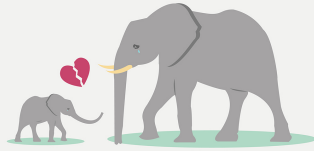
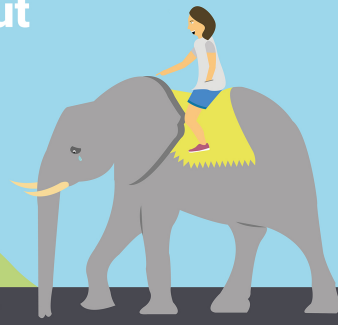


The sad truth about elephant rides...

There's certainly something magical about the idea of riding elephants, and who doesn't want to say: "I went to Thailand and rode an elephant" and post some cool photos on Facebook to show your friends? Unfortunately though, the truth is, riding elephants is not cool, and here's why

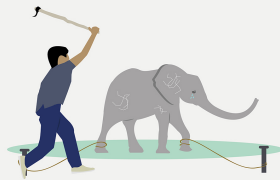


1. Most of the elephants are captured as babies from the wild.

For many of the elephants, life in captivity begins when they are ripped from their herd in the wild. Because elephants form such strong bonds with their mothers and female calves stay with them for life, the separation is psychologically harmful both for mothers and calves.

2. Parents and other members of the herd are often killed during capture of babies.

Experts estimate that as many as five adult elephants can be killed while defending a baby during wild capture. The capture is a violent process, as elephants are hit with large sticks and pulled with ropes.



3. "Breaking" an elephant is abusive.

In order to force a young elephant to become docile and fear humans, the calves are tied up and beat with sharp bullhooks that train them to obey commands, a process that is both psychologically and physically damaging. Young elephants are often identified by their scar patterns.

4. Working all day, elephants easily overheat and become dehydrated.

Carrying blankets and throws on their backs as well as humans, elephants are prone to overheating on long rides. For instance, in Nepal many elephants conduct up to 7 trips each day, seven times a week.

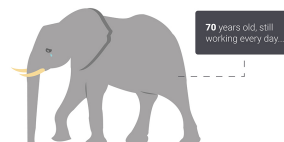


5. Awful conditions after work.

After a long day's work, elephants return to their shelter, and are tied with (spiked) chains. They can hardly move and often stand in their urine, causing feet problems. Also all elephants are beaten with a bamboo stick on a daily basis. Some mahouts use the cruel ankush or bull hook.

6. Elephants do not retire.

Elephants conduct up to 7 trips, 7 days a week, carrying at least 4 people on their back. They often start their day before sunrise and come back after sunset. Most of the elephants have no chance of retirement. This means elephants as old as 70 are still working.



If you care about elephants...
DON'T RIDE THEM

Share this with your friends!

Many people are not aware of the terrible conditions these elephants are living in and still riding them because they just don't know what those elephants have been through and what happens to them every day.