him, he was being guarded by an elephant. The animal charged the truck, so they shot over her and scared her away. The herdsman later told them that when he couldn't stand up, the elephant used her trunk to lift him under the shade of a tree. She guarded him for the day and would gently touch him with her trunk.

d. Death ritual

Elephants are the only other species upon Earth other than Homo sapiens sapiens and Neanderthals known to have any recognizable ritual around death. They show a keen interest in the bones of their own kind (even unrelated elephants that have died long ago). They are often seen gently investigating the bones with their trunks and feet, and remaining very quiet. Sometimes elephants that are completely unrelated to the deceased will still visit their graves. When an elephant is hurt, other elephants (also even if they are unrelated) will aid them.

Elephant researcher Martin Meredith recalls an occurrence in her book about a typical elephant death ritual that was witnessed by Anthony Martin-Hall, a South African biologist who had studied elephants in Addo, South Africa for over 8 years. The entire family of a dead matriarch, including her young calf, were all gently touching her body with their trunks and tried to lift her. The elephant herd were all rumbling loudly. The calf was observed to be

weeping and made sounds that sounded like a scream but then the entire herd fell incredibly silent. They then began to throw leaves and dirt over the body and broke off tree branches to cover her. They spent the next 2 days quietly standing over her body. They sometimes had to leave to get water or food, but they would always return. Occurrences of elephants behaving this way around human beings are common through Africa. On many occasions, they have buried dead or sleeping humans or aided them when they were hurt. Meredith also recalls an event told to her by George Adamson, a Kenyan Game Warden regarding an old Turkana woman who fell asleep under a tree after losing her way home. When she woke up, there was an elephant standing over her, gently touching her. She kept very still because she was very frightened. As other elephants arrived, they began to scream loudly and buried her under branches. She was found the next morning by the local herdsmen, unharmed. George Adamson also recalls when he shot a Bull elephant from a herd that kept breaking into the Government gardens of Northern Kenya. George gave the elephant's meat to local Turkana Tribesmen and then dragged the rest of the carcass half a mile away. That night, the other elephants found the body and took the shoulder blade and leg bone and returned the bones to the exact spot the elephant was killed. Scientists often argue the extent that elephants feel emotion. A large variety of animals display what appears to be 'sorrow' through body language, posture, movement and actions but seeing elephants standing over a body, burying them, refusing to leave and their trunks being observed hanging limp certainly seems evidence that perhaps much deeper and complex emotions are involved.

As noted earlier, the concepts of suffering and death (and even what we might refer to as "empathy") appear to be highly developed in elephants, even regarding unexpectedly witnessed human suffering, leading to a perception by many humans who have lived in close interactivity with them that the animals appear to view humans - and occasionally other highly-developed mammals, such as domestic dogs - as somehow truly similar to themselves in this realm; sympathetic, one could say. More research obviously needs to be done in this area, but the evidence remains persuasive.

e. Play

Joyce Poole on many occasions has observed wild African elephants at play. They apparently do things for their own and others' entertainment. Elephants have been seen sucking up water, holding their trunk high in the air, and then spraying the water like a fountain.



f. Mimicry

Recent studies have shown that elephants can also mimic sounds they hear. The discovery was found when Mlaika, an orphaned elephant, would copy the sound of trucks passing by. So far, the only other animals that are thought to mimic sounds are whales, dolphins, bats, primates and birds. Calimero, an African elephant who was 23 years old also exhibited a unique form of mimicry. He was in a Swiss zoo with some Asian elephants. Asian elephants use chirps that are different from African elephants' deep rumbling noises. Calimero also began to chirp and not make the deep calls like his species normally would. Kosik, an Indian elephant at Everland Amusement Park, South Korea surprised trainers when they thought there was a person in his enclosure but it was actually Kosik imitating Jong Gap Kim, his trainer. Kosik can make sounds imitating up to eight Korean words, including "sit", "no", "yes" and "lie down". His mimicry is remarkably human-sounding. Kosik produces humanlike sounds by putting his trunk in his mouth and then shaking it while breathing out, similar to how people whistle with their fingers. Elephants use contact calls to stay in

touch with one another when they are out of one another's sight. Female elephants are able to remember and distinguish the contact calls of female family and bond group members from those of females outside of their extended family network. They can also distinguish between the calls of family units depending upon how frequently they came across them.

g. Tool use

Elephants show a remarkable ability to use tools, using their trunk like an arm. Elephants have been observed digging holes to drink water and then ripping bark from a tree, chewing it into the shape of a ball, filling in the hole and covering over it with sand to avoid evaporation. The elephant later went back to this spot for a drink. They also often use branches to swat flies or scratch themselves. Elephants have also been known to drop very large rocks onto an electric fence to either ruin the fence or cut off the electricity.

h. Problem solving ability

Elephants are able to spend a lot of time working on problems. They are able to radically change their behavior to face a new challenge, a hallmark of complex intelligence. In the 1970s at Marine World Africa, USA, there lived an Asian elephant named Bandula. Bandula worked out how to break open or unlock several of the pieces of equipment used to keep the shackles on her feet secure. The most complex device was a 'brommel hook', a device that will close when two opposite points are slid together. Bandula used to fiddle with the hook until it slid apart when it was aligned. Once she had freed herself, she would help the other elephants escape also. In Bandula's case and certainly with other captive elephants, there was an element of 'deception' involved during escapes, such as the animals looking around making sure no one was watching.

