

JACQUELINE & RICHARD STEHR
11326 Albata Street
Los Angeles, CA 90049

October 24, 2006

Docket No. APHIS-2006-0044
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS/USDA
Staiton 3A-03.8
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

Living in Los Angeles we are aware of what happens to elephants in zoos; indeed, we have recently had it brought home to us with the death of Gita an elephant whose early death was brought about by long-term confinement. There are now two other debilitated elephants being kept in less than one quarter acre between them in a "temporary" facility at the zoo. There have been 13 other documented elephants that have died at the Los Angeles Zoo and more than half of them never lived to see their 20th birthday.

Elephants need huge spaces; in the wild they walk miles a day. The lack of space and social deprivation cause a range of preventable illnesses. Elephants are confined in stalls when the zoo is closed for hours a day and in cold climates they are confined even more during the winter months. The conditions at the most well meaning zoos do not meet their needs and it is even worse for them in circuses where they are chained and forced by the use of bull hooks and prolonged chaining to perform

With this in mind, we write to ask that you at least keep the outdated Animal Welfare Act (AWA) standards of care for these animals. Even better than enforcing the AWA at zoos and circuses, why not update and improve the lives of these amazing creatures and take a serious look at the environments of refuges like the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee and PAWs in California. There elephants can roam over hundreds to thousands of acres, socialize with other elephants and live full, healthy lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline & Richard Stehr". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

OCT 30 2006