



One World...One Elephant at a Time

Elephant Aid International 2011 Annual Report



A Carol Buckley Project

ELEPHANT AID INTERNATIONAL
One World...One Elephant at a Time

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Did You Know?

Compassionate Elephant Care (CEC) is a care and training system developed by Carol Buckley. CEC helps mahouts (handlers) reframe their experience and transition the relationship with their elephant to one free of punishment and the infliction of pain. CEC enables the mahout and elephant caregiver to shape the elephant's behavior while maneuvering safely in a free-contact environment.





For Tarra,
who inspires
and
guides me
every day.

Message from the Founder

In 2011, EAI concentrated on a variety of efforts worldwide, including direct elephant care; Compassionate Elephant Care training and foot care education for mahouts (elephant handlers); facility evaluation and design; and welfare consultation and testimony, all in an effort to improve captive elephant welfare.

Our work in Asia has been both challenging and deeply rewarding. Working directly with mahouts and their elephants allowed me to experience the challenges they face.

Many people mistakenly believe that the welfare needs of wild elephants are met in their native countries. Land encroachment by exploding human populations trying to eke out a meager living has brought unbearable pressure to bear on the forest resources – food, shelter and space – elephants require to survive.

My personal lessons revolved around recognizing when to leave students with new information and allow them to absorb it. In some cases, the resistance to accepting a new way of training elephants was thick, impenetrable. In other cases, the mahouts, owners and vet techs were like sponges, willing and anxious to learn. In all cases, the elephants were consistent: receptive, resigned, living a life quite contrary to their nature.

Unsurprisingly, the language barrier and resistance to change is not unique to Asia. Traditional practices permeate circuses, zoos and exotic animal ownership in North America as well.

At the same time, many municipalities have either banned or are considering banning the antiquated practice of elephant rides and use of the elephant hook. EAI continues to provide expert testimony and consultation in support of regulations and legislation to improve captive elephant welfare in North America.

Regardless where they live, elephants' basic needs are the same: room to roam, access to live vegetation and the company of other elephants. Unfortunately, these requirements, which are shared by both captive and wild elephants, are consistently denied.

Some might think the situation is hopeless. I don't claim to have all the answers, but I feel it's safe to say that without action the situation will only get worse.

Each of us has a choice to make: we can turn away in defeat and allow events to run their course – or we can be part of the solution.

If each of us makes an honest effort to shift consciousness through education and compassionate action, we will be doing our part. And if each of us does our part, it might just be enough to reach a tipping point in the elephants' favor.

Carol Buckley

Spotlight

Menaka: A Step Closer to Freedom

Several years ago, Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) rescued an 11-year-old elephant named Menaka from an area temple. Her condition was critical. She suffered from diseased feet and low body weight due to an improper diet.

CUPA's eventual goal was to create a care center for elephants like Menaka but, not yet having a facility, CUPA sent her to the Bannerghatta Zoological Park on a temporary loan, underwriting all costs associated with her care.

When Menaka's health screen came back questionable for tuberculosis, CUPA had to create a temporary facility for Menaka at its Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center bordering the zoo. She spent days there, and the zoo agreed that she could join its elephants in the forest at night.

Over a period of months, Menaka developed a strong bond with one of the younger zoo elephants. If and when the time comes to move elephants to the care center in Bannerghatta, Menaka will be moved from the zoo only if her young friend is allowed to move with her.



“ Can you believe it? Our elephants will be allowed to use the national forest as if it were their home! This really is a dream come true! ”



The Year in Review

INDIA

In 2009, the Indian government directed all zoos to move their elephants to other non-zoological facilities, noting their inability to meet elephants' complex physical and social needs. Unfortunately, there are no appropriate care centers to receive all the elephants who need homes.

In 2011, EAI partnered with the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRC), one of India's foremost wildlife organizations, to create a prototype Elephant Care and Rehabilitation Center in Bannerghatta, Karnataka. Once operational, this private project will serve as a model for future care and rehabilitation centers throughout the country. The Center will be based on the model Carol Buckley developed at The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee.