In another case, a female elephant worked out how she could unscrew iron rods with an eye hole that were an inch thick. She used her trunk to create leverage and then untwist the bolt.

Ruby, an Asian elephant at Phoenix Zoo would often 'eavesdrop' onto conversations keepers would have talking about her. When she heard the word "paint", she became very excitable. The colours she favoured were green, yellow, blue and red. On one particular day, there was a fire truck that came and parked outside her enclosure where a man had just had a heart attack. The lights on the truck were flashing red, white and yellow. When Ruby painted later on in the day, she chose those colours. She also showed a preference for particular colours that the keepers wore.

Harry Peachey, an elephant trainer, developed a cooperative relationship with an elephant named Koko. Koko would help out the keepers, "prompting" the keepers to encourage him with various commands and words that Koko would learn. Peachey stated that elephants are almost 'predisposed' to cooperate and work with humans as long as they are treated with respect and sensitivity. Koko worked out when his keepers needed a bit of 'elephant help' when they were transferring the females of the group to another zoo. When the keepers wanted to transfer a female, usually they would say her name, followed by the word 'transfer' (e.g. "Connie transfer"). Koko soon figured out what this meant. If the keepers asked an elephant to transfer and they didn't budge, they would say "Koko, give me a hand". When he heard this, Koko would help. Peachey firmly believes that after 27 years of working with elephants, they can understand semantics/syntax of some of the words they hear. This is something thought to be very rare in the animal kingdom.

A study by Dr. Naoko Irie of Tokyo University has shown that elephants demonstrate skills at arithmetic. The experiment "consist[ed] of dropping varying numbers of apples into two buckets in front of the [Ueno Zoo] elephants and then recording how often they could correctly choose the bucket holding the most fruit". When more than one apple was being dropped into the bucket, this meant that the elephants had to "keep running totals in their heads to keep track of the count". The results showed that "Seventy-four percent of the time, the animals correctly picked the fullest bucket. An African elephant named Ashya scored the highest with an amazing eighty-seven percent.... Humans in this same contest managed a success rate of just sixty-seven percent". The study was also filmed to ensure its accuracy.

i. Self awareness

Asian Elephants have joined a small group of animals, including great apes, bottlenose dolphins and magpies, that exhibit self awareness. The study was conducted with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) using elephants at the Bronx Zoo in New York. Although many animals will respond to a mirror, very few show any evidence that they recognize it is in fact themselves in the mirror reflection. The Asian elephants in the study also displayed this type of behavior when standing in front of a 2.5m-by-2.5m mirror - they inspected the rear and brought food close to the mirror for consumption.

Evidence of elephant self-awareness was shown when the elephant Happy repeatedly touched a painted "X" on her head with her trunk,

a mark which could only be seen in the mirror. Happy ignored another mark made with colourless paint that was also on her forehead to ensure she was not merely reacting to a smell or feeling.

Frans De Waal, who ran the study stated, "These parallels between humans and elephants suggest a convergent cognitive evolution possibly related to complex sociality and cooperation."

Joyce Poole, of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project, Kenya, has demonstrated vocal learning and imitation in elephant of sounds made by each other and in the environment. She is beginning to research whether sounds made by elephants have dialects, a trait that is rare in the animal kingdom.

j. Self awareness and culling

There has been considerable debate over the issue of culling African elephants in South Africa's Kruger National Park as a means of controlling the population. Some scientists and environmentalists argue that it is "unnecessary and inhumane" to cull them since "elephants resemble humans in a number of ways, not least by having massive brains, social bonds that appear to be empathetic, long gestations, high intelligence, offspring that require an extended period of dependent care, and long life spans". A South African Animal Rights group "asked in a statement anticipating the announcement, "How much like us do elephants have to be before killing them becomes murder?"". Others argue that culling is necessary when biodiversity is threatened.



Questions about Asian Elephants

These questions are asked frequently by the visitors and we give the children a quiz about this information, so make sure you know the answers because you have to tell it to the visitors!

Elephants in captivity

1) How many liters of water does an elephant drink every day?

The Asian Elephant needs about 80 to 200 liters of water per day. They can suck up about 10 liters of water at once with their trunk.

2) How is the eyesight of an Elephant?

An elephant's eyesight is not very good. Asian elephants can see up to 30 meters away. After that, their vision gets blurry. It seems that elephants can see better in dull light than in full daylight. Because their eyesight isn't very strong, their other senses like hearing and smelling are highly developed.

3) In what ways do elephants communicate with each other?

Elephants can communicate with each other in several ways:

- They use their trunk to make a lot of different sounds (like trumpeting or hitting the trunk on the ground)
- They growl
- Use infrasounds
- Pick up vibrations from the ground

Elephant's feet are very sensitive. They can pick up vibrations over a distance of up to 16 km. It is also known that elephants converse over great distances using infrasound. Human beings can't hear these low-frequency sounds.

Knowing this, you can understand how terrible it is for elephants that have to beg on the streets of big cities like Bangkok with those sensitive feet.

4) How many kilograms does an elephant eat per day?

