



ELEPHANT TRUST

14 April 2007

To the Minneapolis City Council Members,

We, the undersigned, form a group of elephant researchers working together to study elephants and promote their conservation and welfare. Our combined experience represents over 270 years of work with free-ranging, wild African elephants. We are the acknowledged leading experts in the field.

It is our considered opinion that elephants should not be used in circuses. Elephants in the wild roam over large areas and move considerable distances each day. They are intelligent, highly social animals with a complex system of communication. No captive situation can provide elephants with the space they need for movement or with the kind of social stimulation and complexity that they would experience in the wild. To watch an elephant family in the wild is a glorious experience. Led by the oldest female--the matriarch--the family is bonded by kinship, affiliation, experience, great loyalty and affection. Elephants in circuses are confined and chained for hours, are bought and sold, separated from companions, and frequently moved about. In short they are treated as objects of entertainment for humans.

We believe that such intelligent, socially complex and long-lived animals should be treated with respect and empathy. An elephant's place is in the wild with its relatives and companions. The totally unnatural existence for captive elephants in a circus is a travesty and to allow this practice to continue is unjustified and unethical.

The Amboseli Trust for Elephants

Elephant Experience

Dr. Cynthia Moss, Director	40 years
Dr. Joyce Poole, Research Director	34 years
Dr. Harvey Croze, Senior Consultant	40 years
Soila Sayialel, Project Manager	21 years
Dr. Phyllis C. Lee	24 years
Dr. W. Keith Lindsay	31 years
Norah Njiraini	21 years
Katito Sayialel	16 years
Winnie Kiiru	15 years
Petter Granli	7 years
Dr Karen McComb	14 years
Dr. Elizabeth Archie	8 years
Dr. Lucy Bates	2 years

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