



April 2, 2007

Nicholas & Gypsy Arrive Safely in Galt

The two elephants arrived in Galt after an uneventful trip. Both were very cooperative for the unloading, and showed little anxiety except when they were separated briefly during the process. The two elephants are closely bonded and their devotion to each other is indescribably touching. There is little competition for dominance and minimal displacement activity or aggressive behavior; they share food, rumble, chirp and remain in close proximity to each other at all times. At one point, when they were still separated, Gypsy dragged her watermelon over to share with Nicholas.



Because they are so devoted and gentle, none of the problems which we had anticipated evolved, and we are keeping them together even during feeding. Today, after resting all night, they went out into their enclosure for the first time to dust, mud bathe, graze and explore. When we gave them a bath, they rolled in the mud, rumbling and trumpeting.

We're all aware that their behavior will change as they adapt to new surroundings, but we are delighted to see their joy in being together in the California sunshine and their immediate acceptance of a new home and new human companions.

We won't say a "happy ending" because it is truly a "happy beginning" for us and for Nicholas & Gypsy as we contemplate their next

short move to ARK 2000 as soon as funding for their new barn and habitat is complete.

A big THANK YOU to Bob Barker for pledging the first half of their construction funds and to all of our dedicated volunteers who helped us renovate the Galt elephant area for the two elephants as they wait for their spacious new habitat and their next big adventure.