Asian Elephants can eat up to around 150 kilograms of food in one day. 16 to 18 hours a day are spent eating. The digesting of food takes about 16-24 hours and they only digest about 40% of what they eat. This means that the elephant's feces contain a lot of undigested seeds and plants. This poor absorption of nutrients is one of the reasons why elephants are considered a keystone species meaning that they play a very important role in the ecosystem. Their presence or absence affects many other species. The undigested or partially digested vegetation generates new plant growth as it is deposited on the elephant's travels. Because the elephants are so big and eat so much, they create new paths in the jungles. Many animals and plants profit from these actions of the Elephants. The new paths in the jungles give more sunlight for new plants to grow on the open paths. Also, because the elephants travel a lot, the plants and seeds in the feces are widely spread.

5) Do Elephants in captivity have a chip?

Asian Elephants who are kept in captivity must be given a chip. Presently elephants are given a Registration Certificate which determines the ownership of the elephant, though these documents usually have insufficient details. It is also possible for illegally captured wild elephants, illegally imported elephants, or for stolen elephants to be issued a Registration Certificate. Implanting a microchip can prevent the falsification of documents. A microchip also makes it very easy for an official to know the animal's registration history when an elephant is being transported, or its medical history when receiving veterinary treatment.

For your information: This chip is required if the elephant is 2 to 3 years old and is placed by a veterinarian behind the elephants left ear.

6) What is a typical feature of an elephant that has worked in the forest?

An elephant who has worked in the forest is recognized by:

- torn ears,
- damaged feet and nails,
- completely blind or partially blind.

7) How many times does an elephant replace its molars in its life?

An elephant changes its 4 molars 6 times in its life. When an elephant gets its new molar, the old molar is pushed to the front by the new molar. The front piece of the old molar breaks off. This will go on until the entire old molar has fallen out. When the last set of molars has worn off, the last set will fall out and the elephant has no teeth anymore. Elephants lose their last set of teeth around 60 years of age.

In the dry season an elephant that doesn't have molars anymore often can't find enough soft food to eat. The elephant slowly gets weaker and eventually dies of starvation. This is the natural cause of death for an elephant.

At ElephantsWorld we give our older elephants sticky rice (which is very soft food) with extra calcium and vitamins. We also make sure that the older elephants get the softer food from our food shop. This is why our elephants are usually older than the elephants living in the wild. Because elephants in captivity are fed enough soft food they can get older than in the wild. In the wild elephants live up to 60 years, while in captivity they can get older than 80 years.

8) How long does a baby elephant stay with its mother?

A baby elephant in captivity must stay with his mother for at least 2 years, where he receives his much needed breast milk. Calves are not completely weaned until they are over two years of age and may weigh between 850-900 kg. In the wild a baby elephant stays with its mother until he is 5 years old.

9) What happens when a baby elephant has been taken away from his mother to early and has had too little milk from his mother?

When a baby elephant has a shortage of milk, they get a calcium deficiency, which leads to mal growth of the bones. Elephant milk is high in fat and protein (100 times more than the protein contained in cow's milk). Suckling after two years may serve to maintain growth rate, body condition and reproductive ability. When the elephant gets older, it will have difficulties with just standing and will die at a young age.

10) Can you bring a tame elephant back in to the wild?

A tame elephant can NOT be put back into the wild because it has not learned what it can and cannot eat. It will not survive.

In nature, the female elephants with their youngsters live in a herd. The herd is led by the matriarch, which is the oldest female member of the family herd. When people capture a baby elephant from the wild herd to tame it and keep it in captivity for its whole life, the chain of knowledge is broken. Elephants in nature learn almost everything from the matriarch and the rest of the herd. The matriarch knows where to find food and water in every season.

Also when there is an elephant in labor, there is always an elephant with her who has had a baby before. She acts as the nurse for the elephant in labor and helps her through it. It is also important that the female youngsters in the herd see the labor so they can learn and understand what is happening.

The problem of capturing baby elephants from the wild and keeping them in captivity is that the elephant hasn't got any knowledge about anything a wild elephant has to know. It often happens, for example, that when the elephant is in labor, she doesn't understand what is happening. She will panic because she is in

a lot of pain and when the baby is born she doesn't know what to do with it and may even kill it because she doesn't understand it.

When you want to set an elephant free into the wild, and it has been kept captive all its life, it cannot survive because it doesn't have a family or the knowledge to survive. It often happens that the elephants go to search for humans because that is the only thing they are familiar with. The problem with that is that the elephant eats the crops and the people panic because there is an elephant walking through the village. The next thing that happens is that they shoot the elephant.

11) What are the tiny holes above the females eyes?

When females are in heat, they emit a pheromone from the small holes which makes the males know that she is in heat.

12) What is musth?

Male elephants go through an aggressive period on average once a year, called the musth. During this period, there is a liquid coming from the elephants cheek into its mouth, this liquid is full with hormones and when the liquid reaches the mouth the elephant gets very aggressive. Also, they are in a lot of pain because there is a huge pressure behind their eyes. Here in ElephantsWorld, we separate them from the group and visitors are not allowed to visit the elephant when he is in musth.

13) Does a female Asian Elephant have tusks?

Female Asian Elephants do not have large tusks like males. With some of our female elephants you can see little "tushes" just coming out of their mouth. Normally you don't see the tushes of female elephants.

Note: with AFRICAN Elephants both male and female elephants get big tusks. Elephants use their tusks to:

- dig for water, salt and other minerals
- use as a weapon for offense and defense
- debark and mark trees
- move fallen trees and branches
- let the trunk rest on it
- protect the trunk.

Captive male elephants' tusks are often removed by the owner to sell. We had an elephant at ElephantsWorld named Pla-Ra whose tusks were removed and he eventually died because of a terrible infection where his tusks were. The base of the tusks are embedded deeply in the elephant's skull, set in sockets under the eyes.

