

PLAINTIFFS' EXHIBIT Y
To Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion
For Summary Judgment
Civ. No. 03-2006 (EGS/JMF)

Strauss, Julie

From: Feld, Kenneth
Sent: Friday, August 06, 2004 8:01 PM
To: EVERYONE
Subject: Riccardo Announcement

It is with deep sadness that I share the news of the death of Riccardo, the first second-generation birth at the *Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Center for Elephant Conservation* (CEC) and a beloved member of our animal family. The eight-month old Asian elephant was euthanized due to serious injuries sustained in a fall.

On Wednesday, August 4, Riccardo was climbing on a round platform as part of his daily recreational activity, and lost his balance and fell. On Thursday morning, Riccardo was transported to a veterinary hospital where x-rays revealed severe and irreparable fractures to both hind legs. At that time, the humane decision to euthanize Riccardo was made on the advice of *Ringling Bros.*' veterinarians in consultation with other veterinary experts. The veterinary medical team suspects a bone disorder or some other systemic problem might explain why serious injuries resulted from routine play.

I want to personally extend our deepest condolences to Riccardo's surrogate family at the CEC, and thank them for the abundance of love and care they provided him since his birth on December 5, 2003. It's because of our dedicated CEC animal care team, led by Gary and Kathy Jacobson, that Riccardo's life had been the focus of extraordinary human efforts. As many of you may know, Riccardo was rejected by his mother at birth. In response, the dedicated men and women at the CEC provided the elephant calf with around-the-clock care, bottle-feedings and most importantly, love.

Riccardo's playful personality and spirit will be missed by all of us.