

*The Nation's First  
Elephant Sanctuary*



**PAWS**  
PERFORMING ANIMAL  
WELFARE SOCIETY

Founded in 1984  
PROTECTION  
EDUCATION  
ADVOCACY  
SANCTUARY  
pawsweb.org

October 2, 2013

Mr. Marc Heinzman, Director  
Niabi Zoo  
13010 Niabi Zoo Road  
Coal Valley, IL 61240

Dear Mr. Heinzman:

I understand that the Niabi Zoo and the Rock Island County Board continue to explore facilities that may provide a potential new home for elephants Sophie and Babe.

In July I sent you a letter extending an invitation for you to visit PAWS' ARK 2000 Sanctuary in San Andreas, California. The letter was emailed and then later faxed to you. As I received no response, I am sending this letter, via fax and mail, to inform you that the invitation to visit our facility still stands.

ARK 2000 consists of 2,300 acres of natural habitat, of which the elephants currently occupy more than 100 acres. The facility is home to three female African elephants, three female Asian elephants and two male Asian elephants; all have been retired or relocated from zoos and circuses. We are preparing to accept three more African elephants from the Toronto Zoo.

Similar to Niabi Zoo and many other zoos, PAWS is faced with, and is addressing, health challenges with some of our Asian elephants. We have a great deal of experience caring for the special needs of older elephants, and elephants with health issues.

Because the large size of our facility allows a great deal of room for expansion, any female Asian elephants relocated to ARK 2000 would be kept in a separate area from our current female group for reasons that I outlined in my previous letter.

You are welcome to visit our facility and learn more about our elephants and the care we provide. If you would like to arrange a visit, please contact Kim Gardner at 916-539-5305.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Stewart".

Ed Stewart  
President and Co-founder, PAWS

cc: Phil Banaszek, Chairman, Rock Island County Board



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