



# Let's Crush <sup>the</sup> Myths

The Edmonton Valley Zoo is home to an Asian elephant named Lucy who has been the subject of great attention. Most of it comes from inflammatory and inaccurate campaigns by activists on the local, national, and international levels. We believe you deserve the facts on Lucy's health and well-being.



# Let's Crush <sup>the</sup> BS

The Edmonton Valley Zoo is home to an Asian elephant named Lucy who has been the subject of great attention. Most of it comes from the public relations personnel employed by the Edmonton Valley Zoo. They will say anything to the public to keep her in Edmonton because she puts money in their pockets.







# Myth

## LUCY WAS TAKEN FROM THE WILD AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN ISOLATED

Lucy was orphaned in Sri Lanka and was brought to the Edmonton Valley Zoo via the Pinnewala Elephant Orphanage and Colombo Zoo. She is what is often called a "people elephant", and her herd is her zoo family – the keepers and trainers who spend their days with Lucy. It is very special to witness the affection Lucy has for her caregivers. Lucy has had opportunities to socialize with both Asian and African elephants in the past, but these interactions demonstrated her lack of understanding of elephant dynamics; she simply did not do well in these situations.



# Myth

## SHE IS KEPT INDOORS, HAS LITTLE SPACE TO ROAM, AND IS CHAINED

Lucy is rarely indoors and is often found enjoying the outdoors year-round. On the rare days she stays inside due to weather conditions, she follows an exercise program designed by an animal rehabilitation veterinarian. Lucy is not chained; she is free to walk around. On rare occasions, elephants may need to be restrained as a safety measure for all. This is a requirement of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums Association.



# Myth

## SHE IS KEPT OUTSIDE IN FREEZING COLD WEATHER

When Lucy needs to be indoors due to cold weather she has a large heated building as well as a heated exercise barn. She does take walks daily even in the winter and her temperature and response to the weather are monitored closely by her caregivers during the walks.



# Myth

## LUCY STANDS ON CONCRETE ALL DAY CAUSING SERIOUS FOOT PROBLEMS

Lucy's feet are in good condition. Her indoor enclosure floors are covered in rubber matting, sand or mulch to ease pressure on her feet. These floors are also heated. Lucy's care team checks and conditions her feet daily as a preventative measure.



# Myth

## SHE IS KEPT INDOORS, HAS LITTLE SPACE TO ROAM, AND IS CHAINED

It is estimated that Lucy spends up to 75% of her time inside based on the zoo hours and weather data. Asian elephants wander up to 20 km per day in the wild. Lucy's walk when weather permits is approximately 1 km. Her indoor barn area is around 2000 sq. feet and her outdoor enclosure is less than 0.5 acres or 0.002 square kilometres in size which is tens of thousands times smaller than a typical elephant's home range. Contrary to the zoo's accusations, we have never heard anyone claim that Lucy is chained. She is however, controlled at all times by a keeper with a bull hook (or ankus). Please Google "Elephant Crush" to learn how ALL captive elephants begin their lives. While at it, Google "bull hook". There is some irony in the fact that the EVZ chose to use the word CRUSH in their brochures title!



# Myth

## LUCY STANDS ON CONCRETE ALL DAY CAUSING SERIOUS FOOT PROBLEMS

Elephants in captivity need very large enclosures that give them a variety of different ground surfaces, including clean dirt, mulch, sand and, probably most importantly, grassy areas and pasture, as well as slopes, hills, gullies, scrub and forest, so they can get enough exercise and mental stimulation. Lucy's enclosure is flat, barren and doesn't provide any of those things not to mention she doesn't have a pool to help alleviate her chronic arthritis. Most zoos will at minimum provide a swimming area for their elephants.



# Myth

## LUCY WAS TAKEN FROM THE WILD AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN ISOLATED

There is absolutely no proof that Lucy was orphaned. The Pinnewala Elephant Orphanage is a notorious seller of circus and zoo baby elephants. There is no such thing as a "people elephant". When an elephant is isolated from others of its kind and only has humans to interact with, what other choice does she have? A few minutes of elephant research clearly shows what an incredibly close family group they require, and this bond is not intended to be with humans!