Tusks are very strong and the tusks of a mature male elephant can grow up to 3 meters long. The tusks grow on average about 17 centimeters a year. A hollow channel inside the tusk contains blood vessels and nerves.

You can see if a male elephant is left or right handed by the difference in length of the tusks. The more-used tusk is slightly shorter and more rounded at the end because it is used more often. The dominant tusk is called the master tusk. Each adult male tusk weighs between 50 and 80 kg.

14) How many babies can an Elephant have?

In general Elephants give birth to one calf. It is rare that an elephant gives birth to two calves (twins). The gestation period is generally between 18 to 22 months. The calf is fully developed by the 19th month, but stays in the womb to grow so that it can reach its mother to feed. At birth, the calf falls between the legs under the belly of the mother. Within minutes the calf is able to stand and after one or two hours it can walk already. It weighs about 120 kg and stands 90 cm high. On average, calves drink about 10 liters a day. Suckling bouts tend to last 2 to 4 minutes per hour for a calf younger than a year and it continues to suckle until it

reaches three years of age or older. Once a female gives birth, she usually does not breed again until the first calf is weaned, resulting in a 4 to 5 year birth interval.

A new calf is usually the center of attention for herd members. Adults and most of the other young will gather around the newborn, touching and caressing it with their trunks. When a predator is near, the family group gathers together with the calves in the center.

Mothers, aunts, sisters, and the matriarch are very important to the calf during its development. The pace of the herd is adjusted so the young can keep up.

Calves learn which plants are edible and different ways to acquire them by watching their elders. Mothers, sisters and aunts are in almost constant affectionate contact with the young, offering guidance and assistance.

Elephants in the wild

1) How many elephants in Thailand are living the wild?

There are around 3000 wild elephants living in Thailand. About 250 live in a protected area in Kanchanaburi behind the mountains of ElephantsWorld.

2) How many elephants in Thailand are living in captivity?

There are around 4000 elephants living in captivity in Thailand.

3) When does a male elephant leave his herd?

As males reach adolescence (around 15 years of age), the matriarch and other members of the group, including the male's mother, will force them out of the group. Young males often form bachelor groups, but become more solitary as they age. Interaction between adult males and females is usually only for mating. Males do not assist in rearing the young.

4) In what type of herds do elephants live?

Wild Asian elephants live in a family herd. The oldest female of the family is called the Matriarch and she is the one who leads the herd to all the different places she knows from her mother, and her grandmother etc. They live in small groups with only females and young males.

The elephant in general

1) How does an elephant keep cool?

An elephant sweats above its nails, waves its ears, and also throws water, mud or sand from its trunk over its body. The skin of the ears is very thin and the veins are very close to the skin. If the elephant waves its ears, the cool air that is created makes the skin and the veins cool off. The cooled veins in the ears will spread the cold blood through the whole body.

2) How do elephants protect themselves against mosquitoes and the sun?

The elephant protects itself against the sun, mosquitoes and other bugs by throwing mud or sand on itself. Even though the skin is quite thick (about 2.5 cm), it is very sensitive. Without regular mud baths to protect the skin from burning, insect bites and moisture loss, an elephant's skin suffers serious damage. After bathing, the elephant will usually use its trunk to blow dust onto its body which dries into a protective crust.

3) What do you call an elephant caretaker / cowboy?

An elephant caretaker is called a mahout.

4) How do elephants sleep?

Healthy elephants sleep lying down and they sleep 4-6 hours. Only sick elephants sleep standing up.

5) How many nails does an elephant have on its front and rear paws?

The Asian elephant has 5 nails on the front and 4 on the back feet. An African elephant has 4 on the front and 3 on the back feet.

6) What are the biggest differences between Asian and African elephants?

Sunburn: Asian elephants are forest elephants. They are used to shadow, when they stay in under the sun without protection for too long they can get sunburned. African elephants live on the Savanne and they are used to the sun. They cannot get sunburned.

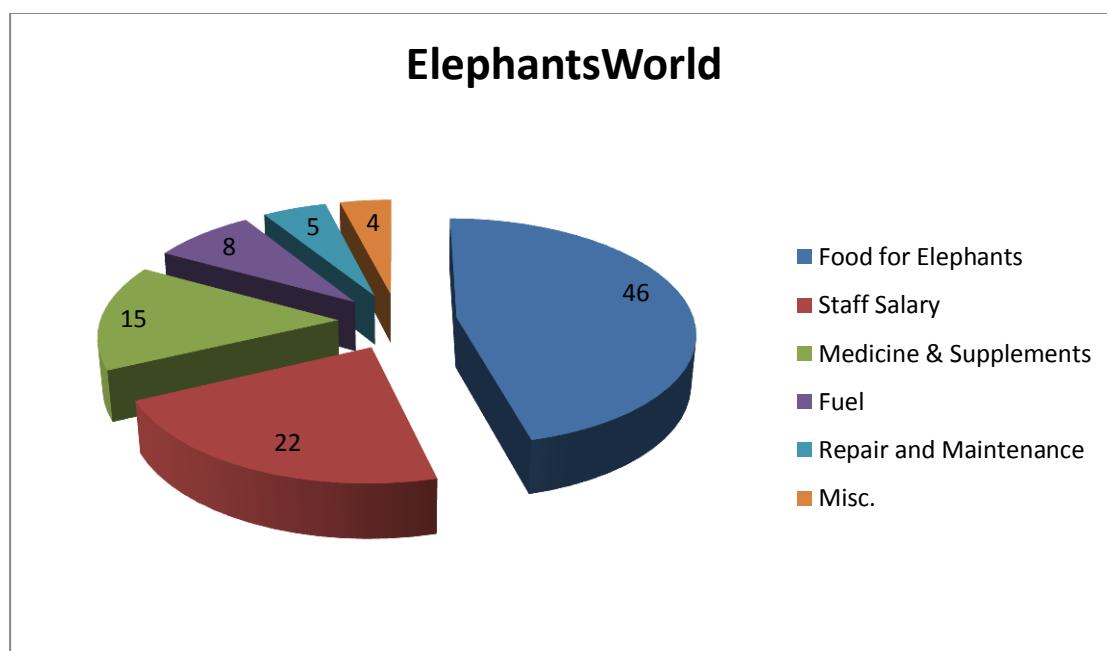
Size: African elephants are approximately one meter bigger than Asian elephants, their ears are also bigger.

