

Officials at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Center for Elephant Conservation announced the death of a female Asian elephant following the stillborn birth of a calf on Wednesday, May 22. An autopsy is being performed to determine the exact cause of death.

The 30 year old elephant, named Seetna, was one of two Asian elephants transferred to the Ringling Bros.' facility from the Miami Zoo in August of 1992 in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. The death represents the first fatality at the Ringling Bros. facility which opened in December of 1995. Under the care of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, there have been seven live Asian elephant births to date.

The Center for Elephant Conservation, which is not open to the public, is a state of the art breeding, retirement and research facility for endangered Asian elephants. Research data and findings from the Center are shared on an ongoing basis with the scientific community.