RECORD STRETCH OF COLD	
EDMONTON, ALBERTA	
@YEG_Weather	
Consecutive days with minimum temperature <math>0^{\circ}\text{C}</math>	
Rank	Days
1st	167
October 29, 2017 - April 13, 2018	

# Myth

## SHE IS KEPT OUTSIDE IN FREEZING COLD WEATHER

A tropical animal in freezing Edmonton is simply wrong. Last winter, Edmonton set a record of 167 consecutive days with a minimum temperature below 0 degrees Celcius (32F). Hearing an elephant's feet crunch through frozen snow is not right. So when Lucy is unable to venture outside due to bitter weather, she is trapped inside her tiny barn, bored, unstimulated and lonely.



## LUCY IS OBESE

Lucy's weight is managed through her nutritional and exercise program. Her weight fluctuates but she is not considered obese.



## THE ZOO FEEDS LUCY A POOR DIET

Lucy is on a nutrition plan recommended by an animal nutritionist and her veterinarian. The plan includes a variety of fresh browse, grass, herbivore pellets and hay.

## LUCY IS OLD AND SICK, WITH SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS

While Lucy is a well-adjusted elephant she does have some health issues that are managed well with her team at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. Her most significant health challenge is a respiratory problem that makes it difficult for her to breathe when she is in a stressful situation, such as being transported or placed with unfamiliar caregivers.



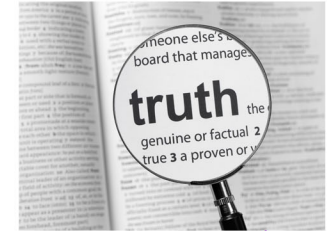
## THE ZOO HASN'T DIAGNOSED OR TREATED LUCY'S RESPIRATORY PROBLEM

Lucy has a respiratory problem due to a constriction of airway in her upper nasal region. Her breathing issue is managed when she is calm and comfortable. Under stress, Lucy's ability to breathe is stretched almost beyond her capacity.



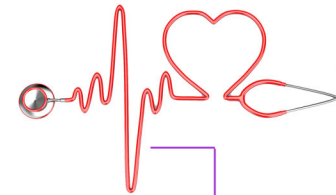
## LUCY IS OBESE

A January 13th, 2011 letter from Animal Protection Services (from Edmonton Humane Society) advised Denise Prefontaine (Director of the EVZ) that Lucy was obese and that the EVZ were to take appropriate actions for weight loss. The letter stated, "As per Dr. Oosterhuis' assessment report of September 2009; Lucy weighed approximately 9,300 lbs. and was required to lose 450kg/1,000 lbs by September 2010. I was advised during our inspection that Lucy currently weighs around 9,000 lbs." Lucy's weight has not been made public since.



## THE ZOO FEEDS LUCY A POOR DIET

Lucy's diet at the zoo seems very limited. She has only ever been observed eating dried grass/hay. Due to the climate here, access to fresh browse would be quite limited most of the year. According to many websites, Asian elephants have a huge repertoire of food in the wild. They are both grazers (feeding on grasses), and browsers (feeding on trees and shrubs). In one study, Indian elephants were recorded as feeding on 112 different plant species. They also graze on tall grasses; when the new growth appears, usually in April, they skillfully remove the tender blades and shoots. When the grasses are taller, the elephants pull up entire clumps, shake the dust of them and then eat the fresh leaf tops but throw away the roots. They also eat farmed crops such as sugarcane, rice, and bananas."



## LUCY IS OLD & SICK, WITH SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS

This "Myth" is the exact opposite of what we say about Lucy. Lucy is not an old elephant although due to captivity related ailments she is unwell. Living in a zoo cuts an elephant's life span by nearly half of what it would be in the wild. The life expectancy of a captive elephant is 45 years on average. Lucy is 43. In the wild, or in an approved sanctuary, they can live into their 80's or 90's!

## THE ZOO HASN'T DIAGNOSED OR TREATED LUCY'S RESPIRATORY PROBLEM



This "Myth" is misleading. The two veterinarians that have been publicly identified as hands-on examining Lucy, work in the zoo/circus industry so they are not impartial. In other words, they have a vested interest in making sure the zoo industry thrives. This is like sending a police officer to investigate crime committed by a fellow police officer! We are only asking for an independent unbiased examination. What is causing the constriction and can it be treated? Dr. Phillip Ensley, gave an expert opinion in a court affidavit that Lucy living in freezing temperatures is likely the cause of her respiratory symptoms.





