



Free The Wild and Panel of Experts Complete Lucy's Health Assessment and Work with Edmonton Valley Zoo to Implement Changes for Her Long-Term Wellbeing

After an extensive assessment on Lucy's health, performed by four of the world's leading elephant experts over the course of three days on site at Edmonton Valley Zoo, and a number of follow-up tests in the months following, the panel has recommended that Lucy remain in place at Edmonton Valley Zoo due to the uncertainties regarding her severe breathing impairment.

Lucy presents a unique case as she is one of the only elephants in the world that appears to breathe primarily from her mouth. The panelists were unable to sedate her during the assessment as her current breathing method is a conscious effort, and sedation could easily cease her breathing. This, therefore, also limited the types of tests that could be performed on her.

Whilst the reports were not unanimous, it is the overarching recommendation of Free The Wild and the professional panel that Lucy remains in place until evident improvements to her overall health and breathing are recorded. However, to ensure Lucy's well-being, the panel has made it clear that several significant changes need to be made to her facilities and the way she is cared for by zoo staff.

Edmonton Valley Zoo has been made aware of these recommendations, and Free The Wild is confident they will be implemented. The recommended changes include providing additional space and freedoms for Lucy to roam at her leisure, fresh water for bathing and wallowing, and air quality checks with the implementation of air filtration systems to ensure she breathes clean, microbe-free air. The panel also recommended changes to Lucy's diet to help her lose weight, as being overweight can impact her joints and long-term livelihood. Additionally, they recommend a move to a protected contact management system to increase her autonomy.

Free The Wild and various members of the panel will work closely with the zoo in the following months to monitor Lucy's progress.

"Lucy's case is a unique one, and we appreciate the cooperation of Edmonton Valley Zoo in working with us to provide her with the best possible care," said Gina Nelthorpe-Cowne, Co-founder of Free The Wild. "We believe these changes will improve her health and overall well-being and are committed to monitoring her progress in the coming months."

We would like to thank Edmonton Valley Zoo for allowing us the opportunity to work with them in investigating and bettering Lucy's wellbeing, especially to the zoo's Director, Gary Dewar and head veterinarian, Marie-Josée (MJ) Limoges.

For more information and access to the individual panelists' reports, please visit the Free The Wild website (www.freethewild.org) or Edmonton Valley Zoo's portal for Lucy's Veterinarian documentation.