We were invited by the Art of Living ashram outside of Bangalore to assess the living conditions of two elephants. Based on our recommendations, the young female was moved to an area with soft substrate and natural vegetation, and a small enclosure was constructed for the adult male when he is in musth (periods of heightened aggression) so that he will not, as is common practice, need to be chained.

NEPAL

EAI spent two months in Nepal providing foot care for more than 70 elephants, and mahout instruction for elephants owned by the government, the country's National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) (a nongovernmental organization) and private owners.

The government and NTNC elephants are used for anti-poaching patrols in Chitwan National Park to protect rhinos, tigers and elephants. They spend the majority of their day patrolling the national park, walking on natural substrate, collecting and eating wild vegetation of their choice and bathing in the rivers and streams, while intermingling with other elephants.

The privately owned elephants are used in tourist safaris. Although EAI does not condone the commercial use of elephants, the needs of these elephants are often more critical than those owned by the government or nongovernmental organizations. These 40 elephants were in desperate need of foot care; EAI was happy to be of service to them.

The first elephant in Nepal to be trained using Compassionate Elephant Care was a privately owned one-year-old captive born calf named Badhra. He and his experienced mahout were excellent students, demonstrating to the other mahouts the value of positive reinforcement training. Their example set the stage for other mahouts to transition to this more humane form of elephant care.

THAILAND

EAI received requests for Compassionate Elephant Care training from the Elephant Nature Park (ENP), Elephant's World, Boon Lott's Elephant Sanctuary, Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT), private owners of problem elephants and those interested in learning a gentle approach to training.

Over a three-month period, five young elephants and their mahouts were trained in CEC. All the elephants had been labeled as dangerous and, as a result, were confined to leg hobbles, brutalized daily in an effort to control them and/or isolated from other elephants. Each of these youngsters faced a bleak future.

As a result of CEC training, the young elephants are now humanely managed, allowed to interact with other elephants and free of the crippling hobbles of their past.

Karl Cullen, a seasoned mahout working at ENP, became our first apprentice. Under our tutelage he learned to use CEC to train a spirited young elephant named Chang Yim. This captive-born elephant was considered dangerous and, without CEC training, eventually would have been subjected to traditional brutal methods to break his spirit.

Karl excelled at CEC. After his apprenticeship, Karl continued to develop the mahout training program at ENP, teaching CEC techniques to other mahouts to increase the chances that more elephants will be handled in a humane manner.

The elephants at ENP also benefited from EAI's foot care program. Since they were not trained to present their feet for trimming, we used a concrete delivery dock for pedicures. Each mahout walked his elephant up the ramp onto the flat raised dock. With some encouragement, the elephant extended her toes over the edge to allow for trimming. Nearly all the 35 resident elephants received pedicures.

Did you know?

Media coverage of EAI's work spanned from Kentucky to Boston to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Two highlights: Best-selling author Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson (*When Elephants Weep*) recounted Carol's journey from The Elephant Sanctuary on his blog, and an article by trauma specialist Dr. Gay Bradshaw and Animals Asia founder and director Jill Robinson explored Carol's principles in creating sanctuary.



Programs

EAI aims to make widespread and lasting change in the lives of elephants worldwide through field work, veterinary care, education and collaboration with leaders in elephant welfare on ground-breaking initiatives. In 2011, EAI concentrated on three major programs.

Elephant Foot Care – Thailand, India and Nepal

Foot health is a serious issue for elephants living in captivity. Inactivity, poor husbandry practices, too much time spent confined in one place and walking on unnaturally hard surfaces such as pavement and concrete can cause thin, uneven and bruised foot pads and cracked nails, leading to infection and osteomyelitis. These conditions have become epidemic among elephants living in captive environments.

Osteomyelitis is a bone infection that causes the toe bones to deteriorate, followed by the elephant's physical collapse and subsequent death. Aside from surgery to remove infected toe bones, osteomyelitis is irreversible and terminal. This insidious disease inflicts years of pain

and suffering, which can be avoided by keeping the elephant in a suitable environment.

