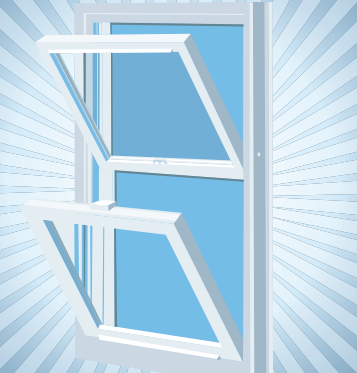


Opening the Windows of Curiosity

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The Mini Page®

Founded by Betty Debnam

Next Week:
Animal shelters

Bond Across Decades

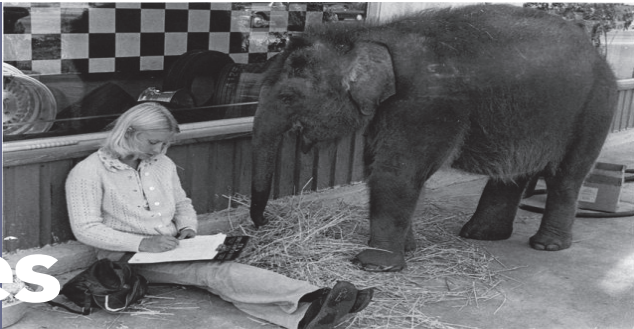


photo courtesy of carolbuckley.com

Did you know that elephants are a lot like people? Both elephants and people are friendly, enjoy playing, are intelligent and have long childhoods, becoming adults around the age of 20.

Many elephants have been taken from the wild in Africa or Asia to live in zoos and circuses. In zoos and circuses, elephants may be confined to small spaces. Imagine if you were forced to sit still in school all day, with no recess and no playtime after school or on the weekends. It would not be healthy for you, and you would not be happy. Elephants need to be able to move around as well.

This week, The Mini Page learns about an elephant and the woman who has been taking care of her for decades.

Carol meets Tarra

Carol Buckley was a co-founder of the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee and is founder, president and CEO of Elephant Aid International in Georgia. Her dream of a sanctuary began in 1974 when she met an unusual friend, a baby elephant. The baby's name was Fluffie, but Carol later changed it to Tarra (TAR-ruh).

When Carol was a child, she often brought animals home. Her family had a large backyard that became like a little farmyard. There were rabbits, chickens, ducks, guinea pigs, dogs, cats and other animals.

Carol went to college to learn how to care

for animals in a zoo or circus. She met Tarra when the elephant was walking down Carol's street with her owner, Bob. Bob had bought the Asian elephant to be a mascot for his tire store in California. Carol was delighted when Bob said she could help care for the little elephant. Finally, he allowed Carol to buy her. Carol and Tarra began a new life together.

A new life

Carol and Tarra started performing together at an amusement park circus. Carol taught Tarra to hold a stick and play an instrument called a **xylophone**.

Then Tarra learned how to play a drum, a bell, a whistle and a harmonica. Kids were amazed that Tarra could pick up a little harmonica with her big trunk.

Asian elephants have a kind of finger at the end of their trunks. (African elephants have two.) Elephants can pick up small objects with these "fingers." They can also lift whole trees with their strong trunks. They have more than 100,000 muscles in their trunks.

Carol and Tarra later went on the road with their show, entertaining thousands of people. They eventually appeared on TV shows and in movies.

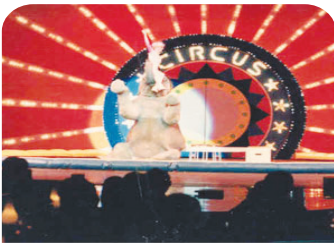


photo courtesy of carolbuckley.com

Building a sanctuary

Tarra and Carol lived at an animal park in Canada for a while. There they met Scott Blais, an elephant keeper at the park. Tarra was unhappy there, and Carol and Scott dreamed of building a good home for elephants. They bought 110 acres of land in Hohenwald, Tennessee, in 1995. The sanctuary covers 3,060 acres and is the largest natural-habitat refuge for elephants in America. There, elephants can roam as they do in Africa and Asia. There is enough room at the sanctuary to keep 100 elephants.

In 2009, Carol founded Elephant Aid International, which brings attention to the welfare of elephants.

Carol has spent a lot of time in Asia, teaching owners and trainers how to care

for elephants using a humane method she invented called Compassionate Elephant Care. She also teaches them about foot care and foot trimming for elephants.

Today, Tarra lives with two other elephants at Elephant Refuge North America in Attapulgus, Georgia.



photo courtesy of Elephant Aid International

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/4uVlm3y

At the library:

- "All Things Elephants for Kids" by Animal Reads

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of elephants are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

AFRICA, AID, ASIA, BELL, CAROL, CIRCUS, CORRAL, DREAM, DRUM, ELEPHANT, HOME, SANCTUARY, SMART, TARRA, TRUNK, TENNESSEE, WHISTLE, XYLOPHONE, ZOO.

E Q W T N A H P E L E Y R D R
S A C I R F A Z T F E D D R O
L A R R O C I W H I S T L E S
R E N O H P O L Y X S H C A L
X B S C U U O M M T E L O M E
N P T M T N Z C U R N L A P C
N W L S A U A W R U N E R A A
E M O H I R A S D N E B R T R
L B Q N D S T R I K T V A M O
C I R C U S D W Y A L S T E L



Cook's Corner

Pudding Parfait

You'll need:

- 1-ounce package instant sugar-free, fat-free lemon pudding mix
- 2 cups reduced-fat milk
- 1 large peach

- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 2 cups fat-free whipped topping



What to do:

1. Prepare lemon pudding according to directions with 2 cups milk. Chill for 20 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, chop peach into small chunks and combine with blueberries.
3. Spoon 1/4 cup pudding into 4 dessert dishes. Layer 1/4 cup whipped topping next.
4. Divide fruit mixture in half and spoon 4 equal portions on top.
5. Repeat layers of pudding, whipped topping and fruit. Serves 4.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

1. To save or keep from harm (6-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □

2. Land that has been set aside for public or private use (4-letter noun)

□ □ □ □

3. Ability to move easily; release from captivity (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

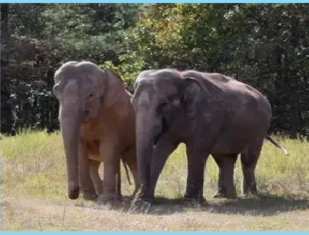
4. To keep from being hurt or injured (7-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Countries _____ elephants to give them medical care.
2. In Tennessee, there is a large _____ that helps elephants.
3. Elephants in a sanctuary enjoy _____ from being afraid.
4. Sanctuaries _____ elephants from threats.

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ROOTONYM®
by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Rescue, Park, Freedom, Protect.

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Mini Jokes



Ernie: Why didn't the elephant have pajamas at camp?

Ella: She forgot to pack her trunk!

Eli: What's as large as an elephant but weighs nothing?

Embyr: Its shadow!

Eco Note



A new study from researchers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology suggests that some seeds may "hear" rain or, more precisely, sense the powerful vibrations produced when raindrops strike soil or shallow water and use that signal to decide when to germinate. Working with rice seeds submerged in shallow water, scientists found that seeds exposed to the sound and vibrations of falling droplets sprouted 30% to 40% faster than identical seeds kept in silence. Writing in the journal *Scientific Reports*, scientists say vibrations from falling rain disturb tiny gravity-sensing structures inside seeds, jolting them out of dormancy and triggering growth.

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For later:

Look in your local newspaper for stories about animals.

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