



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Send Billy to Sanctuary and End Captive Breeding at the Los Angeles Zoo

2 messages

Amy Russell <takeaction@idausa.org>
Reply-To: Amy Russell <amierochelle@gmail.com>
To: "Holly L. Wolcott" <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Tue, Jun 13, 2017 at 10:07 PM

Jun 14, 2017

Ms. Holly L. Wolcott

Dear Ms. Wolcott,

As a Los Angeles constituent and a supporter of California-based In Defense of Animals that represents over 250,000 supporters, I urge you to support Councilman Koretz's motion to free Billy, the lone bull elephant at the Los Angeles Zoo, to an accredited GFAS (Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries) sanctuary as soon as possible. We also ask the same for the female elephants at the exhibit, Tina and Jewell.

Billy's plight at the LA Zoo has been a focus of In Defense of Animals for over 12 years. The inadequate conditions that he is forced to live in, despite costly renovations to the Elephants of Asia exhibit, continue to negatively impact his well-being.

Through the LA Zoo's breeding program, Billy has been forced to endure a highly invasive procedure to collect his semen for the purpose of artificially inseminating females at other zoos for breeding. According to zoo documents, Billy underwent "training" for the actual semen collection process at least 55 times between January 20, 2011 and November 14, 2014.

This procedure is inhumane and invasive. While this has been touted as a practice of "conservation," the data shows that it is nothing of the sort, with elephants in zoos dying in captivity faster than they can reproduce due to the unnaturally high mortality rates of elephants in captivity. The only real way conservation for elephants can occur is in the wild and a certified elephant sanctuary is the closest thing to a natural environment that we can give to Billy.

There is no science- or conservation-based justification for the LA Zoo to keep Billy or ANY of the elephants, including females Tina and Jewel - in captivity. The scientifically validated negative effects of captivity on elephants are irrefutable and well documented.

Los Angeles must seize this opportunity for leadership on humane animal welfare issues and policy. Therefore, we urge you to support the relocation of Billy to a GFAS-certified sanctuary to transfer elephants Tina and Jewel as well - end all elephant captivity and elephant breeding programs at the LA Zoo immediately.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amy Russell
408 S Venice Blvd
Venice, CA 90291-4687
(555) 555-5555



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Billy the Elephant

1 message

Karen Eisenlord <karenleis@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 14, 2017 at 12:36 PM

To: councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councildistrict15@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org
Cc: Clerk.CPS@lacity.org

On behalf of Billy the Elephant at the Los Angeles Zoo, we the signers of the petition below request that he be retired to an elephant sanctuary immediately. He has suffered enough as evidenced by his display of stress-related behavior.

The new elephant exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo does not meet Billy's needs as he is still being kept in small enclosures away from the other elephants. This has been witnessed by many who have visited the zoo within the past few years. Anyone that observes Billy in this new exhibit can attest to this. It is also brings to question if Billy is receiving the daily exercise that a judge ordered for him to get, as caretakers who are questioned apparently do not have answers nor understand the needs of elephants.

In fact, the other two elephants, Tina and Jewel who are elderly and we have since learned were victims of the circus in their youth, should be released to sanctuaries also. It is clear that the Los Angeles Zoo's elephant exhibit should be shut down as it is not meeting the needs of the elephants.

For those who visit the new exhibit first-hand they soon learn that the new exhibit is not what the zoo had claimed it would be, as the elephants are rotated from one small enclosure to another and poor Billy is exhibiting stress-related behavior -- swaying, rocking and head-bobbing. He is miserable, bored, frustrated and depressed.

Please release these animals to a sanctuary. The elephant exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo needs to be shut down and the elephants retired to a sanctuary where they can live out the remainder of their lives where their needs will be met more appropriately.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and to those of you who are supporting that Billy be retired to a sanctuary, **Los Angeles City Council Motion #17-0453.**

Petition signers (over 200,000 signatures)

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/900/414/840/something-is-not-cool-at-the-los-angeles-zoo/>