



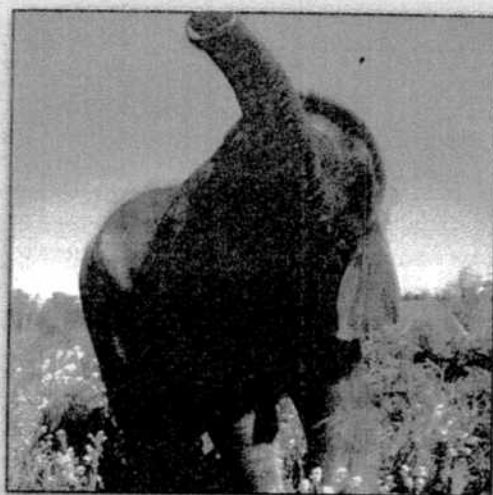
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# ELEPHANTHUSBANDRY RESOURCEGUIDE



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EDITED BY DEBORAH OLSON

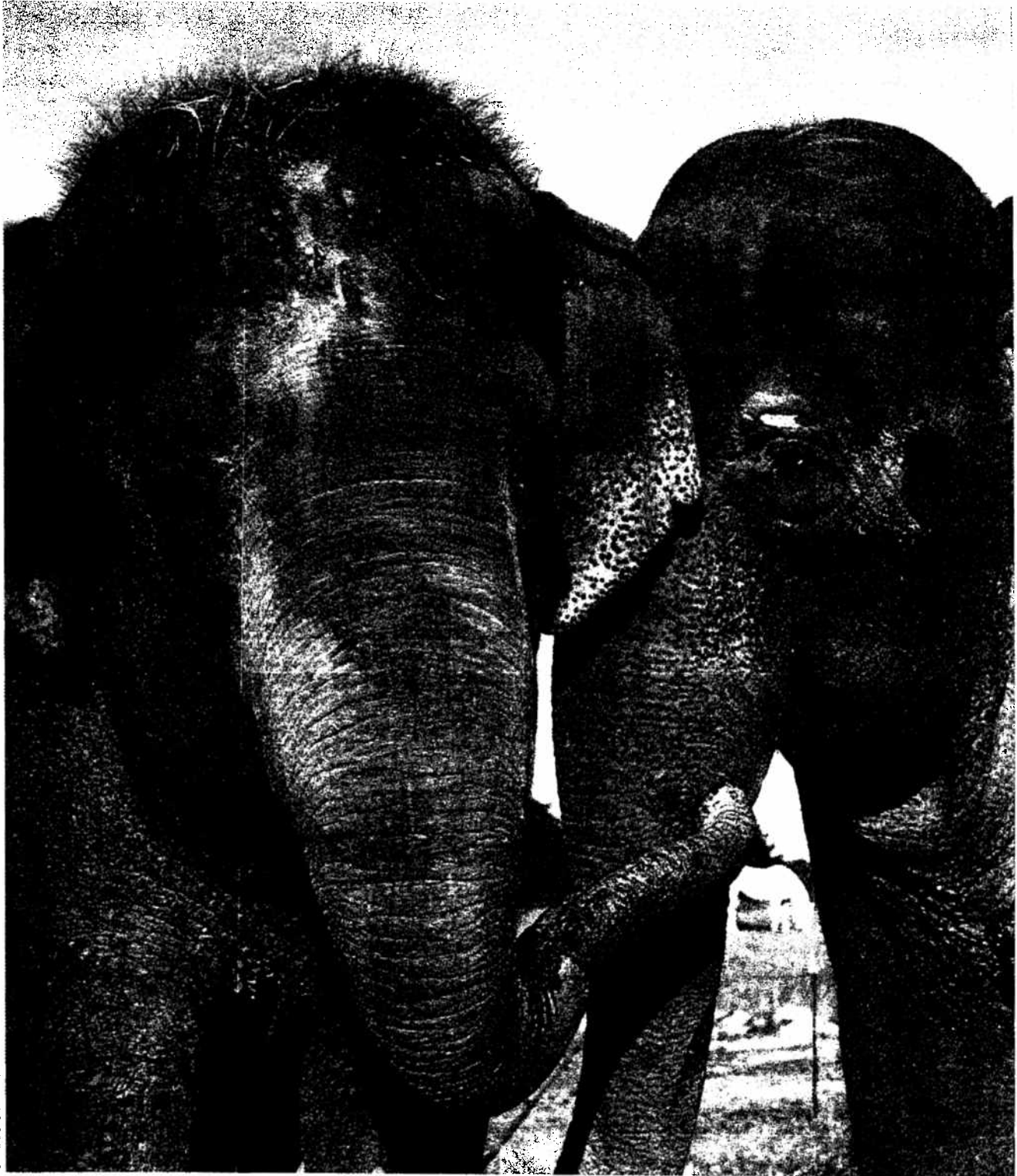


Front cover *Anjali, Indianapolis Zoo*  
Back cover *Kumari and mother Shanthy, National Zoo*

Photo Credits *Kumari and Shanthy by Jessie Cohen, Anjali by Eric Simpson*

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Edited by Deborah Olson



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American Zoo and Aquarium Association Elephant Taxon Group



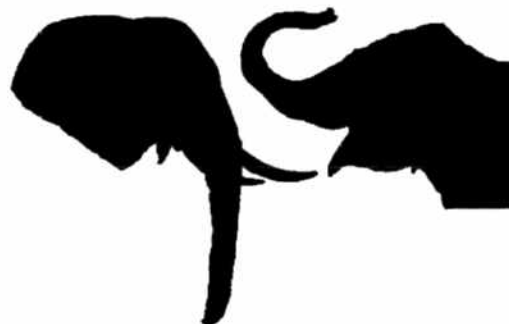
Elephant Managers Association



International Elephant Foundation



## Preface



Elephants were brought to North America 200 years ago and almost immediately gained celebrity status. The same is true today. Elephants have become the flagship species in conservation programs around the globe.

Assessing welfare status is a growing area of concern as ethical questions are raised about the psychological and physical well-being of elephants maintained in North America. At the same time, populations of free-ranging elephants are diminishing, emphasizing the need for captive breeding programs, further scientific investigation, and a heightened level of conservation education focus.

Approximately 500 Asian and African elephants live in North America. Half of this population reside in AZA institutions and the other half of our North American elephants are owned by circuses, non-AZA zoos, private individuals, sanctuaries, and corporations. The *Elephant Husbandry Resource Guide* is an attempt to address the husbandry issues faced by all elephant managers, handlers, and owners represented by these different types of facilities. The authors stress that common sense should be used at all times and that individual facility differences and goals must be considered in conjunction with these guidelines. It is the authors' intent that each facility adopt—from the many options presented—a program that most fits the needs and physical capabilities of their facilities. At the same time the emphasis is on raising the standards of elephant care throughout North America.

From the historical perspective of keeping both Asian and African elephants in North America, both species appear to share the same needs, therefore at this time these management and husbandry guidelines are for both species. Although many assumptions are based on the behavior of wild populations of elephants, it must be understood that the behavior and management of elephants in North America will be different and must be thought of in terms of restriction of space and intensive management versus the ability of the elephant to free-range. These different needs emphasize the importance of

assessing the training and management programs for elephants in human care and evaluating the adequacy of environmental and husbandry conditions to produce the optimal behavior, health, and reproduction in North American elephants.

A great deal of information was collected and a large number of people contributed to the preparation of this document. The authors accept that these guidelines are far from complete and encourage readers to seek more specific information that is available in the literature. The authors acknowledge that our attitudes of what elephants require may change with time. Elephant management is a dynamic process and will change as more is learned about elephants. Regular review of these guidelines will be necessary to incorporate advancements and information that will benefit the elephants and their handlers.

These guidelines recognize the established standards of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Elephant Managers Association (EMA), American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), and the International Elephant Foundation (IEF) as they apply to elephants.

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