

*The Nation's First
Elephant Sanctuary*



PAWS

**PERFORMING ANIMAL
WELFARE SOCIETY**

Founded in 1984

PROTECTION
EDUCATION
ADVOCACY
SANCTUARY

pawsweb.org

February 29, 2012

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
City Hall
255 West Alameda Street
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Dear Mayor Rothschild,

As the founder, and executive director, of a 2,300-acre wildlife sanctuary in Northern California, I have provided retirement to many species of animals, including several Asian and African elephants from AZA-accredited facilities.

As part of their "due diligence" regarding the animals' welfare, AZA and the donating zoo, have always required that PAWS agree to revert ownership of the elephants back to the donor if we are unable to provide proper care for them.

We are pleased to hear that Connie and Shaba will be transferred together to their new home and will be housed together at that facility. We commend you, the city, and the zoo, on this decision which reflects respect and concern for two elephants who have spent their lives in service to the zoo and to the City of Tucson.

We hope that the same respect and concern for the welfare of these two elephants will motivate you to ask the Tucson Zoo to exercise the same due diligence with San Diego Zoo and require a written agreement that will protect the bond between the two elephants.

Although some "experts" have suggested that Connie and Shaba's situation may change after their transfer, and many opinions have been offered regarding their future, the true elephant experts — scientists who have studied elephant societies and behavior in the wild — are convinced that these two elephants share a fragile, deep bond that should not be disturbed.

Conversely, many of the individuals who feel that bond is unimportant, or will change, do not have a good track record regarding this issue. In the past, several elephants have died due to these cavalier attitudes, and the adverse publicity resulting from these serious and disastrous errors in judgment continues to this day.

We hope that Connie and Shaba may continue to benefit from the protection of you, Mr. Mayor, the City of Tucson and the Tucson Zoo. A simple act of due diligence normally required by AZA could generate the unanimous approval of the many concerned citizens of Tucson and elephant lovers all over the world.

Thank you for your compassion and your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Pat Derby
President
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