

ERNA's Benefits for Bo and Others

By Yutong Wang

Imagine being a star performer for 30 years, and then enjoying your retirement in a beautiful place where all your needs are met. This happy scenario perfectly describes the life of Bo, an elephant who worked in a circus for decades. Today, he resides at Elephant Refuge North America (ERNA), part of Elephant Aid International. The Georgia-based habitat is specially designed to help Bo spend the rest of his days happily and in good health.

For an intelligent species such as the elephant, ERNA provides an ideal environment. It has vast resources including plenty of land, abundant grass, fresh water, many trees, and even toys that Bo enjoys. Elephants who live on the property get to roam it freely. The enormous acreage provides them with tons of opportunities for discovery. Since this can be overwhelming at first, there are also cozy areas in which newly introduced elephants can acclimate to the environment.

Additionally, the refuge has a warm barn for Bo and his companions. The heat inside them is generated by an infrared system that allows each elephant to decide how warm they want to be at the moment. Three interconnected stalls with sandy floors can be reconfigured periodically. The sand can absorb moisture and be moved around to create configurations to suit each elephant's preferences. The entrance to the structure is open at all times, which allows Bo to move around the entire refuge freely.

Clearly, ERNA gives careful thought as to how to make Bo and the other elephants on the refuge feel cared for and secure. With careful attention to detail, the organization has created a refuge that emulates the freedom the wild provides and the safety most shelters offer. Therefore, it is a great habitat for Bo and other elephants like him.