Other information to tell visitors:

- The elephant is a symbol of Thailand. It is a sacred animal. When an elephants dies, the Thai organize a special ceremony
- Elephants have a flexible sole. This allows them to move silently.
- The teeth of the elephants are sometimes called stem and they act like a mill.

How does ElephantsWorld spend it's income?

This pie chart shows in percentages where we spend the money on that we receive from our visitors as entrance fees.



Info about our elephants at ElephantsWorld, Kanchanaburi



Aum Pan (Amber)

facts	her temper	how to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - female - born in 1939 - logging and trekking in Tak, in Chiang Mai and Phitsanulok - ceremonies (Phichit) - 3200 KG in 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gets tired fast - gentle - loves to swim and to float in the river - likes to eat the leaves of the tamarind trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - looks very healthy, no injuries - has white spots near her eyes - eats slow - still has some teeth - big ears

Aum Pan is our eldest elephant at ElephantsWorld. Aum Pan is one of the few elephants who didn't have a hard working life, in comparison to some of the other elephants. After some years of retirement, her owner Bok Chanthima donated Aum Pan to ElephantsWorld, because he wanted her to be part of an elephant group. He and his family escorted her to our place, attended her welcome ceremony, and helped her get used to her new home by walking around ElephantsWorld with her. They still visit once in a while to bring Aum Pan's favorite fruit and to check if she is doing well. Even though Aum Pan is quite old, she looks very healthy. She is fatter than some of the other old elephants, and she still has some teeth.



Bow

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born in the 1940s - Logging and trekking in Chang Mai and Pattaya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very quiet and calm - Loves being fed in her mouth - Likes having a bath in the river - Prefers being alone with her mahout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a round belly but a bony back - She is very small - Very small ears - Lots of scars on her forehead - Totally blind

Originally at the same trekking camp as Tang Mo in Chang Mai, then moved to Pattaya, Bow was donated to ElephantsWorld in April 2014. Born in the 1940s; old and already blind, Bow was in poor condition with malnourishment, arthritis in her rear legs and a history of collapsing. After coming to ElephantsWorld she has regained some strength as well as her confidence and independence, thanks to the constant attention of the volunteers and medical staff - especially her female mahout who is very dedicated to her. She prefers to be alone and eats mostly bananas and sticky rice due to her poor digestion.



Gai-Na

facts	her temper	how to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - female - born in 1960s - logging and trekking in several Camps in the Province of Kanchanburi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - likes to drink only fresh and clean water - prefers soft fruits - eats the whole corn with peel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - looks very healthy, no injuries - short tail - beautiful eye lashes - the peak of the trunk is very long - could be the twin of Aum Pan

Gai-Na arrived ElephantsWorld with her mahout in August 2014. Before her new life could start she had to work like all the other elephants in the logging industry. After the logging was banned in the 1990s her owner had to find another job for her and her mahout. In the tourist section she started to work as a trekking elephant. In one of the camps she stayed there for over 20 years until her owner send her to one of the camps which is close to ElephantsWorld. There the owner and her mahout saw in which conditions she has to work and made the decision to take her away from that place. Now at ElephantsWorld she does not have to work anymore. Her mahout who stayed with her for over 20 years is happy about the new home. We are sure that Gai-Na will make friends and got integrated very fast.



Johnny

facts	his temper	how to recognize him
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - male - born in 2007 (Surin) - supposed to become a street elephant - Ngo-Hok is a Chinese name *five star* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - playful - loves to swim in the river like a whale - stubborn - likes to be an entertainer - needs a lot of attention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - our youngest elephant - a tusk less elephant - very bright yellow eyes - long tail - chubby cheeks

Johnny was born in captivity in a village near Bangkok in 2007. He was taken from his mother when he was one or two years old, which is unusual for baby elephants.

He was supposed to work as a street elephant in Bangkok, but a company called Ngo-Hok *five star* rescued him and gave him to ElephantsWorld to have a nice life.

Johnny seems to be young and cute, but we should not underestimate him. He is very strong and we have to be careful. He is testing his limits. His mahout is the only one who can control him. It is not that often that the Mahout and the elephant can be a match. The relationship between Johnny and Romsai is also very special. He sees our other male elephant as his father and only Rom Sai succeeds in calming him down.



