



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

## **About Bo**

**Species:** Asian elephant

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 34

**Possible life expectancy:** 70 years

**Height:** 10'6"

**Weight:** Over 10,000 pounds

**Circumference of his front foot:** 5'4"

**Health status:** Excellent

**Breeding status:** Surgically castrated. Bo became unmanageable by the age of five. George Carden, purchased him and recognized that the future for an aggressive elephant is bleak, so he had Bo castrated. Because male elephants' testicles are internal, castration is considered major surgery. There are only a few castrated bulls alive today. As a result of his castration, Bo has a calm temperament and doesn't experience musth, the annual season (sometimes months) of elevated levels of testosterone during which time bulls become quite dangerous with other male elephants and humans.

**Bo's history:** Bo was born in captivity, the offspring of Vance and Sue, members of a breeding herd of elephants owned by Roman Schmidt. At one year old Bo was purchased by Cheryl Shawver of Animal Actors of Hollywood and at the age of five he was purchased by George Carden. Bo spent the next three decades under the Carden family's care, traveling internationally and performing with the George Carden Circus.

**Why Bo is being retired:** Bo is a highly valued circus performer in the prime of his life. It's unusual for circuses to retire elephants in their 30s but George Carden believes Bo deserves a different life. "Bo is family to me and deserves to retire to a beautiful place designed to give him a good life," says George. "I want him to have the best, which is why I want him to live at the Refuge."

## **General Facts About Asian Elephants**

**Species:** Asian elephants are one of three recognized species of elephants. The other two are African savanna and African forest.

**Home ranges:** Southeastern Asia, including India, Thailand, Nepal, Sumatra, Cambodia, Myanmar, Bhutan, Borneo, Vietnam, Bangladesh and China. They inhabit grasslands, different types of forests and scrublands. They can live at altitudes ranging from sea level to more than 9,800 feet.

**Number of Asian elephants in the wild today:** Between 30,000 and 50,000

**Physical characteristics:** Largest living land mammal in Asia. Their forehead has two hemispherical bulges and their back is convex. They have five toes on each forefoot and four in each hind foot. Their trunk has one finger-like tip.

**Diet:** Herbivore. Adult Asian elephants eat 100 to 200 pounds of plant material each day. In the wild they spend close to 20 hours a day searching for, selecting, collecting and eating a wide variety of live vegetation. Asian elephants graze, eating a range of plants, including bamboo in the growing season and adding tree branches in the dry season.

**Drinking:** Elephants drink 30 to 50 gallons of water a day, using their trunk to siphon up to 10 gallons of water at a time. Their strong trunk muscles stop the water before it reaches their sinuses. Then they place the tip of their trunk up to their mouth and squirt the water into their mouth.