## THE EDMONTON VALLEY ZOO VIOLATES ZOO STANDARDS BY KEEPING LUCY ALONE

The Edmonton Valley Zoo is inspected annually and meets all applicable regulatory and legislative standards, and codes of ethics of Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums. The agencies that license and regulate zoos in Alberta have also reviewed Lucy's situation and have confirmed there are extenuating circumstances that must be considered for Lucy's well-being.



### THE DECISION TO KEEP LUCY IN EDMONTON IS BECAUSE OF MONEY

Myth

The Edmonton Valley Zoo puts the well-being and care of all the animals ahead of all else, and Lucy is no exception. Decisions will continue to be made in the best interest of Lucy's health and well-being as she is an individual animal, with individual needs.

Myth

### LUCY HAS NEVER BEEN EXAMINED BY A THIRD-PARTY VETERINARIAN OR ELEPHANT EXPERT. THE ZOO IS PAYING VETS TO SAY LUCY CANNOT BE MOVED.

The Edmonton Valley Zoo routinely consults with international experts to ensure Lucy receives excellent care. Many experts in the well-being of elephants who have examined Lucy have chosen not to lend their names to their findings due to harassment from animal rights activists.



### LUCY DOESN'T WALK ENOUGH

Myth

Lucy goes for multiple long walks each day and follows a prescribed exercise program. While research is still being evaluated, it is said that Asian elephants in the wild travel four to nine kilometers daily in search for food and water.



Show Lucy your support!



Edmonton

## THE EDMONTON VALLEY ZOO VIOLATES ZOO STANDARDS BY KEEPING LUCY ALONE

They do violate zoo standards! The Alberta zoo standards state that animals must be kept in numbers sufficient to meet their social and behavioural needs. According to the AZA, it is inappropriate to keep highly social female elephants singly, therefore their minimum husbandry standards are that zoos should strive to hold no less than 3 female elephants. This isn't the only zoo standard being violated, we discuss the multiple infractions on our pages.

### THE DECISION TO KEEP LUCY IN EDMONTON IS BECAUSE OF MONEY



All it takes is one visit to the zoo to see that ALL of the animal enclosures (not just Lucy's), are inadequate. Yet, the zoo pumped \$45.5 million into new construction on top of \$34 million dollars in 2013. Very little of these dollars went towards animal enclosures as these funds were geared to improve human elements only such as a new entrance, a learning center and café. On top of admittance fees, additional fees are charged to zoo patrons to be photographed in Lucy's enclosure. Lucy is also exploited when the Zoo is selling her paintings at outrageous prices. As the main attraction, it certainly gives the public the impression that Lucy is used solely for human entertainment in order to bring funds in for the zoo.

### LUCY HAS NEVER BEEN EXAMINED BY A THIRD-PARTY VETERINARIAN OR ELEPHANT EXPERT. THE ZOO IS PAYING VETS TO SAY LUCY CANNOT BE MOVED

According to her medical records, Lucy has only been examined by 2 zoo based veterinarians who can not be considered third party or independent as they were hired by the zoo or pro-zoo organizations. 2 outside veterinarians in the past decade cannot be considered as "many". As for so called experts being afraid to submit their names due to fear seems ridiculous and highly unprofessional. According to the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association Practice Standards which the AB Zoo Standards state must be followed, medical records shall include documentation of **all** consultation reports, both non-verbal and verbal, (by a veterinary specialist or other colleagues), and laboratory interpretations.

### LUCY DOESN'T WALK ENOUGH

She doesn't. Plain and simple and not a "Myth". Many zoos are squandering millions of dollars to increase the size of their elephant exhibits only slightly, but elephants in captivity don't need a few more square feet—they need, at minimum, square miles. Because of space limitations, no amount of expansion at any zoo will give them the complex, varied habitat—with ponds, mud, trees, and hills—that they need for their physical and psychological well-being. Even if Lucy walked all day long during zoo hours it still wouldn't be enough exercise. It is recommended that elephants should have access to the outdoors 24/7.



Show Lucy your Real Support



www.leapforlucy.com

