

PHILADELPHIA ZOO

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[REDACTED] 2008

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Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

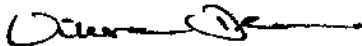
Thank you for your expression of sympathy regarding the loss of Petal. She will long be remembered as one of our most beloved and remarkable residents, who played a vital role in inspiring generations of Zoo families to care for the natural world.

Regarding your opposition to our plans to relocate our African elephants to the new, non-profit International Conservation Center (ICC) in western Pennsylvania under the direction of the Pittsburgh Zoo, it is important for you to know that our decision was made after extensive collaboration with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). We extensively analyzed, investigated and evaluated a wide array of housing and care options for our elephants. This research led to the conclusion that the ICC, the first such facility run by an AZA-accredited zoo, would be excellent in meeting the unique health, safety, recreation, and social needs of our African elephants.

Our selection of the International Conservation Center - a 750-acre preserve - as the new home for our African elephants met all the desired criteria and more. In addition, the Pittsburgh Zoo has distinguished itself for maintaining an elephant keeper staff that is one of the best in the country. I would urge you to review on-going information from the Pittsburgh Zoo regarding the ICC as well as information that will be available at our website - [www.philadelphiazoo.org](http://www.philadelphiazoo.org).

We will closely monitor every facet of the elephants' transition and maintain a close relationship with the ICC and its highly-skilled professional staff, which will be acutely focused on their well being.

Sincerely,



Vikram H. Dewan  
President and CEO