EAI's Elephant Foot Care program trains mahouts in proper foot care to prevent osteomyelitis and support elephants' overall health. EAI provides all services and supplies to mahouts free of charge.

Mahout and Elephant Training Initiative (METI) – Thailand, India and Nepal

EAI aims to demonstrate how mahouts can achieve a more humane, respectful and cooperative relationship with elephants through positive reinforcement. EAI trained mahouts at a variety of facilities in Compassionate Elephant Care.

Elephant Care, Rehabilitation and Retirement Centers

Elephant Aid International's long-range goal, in partnership with local NGOs, is to create elephant care and rehabilitation centers across India, as recommended



“ I cannot tell you how excited I am that we are finally able to move forward on this project to provide a humane home for elephants in India.”

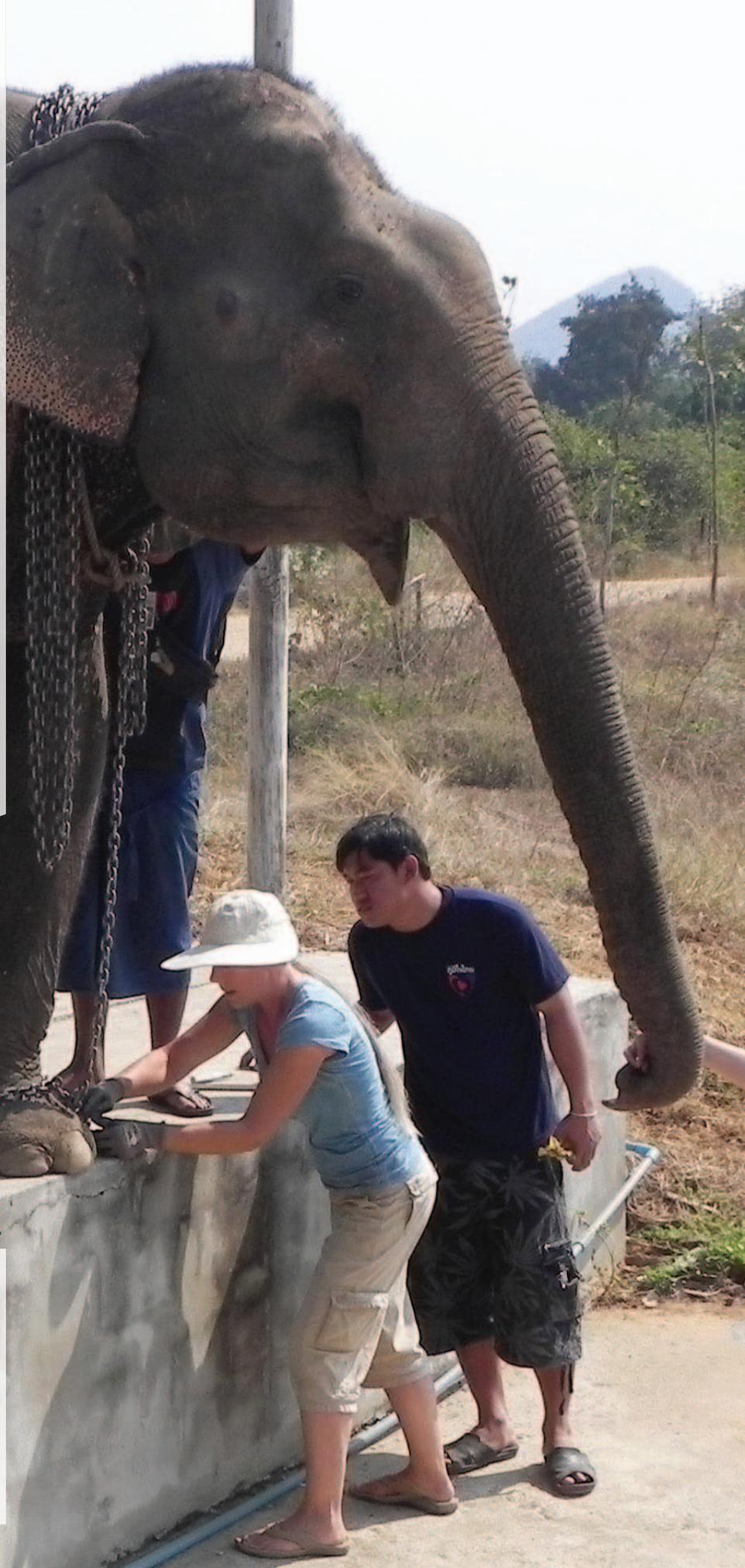
by the country's Elephant Task Force (ETF), Ministry of Environment and Forests and Central Zoo Authority (CZA).