Kammoon

(The sun and the moon of the river)

facts	her temper	how to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - female - born in 1949 - 3555 kg in 2013 - begging on the street in Pattaya, Bangkok and Phuket - trekking with tourists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - friendly - good sense of responsibility - likes swimming and tree massage - likes to be close to Wasana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - heaviest elephant - big and beautiful pink ears - huge and prickly trunk - always eating - small eyes

Kammoon was one of our three first elephants at ElephantsWorld, together with Malee and Somboon. From her childhood on she was used to working very hard. In elephant camps, she had to entertain the tourists every day, and most of the time she didn't even have time to eat properly.

When Kammoon was 50 years old, her owner took her out of the camp because she was too tired and underfed to entertain the tourists any longer. She started to beg on the street again, until a friendly man decided to rescue her and donate her to ElephantsWorld.

Kammoon likes Rom Sai very much, and they enjoy flirting with each other. Also with her new friend Wasana she loves to share the time in the early morning. If they have the opportunity they are exchanging their gossip very loud and powerful with stepping and trumpeting.



Lam Duan (tree with yellow flowers)

facts	her temper	how to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - female - born around 1956 - logging and trekking - Blind on both eyes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - friendly but stubborn - very smart - loves corn and jackfruit - loves any kind of music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - short tail - beautiful ears - one of the smaller elephants - very grey - right eye is white

Lam Duan came from KohSamui and arrived at ElephantsWorld on July 22th 2012, after a long car journey of 14 hours. The previous owners, KomkritThongpat, TheerasakThongpat and A-rat Kwamkaeo, had Lam Duan for over 30 years. The first 20 years she worked in logging, but when logging with elephants was banned by the government, she was used for tourist trekking for 10 years. After these 30 years, the owners decided that they wanted her to retire and give her a better life, so they donated her to ElephantsWorld. The owners came to bring Lam Duan to ElephantsWorld by themselves.

Lam Duan is a blind elephant. She was already blind when the previous owners bought her. She is said to be born around 1956, but nobody really knows. Lam Duan has a female mahout at ElephantsWorld. Nasuyo is taking care of her in a special way. She found out, that Lam Duan loves music. Since that she is singing for her every day.



Malee (Beautiful flower)

Facts	her temper	how to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - female - born in 1969 - street elephant in Bangkok 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - friendly - likes to trumpet - loves to care about her beauty (Elephant Spa) - shares deep friendship with Somboon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tall and slim - beautiful brown eyes - pronounced back bones - prefer to stand on three legs

Malee arrived at ElephantsWorld in 2008. She was one of our first three elephants at ElephantsWorld, together with Kammoon and Somboon. She worked as a street elephant in Bangkok, where she was hit by a car and suffered serious injuries to her left rear leg. Her leg has never fully healed and she avoids putting weight on it. She tries to balance on the other three legs.

When she arrived at ElephantsWorld, she became very close friends with Somboon. How close they are we can see every day. There is no second where they are not talking and standing next to each other. We love to listen to their conversation by stepping their trunk on the ground, rumbling and trumpeting.



Rom Sai (Sacred tree)

Facts	his temper	how to recognize him
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - male - born in 1980 - logging in forest of Northern Thailand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - very strong - likes mud baths - likes to flirt with Kammoon and Malee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only adult male at ElephantsWorld - torned ears - blind on his left eye - a tusk less elephant

Rom Sai is our very strong bull and he was born in the 80es. He worked in the jungle of Northern Thailand all his life. While he was working, a tree branch impaled his left eye, so now he can only see through his right eye.

The President of the Kasikorn-Bank, DechaNgamthanaphaisarn, set up a fundraising campaign to buy Rom Sai from his owners. He was donated to ElephantsWorld in June 2010.

Rom Sai really likes to flirt, spending his time with Somboon, Malee and Kammoon but only Kammoon is his love. He is very close to Johnny, too. He sees himself as his father because only he can calm him down and gives him peace.

Romsai loves to enjoy his spa time even when it is not hot. Here you can see how flexible this huge bull is and how playful he can be.



Her first days here at EW 4 yearsago



Songkran here in 2013

Songkran (Thai New Year)

facts	her temper	how to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - born in 1939 - female - trekking Elephant from Phuket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loves children - likes to be fed in her mouth - likes to take a lengthy bath in the river - loves to wander by herself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tall and big belly - torn ears - wrinkled skin - no teeth - long and beautiful eyelashes - cataract on her right eye - member of John's family

Songkrans owner decided to donate her when she was 70 years old. She arrived at ElephantsWorld in April of 2009 after a very hard life. You could see the marks of her work as a trekking elephant on her body. Her bones were clearly visible and you could count her ribs. She wasn't able to sleep on the ground, and when she would fall down only a crane could help her stand up again.

After four years of a special treatment of sticky rice and medical care she was able to recover and regain her strength. Many visitors who first saw her when she arrived here wouldn't recognize her now. She is now very big and powerful. Some of the people at ElephantsWorld whisper that the most important reason for her change was her love for Johnny. From the underdog, she transformed completely to one of the strongest and most self-assured elephants at ElephantsWorld. We love to tell to everyone that she is our Mascot!

Songkran sadly passed away on the 27th of February 2015.



