

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ELEPHANTS USED IN ENTERTAINMENT

**THROUGHOUT ASIA THOUSANDS OF ELEPHANTS LIVE IN CAPTIVITY, WITH MANY BEING KEPT TO ENTERTAIN PAYING VISITORS. THEY ARE OFTEN USED AS PHOTO PROPS OR TO GIVE RIDES, PLUS SOME ELEPHANTS ARE DRESSED UP AND FORCED TO PERFORM UNNATURAL, PAINFUL AND DEMEANING TRICKS.**

**REMEMBER, EVERY CAPTIVE ELEPHANT YOU SEE — EXCEPT THOSE LIVING AND BORN IN PROTECTED SANCTUARIES — HAS ENDURED UNIMAGINABLE CRUELTY AND ABUSE.**



**ELEPHANT TRAINING METHODS AND THE APPROACHES USED TO KEEP THE ANIMALS IN CONSTANT COMPLIANCE ARE ENTIRELY BASED ON FEAR AND PAIN. CALVES ARE “BROKEN” BY SEPARATION FROM THEIR MOTHERS; ISOLATED, THEY ARE PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED WITH ROPES AND HOOKS TO INDUCE SUBMISSION AND FEAR. ADULTS CONTINUE TO BE MANAGED WITH THE INFAMOUS BULLHOOK (ANKUS), AND WITH PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE.**



**WILD ANIMALS HAVE NOT EVOLVED TO ENDURE CLOSE PROXIMITY TO HUMANS. GIVEN THE CHOICE, WILD ANIMALS AVOID HUMANS. CONSTANT, FORCED PROXIMITY TO HUMANS WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO RETREAT IS EXTREMELY STRESSFUL FOR ELEPHANTS.**



**ELEPHANTS USED FOR ENTERTAINMENT USUALLY LIVE IN ISOLATION. IN THE WILD ELEPHANTS ARE HIGHLY SOCIAL ANIMALS THAT NORMALLY LIVE IN CLOSE, STABLE GROUPS OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY OF FEMALES. ELEPHANTS USED FOR ENTERTAINMENT, HOWEVER, USUALLY LIVE IN ISOLATION, OR UNDER UNNATURAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS. ISOLATION AND SOCIAL STRESS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE SEVERELY DAMAGING TO THEM.**



**CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS ARE DEPRIVED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF DISPLAYING THEIR NATURAL BEHAVIORS, AS THEY ARE CONSTANTLY EITHER CONFINED, TETHERED, OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ANKUS. THEY ARE DEPRIVED OF CHOICE IN WHAT THEY DO, THEIR SOCIAL INTERACTIONS, FORAGING, FOODS, RESTING TIMES AND PLACES — IN SHORT, EVERYTHING WITH WHICH A FREE ANIMAL OCCUPIES THEMSELVES ALL DAY IS DENIED AND REPLACED BY UNNATURAL MANDATED ACTIVITIES.**



**SIGNS OF ELEPHANT SUFFERING MAY NOT BE OBVIOUS TO MOST PEOPLE AS THEY MAY NOT SHOW OVERT SIGNS OF DISTRESS. ALTHOUGH THEY MAY APPEAR TO OBEDIENTLY PERFORM TASKS, THIS IS ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY LEARNT THAT THEY WILL BE PUNISHED IF THEY DO NOT. CHRONIC STRESS IS INTERNALISED WHICH BRINGS ABOUT PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGES THAT MAKE THE ANIMAL ILL OVER TIME.**



**FOOT AND LEG DISEASE IS VERY COMMON IN CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS BECAUSE OF THE UNNATURAL LIVING CONDITIONS THAT THEY ARE KEPT IN. THEY ARE MADE TO STAND AND WALK ON UNNATURAL MATERIALS, UNDERTAKE REPETITIVE WORK ROUTINES, HAVE INSUFFICIENT OR ABNORMAL EXERCISE, AND OFTEN HAVE POOR VETERINARY CARE. THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF DEATH IN CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS, PARTICULARLY IN ZOOS, IS FOOT DISEASE.**



**TOURIST ELEPHANTS ARE OFTEN SEVERELY OVERWORKED, AS THEY ARE FORCED TO WORK IN ENVIRONMENTALLY TAXING CONDITIONS SUCH AS DIRECT SUN IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY, OR IN BUSY TRAFFIC WITH POLLUTED AIR. THEY WILL OFTEN ALSO LACK ACCESS TO WATER, FOOD AND REST.**



**ELEPHANTS EXPLOITED FOR ENTERTAINMENT FUEL THE TRADE IN WILD ELEPHANTS. THE USE OF ELEPHANTS IN TOURISM, OR FOR ANY ENTERTAINMENT, DRIVES A DEMAND FOR CALVES TO BE CAPTURED FROM THE WILD. THIS RESULTS IN SEVERE WELFARE ISSUES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL ANIMALS INVOLVED, AND COMPROMISES ELEPHANT CONSERVATION EFFORTS.**



**EFFORTS TO BUILD COMPASSION AND RESPECT IN HUMAN SOCIETIES ARE ERODED WHEN WE TEACH CHILDREN TO ABUSE ANIMALS FOR ENTERTAINMENT, AND TO VIEW ANIMALS AS CONSUMER ITEMS FOR OUR AMUSEMENT.**



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### PLEASE DON'T PAY FOR ELEPHANT MISERY...

- NEVER GO ON ELEPHANT RIDES, OR VISIT ATTRACTIONS WITH ELEPHANT SHOWS OR PERFORMANCES
- NEVER USE TOUR OPERATORS THAT BOOK ELEPHANT RIDES OR TOURS TO ELEPHANT CAMPS
- DON'T STAY IN RESORTS OR HOTELS THAT HAVE CAPTIVE ELEPHANTS
- ALWAYS VOICE YOUR CONCERNS TO TOUR OPERATORS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND EMBASSIES
- SPREAD THE WORD!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO HELP GO TO: [WWW.CHANGEFORANIMALS.ORG](http://WWW.CHANGEFORANIMALS.ORG)**