Designed to provide freedom of movement, a healthy social environment and autonomy, these centers are similar to what Americans call sanctuaries: a place where elephants come to escape the abuses of captivity and that supports rehabilitation of elephants suffering from physical and psychological trauma. Tourism is not a component of care centers.



Did You Know?

When working abroad, EAI forms collaborative relationships with local governments and NGOs. These relationships are based on respect for culture and recognition of the role tradition plays in the lives of elephants and mahouts. We believe that significant change results from the cumulative effects of many small improvements.



Special Thanks

Special thanks to Katherine Conner, Karl Cullen, Hrimati Dasi, Dr. Kamal Gairhe, Suparna Ganguly, Dr. Deepani Jayantha, Richard Lair, Joshua Plotnik, Kiran Rijal, John Roberts, Naresh Subedi and Jodi Thomas, and in memory of Judith Smith.

Accomplishments



Elephant Care and Rehabilitation Center (ECRC), India

EAI has an official agreement to collaborate with the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRRC), a leading NGO, in the creation of an Elephant Care and Rehabilitation Center (ECRC). This private project, a prototype for future care and rehabilitation centers throughout the country, will receive elephants from zoos, circuses and temples and rehabilitate them to a more natural lifestyle, free of chains and negative management techniques. The land has been identified and the required legal requirements are being pursued.



Foot Care Training

EAI spent five months in Thailand, India and Nepal, providing elephant foot care training. Along with pedicures, EAI provided an instructional program, including illustrated foot care manual (www.elephantaidinternational.org/projectsDetail.php?recordID=3) and instructional video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWmR3-bz5A0&feature=plcp), along with individualized mahout training, free of charge.



Training Young Elephants

EAI's CEC program at ENP, Elephant's World, Boon Lott's Elephant Sanctuary and WFFT, and in Nepal planted the seeds of change. It was the first time that most of the mahouts, whose traditional training methods were passed down from their fathers and grandfathers, were exposed to a new approach. Their long-held beliefs about how and why elephants must be controlled have come into question. It will take time, but a shift in their thinking has begun.



Mahout and Elephant Training Initiative (METI)

EAI will continue to provide Compassionate Elephant Care positive reinforcement training for mahouts and elephants in Asia. An instructional video has been produced for distribution to mahouts (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C61ZskxYG4M&feature=context-cha>). Established programs in Thailand and Nepal will continue, and will be monitored to document the success of the technique. And permanent satellite training centers will be incorporated into each Elephant Care, Rehabilitation and Retirement center.



Carol Buckley



A. Christy Williams



Leslie PonTell-Schreiber

Board of Directors

Carol Buckley is the founder, president and chief executive officer of Elephant Aid International. A visionary who has spent nearly four decades creating sanctuary for captive elephants, Carol rescues, rehabilitates and provides hands-on care and compassion-based training for needy elephants worldwide.

Carol also advises governmental agencies and private organizations on strengthening regulations for the welfare of captive elephants; trains mahouts and caregivers in the use of Compassionate Elephant Care; and provides and teaches essential foot care methods.

She co-founded The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee in 1995, where she served as president and chief executive officer until 2010. She has raised global awareness of the needs of elephants in captivity, and her innovative holistic approach to elephant care and welfare has been a catalyst for change within the U.S. zoological industry.

Since the creation of EAI in 2010, Carol has focused on international collaborative efforts to improve captive elephant welfare in Asia.

