



THE DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST

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Affidavit by Dr. Daphne Marjorie Sheldrick D.B.E M.B.E. M.B.S.
1992 UNEP Global 500 Laureate

I have been working with Elephants, both in a wild situation, and also hand-rearing their orphaned young for 50 years, and am recognized as a world authority on the husbandry, behaviour, psychology and needs of the African Elephant in particular. For my work with elephants I have been decorated by the British Queen, (D.B.E. and M.B.E.) made a Moran of the Burning Spear (M.B.S.) by the Kenya Government, elevated to UNEP's elite Global 500 Forum in 1992, won the BBC's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002 and given an Honorary Doctorate of Veterinary Science and Medicine by Glasgow University.

I have hand-reared over 95 orphaned elephant calves in my time, all of whom have been, or are in the process of being rehabilitated back into the wild elephant community of the Tsavo East National Park in Kenya. I am the first person in the world to have successfully reared newborn infant elephant orphans, two from the day they were born. Further information about my work with Elephants can be accessed through www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

Elephants form lifelong friendships and have a memory that also lasts a lifetime, something that has been scientifically proven through a study of the elephant brain. Friendships forged over time are critically important to the psychological wellbeing of all elephants, and particularly captive Zoo elephants, who live a deprived life in other respects, denied "family" which is so important to the females as is the space an elephant would normally enjoy in a wild situation. No captive situation, however attractive it may appear to human onlookers, can possibly afford an elephant the space it needs for a quality of life, for 100 miles is just a little stroll in elephant terms. (Our 10 year old bull "Imenti" walked that distance in a day, turned round and walked 120 miles the next day). Friendship with another elephant plus as much space as possible compensates a little for the deprivation an elephant suffers under Zoo conditions, and is the least we humans can give a captive

elephant. Elephants are sensitive and caring animals, who have all the emotions of the human species, and we have learnt through hands-on experience that psychological distress caused through pining for a lost loved one depresses an elephant's natural immune system, and even threatens their life. There have even been instances when captive elephants have attempted suicide through depression and misery.

I understand that the Barcelona Zoo has an African elephant captive named Suzi, who is mourning the loss of a friend so deeply that she is losing condition rapidly and displaying symptoms that expose severe psychological trauma. As a recognized authority on the subject of elephants, I would strongly urge the Barcelona Zoo authorities to address this situation urgently, because failure to do so will expose the Zoo to International criticism and jeopardize its reputation. In this, the 21st Century, the public know a lot more about elephants, about their sense of family and their sense of death, their amazing perception and caring and all their very human emotions which are highlighted every month on our website www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org In fact, many of the better European Zoos have ceased to exhibit elephants understanding that it is now becoming increasingly unpopular to do so because there is much more understanding about the nature of these extremely intelligent animals who duplicate us humans in terms of age progression and longevity. Those that continue to hold elephants surely have a duty to afford them the basic ingredients for at least some psychological wellbeing.

Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick DBE MBE MBS DVMS
1992 UNEP Global 500 Laureate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne Sheldrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.