

Savanna Elephant Vocalization Project

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To whom it may concern:

I, Joyce Poole, am director of the Savanna Elephant Vocalization Project and ElephantVoices and have worked as a member of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project, studying elephant behaviour and communication and promoting their conservation and welfare for 30 years. I am one of the acknowledged leading experts in the field.

It is my considered opinion that captive female elephants should be housed in the company of other members of their species, never alone. Elephants in the wild roam over extensive areas and may travel considerable distances each day. They are intelligent, highly social animals with a complex system of communication. No captive situation can provide elephants with the space they need for movement or with the kind of social stimulation and complexity that they would experience in the wild. At the very least captive female elephants should be housed in the company of other members of their own species with freedom perform normal social interactions. An existence in a sub-Arctic location where elephant Maggie must be confined separated from companions and indoors for months on end is inappropriate. Protecting Maggie from risks associated with transport and introduction to a social group is less important than providing her with the potential benefits of companions in a warmer climate.

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Signed:

Joyce H. Poole

Director, Elephant Voices

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