Tangmo

(Watermelon)

Facts	her temper	how to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born in the 60s - logging and trekking in Chiang Mai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a lot of energy - very fast - loves the enrichments - curious and adventurous - Very fond of food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - has a very characteristic bony back - Her ears moves in shifts - Brown eyes - One of our tallest elephants

Tangmo came to ElephantsWorld from a trekking camp in the beginning of April 2014. When she arrived, Tangmo was very weak and very skinny. After her arrival she needed a while to recover from malnourishment, but now she has gained a lot of weight and is doing much better.

But still we can see that she needs her time to get integrated. Until now she avoids to go into the river with the other elephants and just want to have her bath and drink from a hose. Step by step she will learn and get known this wonderful place and the other elephants which live here.



Wasana (Good luck)

Facts	her temper	how to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - female - born around 1950 - elephant camp Pattaya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lovely if she wants - loves to rile other elephants - stubborn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small - ears are always down and beautifully edged - the footprints of the two front legs are perfect circles

Before she became too old to work, S&J International Enterprise gathered money to rescue this elephant and donated her to ElephantsWorld in July 2011. They organized a welcome ceremony and decided to name her Wasana. After almost two years of special treatment with sticky rice balls, she became stronger and bigger. She also experienced a change of character. The usually moody elephant became more peaceful and found a place among the other elephants.



Nemochi (Money)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - female - born around 1994 - worked in logging and trekking camp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - friendly - happy elephant - likes pineapples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the edges of her ears are pretty and pink - looks very healthy - beautiful round back

Nemochi started to work in the logging industry when she was only five years old. After logging she worked in trekking camps with her grandmother To-Me. Her mother was sold to a different owner. When the owner of Nemochi and To-Me decided that To-Me was too old to work as a trekking elephant, both of the elephants were donated to ElephantsWorld in September 2014. Now Nemochi can live a long and happy life here with her grandmother, To-me, and her friend Gai-Na who came from the same trekking camp as her and her grandmother. Hopefully we can bring her mother to ElephantsWorld one day and the family can be reunited.



To-Me (longtail)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - female - born around 1964 - worked in logging and trekking camp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - friendly - happy elephant - likes bananas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - long tail - looks healthy - straight back

In the past To-Me worked as a logging elephant in the forest. After logging was banned in Thailand she worked in several tourist trekking camps. Her owner decided that life in a trekking camp was too hard for her and he wanted her to spend her retirement among other elephants. He decided to donate her and her granddaughter Nemochi to ElephantsWorld in September 2014. He insisted that the two elephants are to stay together. To-Me's daughter is still working in a trekking camp because she has a different owner. We hope to one day bring the three generations together again.

To-Me and Nemochi were reunited with Gai-Na in ElephantsWorld. She used to work in the same trekking camp with them. They recognized each other straight away and you can always see the three together.



KratingDaeng (Red buffalo)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - born around 1974 - worked in an elephant camp in Sai Yok 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loves to swim in the river - Fast eater - Naughty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rocking back and forth with her whole body - One tusk on the left side - Some pink areas with black spots on her forehead, ears and cheeks - Light gray smooth skin - Strong trunk

She arrived in the beginning of 2015 from a trekking camp, together with Tong Kram, where she worked for a long time. She was very skinny compared to the other elephants but she is eating well and likes all the fruits and vegetables we give her. Here she found a nice place to recover from her hard life and she really enjoys taking a bath in the river. She has a distinguished feature; she has a little tusk (30cm) on her left side.

At the time she was working, she was the superstar of the camp.

She was one of the smartest and most agile with her trunk: she could play football, or picking flowery branches for tourists who rode her. She was fed two times a day with pineapple trees and grasses.

She was naughty and we guess that she was powerful and versatile thanks to her name that means "red buffalo" in Thai.

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Touk-Ka-Ta

(Barbie doll)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - born in 1950 - worked in a trekking camp in Had Yai and Ratchanaburi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eats slowly - Likes to eat bananas and papayas - She walks fast when she wants - Friendly - Obedient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Big cut in her left ear - Some pink areas with black spots on her ears and neck - Holes above eyes - Bony back and round belly

Touk-Ka-Ta arrived at ElephantsWorld in March of 2015. She came from a trekking camp in Had Yai and Ratchanaburi where Kam-Tong also worked. When Touk-Ka-Ta arrived she was very skinny, but to everyone's surprise she could walk very fast. At ElephantsWorld Touk-Ka-Ta found a place to recover from a hard life. She is eating very well and already recuperating quickly. Her favorite foods are yellow bananas and orange papayas. Touk-Ka-Ta is a very friendly and obedient elephant.



Spy

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female -Born in 2011 -Arrived at ElephantsWorld in May 2015. 	<p>Very playful and naughty. They have a lot of energy and love to play in the water.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Youngest female -Short tusks -Always close to Hong Tong -Taller than Hong Tong

Spy and Hong Tong were brought to ElephantsWorld together. Both elephants were born at the same trekking camp and later rescued from the streets. They are great friends and you will always see them together. If separated, they will scream until they are reunited again. The elephants at ElephantsWorld all like to take care of the babies and they have had some serious conversations amongst themselves as to who would be best to take care of them. In the end, Nemochi took it upon herself to act as their adoptive mother.