A. Christy Williams is program coordinator for Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy, a World Wildlife Fund conservation program in eight countries across Asia: Nepal, India, Cambodia, Laos, Bhutan, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia. In addition to developing conservation programs he is involved in larger policy issues affecting pachyderms across the region.

Leslie PonTell-Schreiber has worked in the exotic management field for more than three decades. Before retiring, she served as co-director of Ontario's Bowmanville Zoo and was the assistant director of Moorpark College's Exotic Animal Training and Management program.



Advisory Council

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Summary of Financial Activity 2011

Public Support & Revenue.....\$69,392

Expenses & Losses

Program Services\$23,885

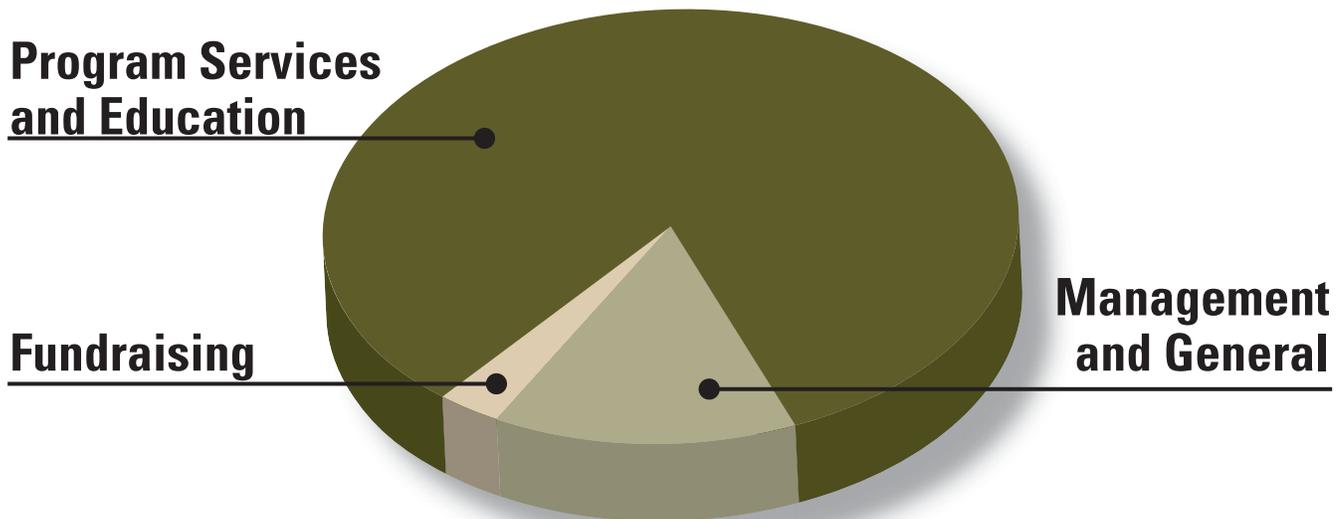
Education\$ 8,181

Fundraising\$ 1,161

Management and General.....\$ 5,424

Total Expenses.....\$38,651

Breakdown of Expenses & Losses



How to Support Elephant Aid International

Elephant Aid International is built on the belief that small changes can make a huge difference. Whether you prefer to contribute funds, buy or underwrite items from our Wish Lists or offer your skills, we appreciate your support.

We welcome donations of any amount.

You can donate through PayPal on our website, www.elephantaidinternational.org. Please make checks or money orders payable to Elephant Aid International and send to:

Elephant Aid International

P.O. Box 106

Hohenwald, TN 38462

Elephant Aid International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a registered California State Charity as required by law.

Other ways you can support EAI include:

Funding items on the EAI Wish List or individual Project Wish Lists by purchasing items and shipping them to us at 4128 Buffalo Road, Hohenwald, TN 38462

- Making in-kind donations.
- Arranging planned giving.
- Shopping in the EAI online shop at www.cafepress.com/eaishop.

For more information, please visit www.elephantaidinternational.org or write us at carol@elephantaid.org.



If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please forgive us. Your support is deeply appreciated.

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