

# Elephant Check



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This Elephant Checker Feedback form should be used to record all your observations and thoughts during your visit, or after your visit, to a zoo or other attraction that features one or more live elephants.

For our campaign, we hope to use photographic and film evidence. If you do have access to a camera or a video camera its use, to record elephants, enclosures, information available, events and anything else that you feel is relevant will be extremely useful to us. But don't worry if you do not have a camera. Your help in whatever shape or form will be greatly appreciated.

After you fill in your notes, you can submit your information online at [www.bornfreeusa.org/elephants](http://www.bornfreeusa.org/elephants).

Please send all information and developed film to Elephant Check at Born Free USA. Please note that we prefer to maintain a full documentation file on each facility, so we will not return film/photographs unless requested. If however, you would like the material returned, we would welcome a small donation to cover costs of copying and return postage. Thank you.

If you need more space to answer any of the questions on this form then please attach a separate piece of paper.

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## Zoo Checker Feedback

Your name:

Address:

Telephone number: (    )

Email:

Are you a member of the Born Free USA? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If NO, are you interested to learn more? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

We are always on the look out for "activist members" (these are people who regularly help us with our campaigns). Would you like to join our Action Alert Team? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Have you visited a: \_\_\_ zoo \_\_\_ parade \_\_\_ circus \_\_\_ photo opportunity  
\_\_\_ individual animal \_\_\_ other

Date of visit:

Name of the zoo / elephant attraction:



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City:

State/Province:

What was the reason for visiting the attraction?

On a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), how would you rate this attraction?

What was your general impression?

Did the elephant(s) look content? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If NO, explain:

Did any of the elephants appear to be unwell? Please give details:

Did you see staff members readily available to ask for help? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Did you talk to the staff? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Were they easy to talk to, were you satisfied with their answer and the information given?

Please explain:

Does the animal attraction offer other entertainment, i.e., shows, talks, amusements, etc.? Please describe:

If there was a talk, what information was shared about the animals?



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Were there any informal educational facilities or formal educational programs? Describe:

If yes, how would you rate them? Explain:

Were there signs outside each exhibit about the elephant(s)? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If YES, please describe what was on them and whether they were informative:

Was there any contact between the elephant(s) and the public (such as animal rides or petting zoos)?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If YES, please describe:

If there was animal contact, what did you think about the warnings and explanations about safety related to it?

Were there hand-washing facilities? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

*The following questions are especially geared towards checkers visiting zoos and some may not apply to other facilities or attractions.*

Are you aware of its participation in any captive breeding programs?

Does the zoo/attraction claim to participate in other conservation programs (such as habitat protection, antipoaching efforts, etc.)? Please describe:

Did you feel the enclosures gave the elephants enough space and stimulation? Yes \_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_



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Was there anything that concerned you or that you are unsatisfied about?

Can you describe the enclosures, both indoors and outdoors? Was the ground dirt, cement, or something else?

Was the barrier between you and the animal steel bars, wood fencing, or something else?

## **Abnormal Behavior** *(these questions apply to all facilities)*

You may have seen elephants pacing back and forth, or even inflicting physical damage to themselves, known as self-mutilation. These are examples of "stereotypic behavior," abnormal behavior that has resulted from years of deprivation. Did you notice any of the following?

- Pacing** – continuous pacing back and forth.
- Head-bobbing** – moving the head continuously up and down.
- Rocking / swaying** – rolling motion from side to side.
- Circling** – walking round and round, often walking in the same footprints time and time again.
- Neck-twisting** – unnatural twisting of the neck.
- Bar-biting / sucking** – gnawing the bars.
- Tongue-playing** – continuous licking of the bars or wall.
- Self-mutilation or abuse** – tail biting, leg chewing, head bashing, etc.

*Note any of the behaviors seen:*

Elephant's Name or other identifier:

Total time observed (minutes):

Number of times observed:

Observation

*Note any of the behaviors seen:*

Elephant's Name or other identifier:

Total time observed (minutes):

Number of times observed:



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Observation

*Note any of the behaviors seen:*

Elephant's Name or other identifier:

Total time observed (minutes):

Number of times observed:

Observation

If you have taken photographs or film footage please send them to us here at Elephant Check, Born Free USA.

I am sending you:

\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_ Film footage \_\_\_ Leaflets

\* A reminder that Born Free USA does not return film/photographs unless requested. We would welcome a small donation to cover costs if you require their return to cover costs of copying and return postage. Thank you.

What do you know about the future of this facility? Are expansions or renovations planned?

Would you be willing to file a formal complaint with the appropriate authorities about the conditions of the animals at this facility? We will help you through every step of the process.

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If NO, would you be happy with Born Free USA filing such a complaint on your behalf?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Additional Comments:

Thank you for your time in filling out this form. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Please return to:

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