Dok Mai (Flower)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born in the 1960s - Rescued from a trekking camp in Sayok 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong, very fast and stubborn - Friendly - Enjoys swimming in the river 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beautiful ears with pink spot

Dok Mai was born around 1960 and was rescued from a trekking camp in Saiyok. She is strong, healthy and very fast but can sometimes be stubborn. She can be spotted in a crowd by her pink colour. She likes people and enjoys swimming in the river, and especially likes bananas and papayas



Jarunee (Thai actress' name)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born in the 1970s - Rescued from Thong Pha Phum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stubborn - Impredictable (Red rope) - Likes To-Me - Medium pace walk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very healthy - Pink spots around eyes - Pretty brown eyes - Top of right ear is torn - Long pretty tale

Jarunee came here in April 2016. She is good friends with To-Me and often greets her with a loud trumpet, perhaps treating her as her adoptive mother. She walks at a medium pace and can often be stubborn or unpredictable around people. Jarunee is one of the elephants with red rope.



Kampang (Pretty Woman)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born in the 1950s - Moved from Surat Thani in May 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very well behaved - Likes to socialise - Motherly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rosy pink cheeks - Small head

Kampang arrived from a place in Surat Thani in May 2016, although treated well she did not have a lot of space to roam and so came here for her retirement. She was born around 1950 and has no teeth so eats only soft food like watermelon, bananas and papayas. She has a maternal instinct and befriended Spy within one week of arriving and loves joining her in at the river. She has pretty, undamaged ears and rosy pink cheeks.



Nam Oi(Sugar Cane Juice)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born in the 1970s - Rescued from a trekking camp in Phuket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well behaved - Okay with people - Doesn't like dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very tall - Long skinny legs

Nam Oi arrived late 2015 from a trekking camp in Phuket, having previously worked in the logging industry. She was very skinny and had many wounds in her feet when she arrived but her health continues to improve having added weight and had her feet treated. She has a very good temper, likes people and is a good listener although she doesn't get along with the dogs. Nam Oi is distinctive by her long skinny legs and her height and was born in 1971.



Nong Mai (New Arrival)

Facts	Her Temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born in the 1930s - Rescued from a trekking camp in Saiyok 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Happy - Prefers Elephants over people - Impredictable (Red rope) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walks slowly -Folded ears

Nong Mai was rescued from a trekking camp in Saiyok in early 2016. She is an old elephant and is thought to have been born in the 1930s. Surprisingly she still has some teeth which is very rare for an elephant of this age. She is a healthy and happy elephant although she mostly prefers her own company to that of people. Nong Mai walks slowly and she eats everything we give her. Her ears are folded, which is very uncommon in elephants. Is one of the elephants with red rope.



Sao Noi (Small Lady)

Facts	Her Temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born in the 1970s - Rescued from a trekking camp in Koh Chang in April 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clever - Gentle and sweet -Stubborn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pink trunk -Dark "panda eyes"

Sao Noi was born around 1970 and was rescued from a trekking camp in early 2016; arriving very skinny having been underfed and worked very hard. She is a smart elephant with a gentle and sweet temperament but can often be stubborn. She loves fruit and sticky rice and is distinctive by her pink trunk and forehead and black patch "eyes".



Sri Thong (Golden color)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born in - Arrived at ElephantsWorld in June 2016. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nervous around new people - Stubborn - Does not like to be touched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Big pink cheeks - Walks slowly - Blind - Back leg limp

Sri Thong is one of our blind elephants. She had a hard life working in a trekking camp in Phuket, where she was forced to work long hours despite her blindness. Sri Thong arrived to ElephantsWorld full of wounds indicative of her treatment at her trekking camp, perhaps because she walked too slowly. She had a large hole on her back where the trekking box sat on her every day. Sri Thong is very sweet but can be quite stubborn and prefers to be alone with her mahout.



Tong Kam 1 (Gold)

Facts	Her temper	How to recognize her
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Female - Born around 1980 - Worked in a trekking camp in Sai Yok 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likes pumpkins and bananas - Loves the mud bath 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - She rocks her head left and right - Big beautiful ears and eyes - Wounds on her right side because of the seat in the trekking camp

Tong Kram came from the same trekking camp as Krating Daeng (in Sai Yok). When she came to ElephantsWorld she had a big scar on the right side of her back due to the seat. She had to wear a seat without any protection in addition to carry tourists around. She got fed one time a day. She was rescued when people realized that she couldn't work in those conditions. She was malnourished and skinny when she arrived.

She was sent to ElephantsWorld to be seen by a veterinarian. They decided to keep her here until she recovers. She suffers from a hernia and she needs special care. Her mahout massages her every morning. Right here she has enough to eat and we hope she will regain a normal weight shortly. She loves bathing with other elephants and now benefits a peaceful life to spend as much time as possible surrounded with her new companions.



Tong-Kam 2 (golden lightbeam)

Facts	His temper	How to recognize him
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Male - Born in 1950 - Worked in a trekking camp in Ratchaburi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friendly - Gentle male - Eats slowly - He likes it when you feed him directly in his mouth - He is very careful when you feed him - He likes to cool down in the river 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bony back - Holes above his eyes - No teeth - Torn ears - A hole in both ears - Notch in his trunk - Beautiful pink areas with black spots on his ears, trunk, cheeks and neck - Gorgeous brown eyes

Tong-Kam 2 arrived in April of 2015 in ElephantsWorld. He worked in a trekking camp in Ratchaburi along with Touk Ka Ta. When he arrived he was very skinny compared to the other elephants. He also had a wound on his back. Tong-Kam 2 likes to eat lots of bananas, and is already a lot stronger. He is a real gentleman. He likes it when you feed him directly in his mouth and he takes the food very carefully. He also enjoys swimming in the river on a sunny day.

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