

ELEPHANT FACTS

ZOOS ARE GETTING OUT OF THE ELEPHANT BUSINESS!

Twelve zoos have closed or will be closing their elephant exhibits.

Ten Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited zoos have closed their exhibits: Detroit Zoo, San Francisco Zoo, Chehaw Wild Animal Park (Ga.), Henry Vilas Zoo (Wisc.), Gladys Porter Zoo (Tex.), Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo, Mesker Park Zoo (Ind.), Frank Buck Zoo (Tex.), Sacramento Zoo (Calif.), and Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo.



1940's Era Elephant House at Philadelphia Zoo
Scheduled to Close Next Year

In 2006, two more zoos announced decisions to close their elephant exhibits: Philadelphia Zoo and Lion Country Safari (Fla.). In addition, Santa Barbara Zoo (Calif.) and Bronx Zoo (N.Y.) will phase out their elephant exhibits.

Ten AZA zoos have sent elephants to sanctuaries.

Ten AZA-accredited zoos have placed a total of 14 elephants at The Elephant Sanctuary (Tenn.) or PAWS (Calif.): Milwaukee Zoo (Wisc.), El Paso Zoo (Tex.), Detroit Zoo, San Francisco Zoo, Mesker Park Zoo (Ind.), Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo, Chehaw Wild Animal Park (Ga.), Henry Vilas Zoo (Wisc.), Philadelphia Zoo, and Los Angeles Zoo. No zoo has lost its AZA accreditation for moving elephants to sanctuaries.

Reasons cited for closing elephant exhibits. . .

Lack of adequate space; elephant deaths and health problems related to lack of space; lack of funding for exhibit expansion; and recognition that a traditional zoo cannot meet elephants' needs for space for movement and health maintenance, mental stimulation, and large social groups. Bronx Zoo stated that it would "rather steer its money toward preserving elephants in the wild in Africa and Asia..."