



Friends of Philly Zoo Elephants

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April 29, 2008

Vikram Dewan  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Zoological Society of Philadelphia  
3400 West Girard Avenue  
Philadelphia PA 19104

Marthinus Van Schalkwyk  
South African Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
Fedsure Forum Building, 10th Floor, North Tower  
315 Pretorius Street  
Pretoria 0002  
South Africa

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Re: African Elephant Culling

Dear Mr. Dewan and Mr. Van Schalkwyk:

The enclosed petitions containing over 500 signatures represent a fraction of the thousands of concerned citizens who oppose the planned killing of elephants in South Africa and breeding of elephants in Pennsylvania.

Rather than American zoos wasting millions of dollars on breeding elephants in captivity, the Philadelphia Zoo is encouraged to work with South African officials to develop non-lethal options for the elephants naturally living in Kruger National Park. As is evident in South Africa, African elephants need no help breeding and American zoos should not waste resources in this pursuit.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Marianne Bessey

Attachment

**PETITION TO HELP SAVE ELEPHANTS**  
**March 2008**

To: Marthinus Van Schalkwyk, South African Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
Vik Dewan, Philadelphia Zoo director

We, the undersigned, urge South African Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Marthinus Van Schalkwyk, to cancel plans to kill elephants in Kruger National Park and to instead implement non-lethal protocols such as translocation, opening up of migration corridors to other regions, and contraception to control elephant populations in the park. We further ask the South African government to ban the practice of culling elephants and to remove it as an option from the National Norms and Standards for the Management of Elephants in South Africa.

In addition, we urge Philadelphia Zoo director Vik Dewan to stop wasting limited financial resources housing and attempting to breed elephants and to cancel plans to breed African elephants Kallie and Bette, who are at a risky age for first-time elephant pregnancies. We urge Mr. Dewan to instead use Zoo resources to help save the thousands of elephants in danger right now in their native countries such as South Africa.

We also request Mr. Dewan take immediate action to send Petal, Kallie, and Bette, the three remaining elephants at the Zoo, to the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) sanctuary, which has offered to take the trio at no charge. PAWS will provide a lifetime home for these elephants, who were each taken as babies from their homes and families in the wild.

Thank you.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS (CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)</u>
<del>Bridget Kelly</del>	<del>4111 2nd St. Ardmore PA 19016</del>
<del>Brian H. ...</del>	<del>4111 2nd St. Ardmore PA 19016</del>
<del>John ...</del>	<del>2484 ... PA 19103</del>
<del>NEWARK ...</del>	<del>6 NYDC PARK CTR. LAUREL, NJ 08054</del>
<del>...</del>	<del>6 NYDC PARK CTR. LAUREL, NJ 08054</del>
<del>Mr. + Mrs. Thomas Schuler</del>	<del>204 ... PA 1807</del>
<del>Mr. + Mrs. George ...</del>	<del>257 ... PA 19041</del>
<del>STEPHEN ...</del>	<del>301 ... PA 19106</del>
<del>John ...</del>	<del>206 ... PA 19111</del>
<del>Shirley ...</del>	<del>21 ... PA 19111</del>