



ELEPHANT RELOCATION UPDATE

Questions and Answers — April 17, 2015 For External Distribution

ROAD TRIP

1. Why did the caravan change route and head to San Diego Zoo?

While in Salt Lake City, the road team made an assessment to change their route because of a storm in Colorado and Wyoming that was expected to increase in severity. Because the reroute would have extended the trip a day longer, a decision was made for veterinary precautions to go to San Diego Zoo and allow the elephants to rest.

2. What route were they taking?

The planned route took the transportation caravan from Washington through Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and Kansas to Oklahoma, arriving within a 35 to 40 hour window. Alternate routes were prepared in advance to allow for flexibility in response to any changing conditions on the road. The caravan followed the route to Utah before making plans to detour to an alternative southern route.

3. Why couldn't the caravan continue to Oklahoma City?

We anticipated the 2,000-mile-journey to Oklahoma City to take 35 to 40 hours, including stops every few hours to check on the elephants' well-being. Once the team arrived in Las Vegas, we followed the elephants' cues and decided they needed a break from the road trip. For their health and welfare, the team turned around and headed back west to San Diego.

4. Did you know the predicted weather conditions when you departed Seattle on Wednesday? Why didn't you delay the trip?

We left Wednesday because we had the equipment on site, the expert transportation consultant was available, and Bamboo and Chai were ready from their crate training. We did check the weather conditions and they were favorable. A delay would not have served their best interests.

5. Why was San Diego Zoo chosen?

As part of the road trip to Oklahoma City, Woodland Park Zoo's team had a pre-arranged contact list of zoo veterinarians and elephant care teams to consult. San Diego Zoo was the optimal choice because they have unloading equipment on site, staff expertise with managing elephant transfers, and quality space to accommodate our elephants immediately.

6. How are Chai and Bamboo doing?

Under the circumstances, both elephants are doing okay. Understandably, just as after a long road trip ourselves, both elephants are tired and show signs of muscle stiffness. They both need the time to walk around, stretch their legs, and adjust to their new surroundings.

Woodland Park Zoo staff will remain at San Diego Zoo for as long as the elephants need while they adjust.

7. Will Bamboo and Chai be integrated into the herd at San Diego? How long will they stay there?

Our elephants will be in quarantine in an indoor facility, which has an outdoor yard. A team of veterinarians will conduct a health assessment on each elephant and we want to give them time to rest comfortably. We don't know how long they will stay. While in quarantine, they will be separate from the herd.

8. Did you have this planned all along?

No. This is why we had a pre-arranged contact list of zoo veterinarians and elephant care teams to consult for any changed circumstances.

9. How does this impact the long-term loan agreement with Oklahoma City Zoo?

The loan agreement is unaltered and we will consult with Oklahoma City Zoo on long-term planning.

10. Couldn't this have been avoided if Chai and Bamboo had been sent to the Performing Animal Welfare Society facility in California?

Transportation complications can arise regardless of the destination. Our contingency planning that identified the San Diego Zoo as a possible diversion resource has proven valuable. The San Diego Zoo has exactly the resources needed in this situation.

INFORMATION

A dedicated email is set up to collect comments and questions: elephants@zoo.org. For more information, visit our webpage at www.zoo.org/elephantnews.