



August 8, 2012

Dear Supporter,

Chain-free yard a success

In May, EAI, in collaboration with Nepal's National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), constructed the country's first [chain-free elephant yard](#). A huge thank-you goes to our donors and the staff at NTNC, especially the mahouts, who rallied around the effort to give Sweetie Kali a life free of chains.

The one-acre chain-free yard was completed in just four short days. Eight-year-old Sweetie Kali is thrilled with her freedom. Browsing, grazing, dusting and napping now occupy her time, demonstrating to the mahouts just how important physical freedom is. Contrary to their concerns, Sweetie remains cooperative and responsive.



This chain-free yard is the first of many that EAI will construct in Nepal in our effort to

improve captive elephant welfare.

Nepal: 84 pedicures

Anti-poaching patrol elephants living in government and nongovernment camps, and privately owned elephants who provide tourist rides, benefited from EAI's two-month foot care program.

Maintaining healthy feet is essential to preventing osteomyelitis, a terminal foot disease that afflicts many captive elephants. Foot trimming procedures---when done correctly---are painless.

Carol's skilled team of foot trimmers included senior government veterinarian Dr. Kamal Gairhe and Kiran Rijal and Chitran Khadka, two seasoned vet techs. The 84 elephants, both male and female and of all ages, laid down when requested and allowed EAI's team to trim their pads and nails. Many of the elephants used their pedicure as an opportunity to take a nap!



EAI hires a veterinarian



After an intensive search, EAI hired [Dr. Anjun Pandit](#) to oversee EAI's elephant welfare projects in Nepal.

Dr. Pandit comes highly recommended---the top in his class---and promises to be a valuable asset to our team. We are currently fundraising for EAI's first year employment commitment. [Click here to donate.](#)

EAI and NTNC enter into a formal relationship



In June, NTNC invited EAI to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This official five-year agreement outlines collaborative projects, including foot care, mahout training, construction of additional chain-free yards, sponsoring a veterinarian and the creation of the country's first elephant retirement home. This MoU is a great honor, demonstrating the level of trust and vision our organizations share.

Care center in Assam, India



The prospect of creating a care center in Northern India appears promising. Before leaving Asia in June, Carol met with Kaushik Barua, founder of Assam Elephant Foundation (AEF) and Assam's chief warden, to discuss our mutual goal. EAI and AEF have entered into an official MoU to pursue the project.

Update: Care center in Bannerghatta, India

Our collaborative effort with the Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre (WRRC) to create an [elephant care center](#) outside Bangalore has yet to be realized. The owner who offered his land for the project is determined to meet the challenge of securing documents the government requires to move the project forward. We will keep you posted on the status of this project.

Caught on tape: Carol training Jon

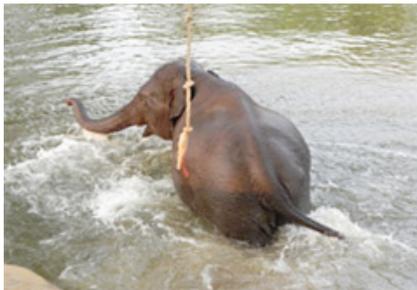
Last year, Carol trained five young male elephants in Thailand using [Compassionate Elephant Care](#), among them a six-year-old elephant named [Jon](#).

A recent rescue from street-begging, Jon lives at Elephant's World, a Thai-run facility outside Bangkok.

Elephant's World recently posted videos of Carol's first two training sessions with Jon. You can view Carol and Jon's [first session](#) and their [second session](#), which took place the following day.



"I was unaware that these videos even existed," wrote Carol. "Watching Jon brought back a flood of memories: his intelligence, how he dealt with his initial distrust and confusion and how well he masked his fear. His energy was explosive and outdone only by his genius.



"I can't help but smile remembering his antics and eagerness to understand this new 'game' — and his determination to prove that he could do anything!"

Healthy young elephants are full of energy and need the opportunity to engage in self-directed physical activity. Even though he enjoys his training sessions, all work and no play is not good for Jon.

[Watch how he burns off energy](#) after a training session.

Carol lends support to Free Mali campaign

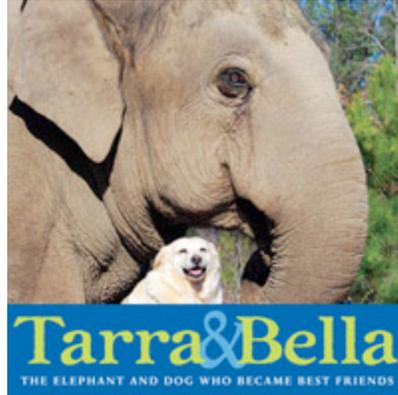
A [campaign to move Mali](#), the lone elephant at the Manila Zoo in the Philippines, to a sanctuary in Thailand has attracted international support.

Carol has been assisting with the effort to move Mali. In an [op ed](#) published in late July, Carol compared Mali's situation to that of Tina, who suffered in solitary confinement in a zoo in Canada for decades before finding freedom at The Elephant Sanctuary.

The following day, a columnist described [how Carol's piece hit home](#) with her.

Join Carol in Nashville and Washington, DC

Carol will be reading from and signing her book [Tarra and Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends](#) at [Parnassus Books](#) in Nashville on August 18 at 10:30 am. The book continues to raise awareness about interspecies relationships and the wonder of an unlikely friendship.



In a huge honor, Tarra and Bella has also been chosen to represent the state of Tennessee at the [National Book Festival](#) in Washington, DC, September 22-23.

This annual free festival, sponsored by the Library of Congress and held on the National Mall, draws tens of thousands of book lovers who come to hear from their favorite authors and discover new ones. This year's [festival](#) includes appearances by Philip Roth, Thomas Friedman, Jeffrey Toobin, Geraldine Brooks, Patricia Cornwell and Philip Levine – to name just a few – and there's something for every taste and every age.

Carol will be signing books at the Tennessee booth in the Pavilion of the States on Saturday, the 22nd, from 10 am to 5 pm.

We hope to see you in Nashville or Washington!

Carol Buckley



Please visit my [Elevisions blog](#) and [my Facebook page](#) so I can keep you updated on our progress as it happens!

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