

Affidavit Concerning the Treatment of Elephant Calves

By

Joyce H. Poole, Ph.D.

I, Joyce H. Poole, have worked in Kenya as an elephant behavioural biologist, manager and conservationist for a period of twenty-two years. I studied elephant social behaviour and communication in Amboseli National Park over a period of fourteen years, receiving a Ph.D. from Cambridge University in 1983 and continuing my elephant studies as a postdoctoral research fellow of Princeton University. For shorter periods I have also monitored the behaviour of elephants in Tsavo National Park, Laikipia District, and Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya, and Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda. In the early 1990s I was, for four years, coordinator of the Elephant Programme at Kenya Wildlife Service, and responsible for setting and implementing elephant management, conservation and research policy for Kenya. My current research involves elephant vocal communication in Amboseli National Park in Kenya.

In 1998 I made a statement on the capture and treatment of the Tuli elephants. The following comments refer to recent footage filmed by the NSPCA at the stockade of Mr. Riccardo Ghiazza's. Most of the footage indicates a date and time. I have referred to the date only and describe what I viewed in chronological order.

19/5 A young elephant with two tusks is in a stockade with two mahouts. The elephant holds its tail up very high, throughout this scene. This posture is one of fear. One of the mahouts pulls the elephant by the tail. One mahout touches the elephant's face several times. The elephant pulls her face away from the mahout's touch.

Elephants in the adjoining pens walk around in an agitated manner with their mouths open in a posture associated with fear.

One close-up picture showed an elephant with a swelling on her left-hand cheek.

3/5/99 This sequence shows a juvenile female with one left tusk inside the building. She is chained. Using significant force a man wearing a cap beats her with a heavy stick. He beats her on her ear, her trunk and her back legs ten times, until the stick breaks into two pieces. He tosses the broken stick on the ground and then beats her a further three times with his bare

hand. At some point the elephant lunges at the man. He leaps out of the way almost falling over.

6/6/99 A young elephant with only a left tusk runs into a stockade. This is the same young female as seen on 3/5/99. A man wearing a cap follows her into the stockade. He is the same man as seen on 3/5/99. The man corners her and then he beats her with either a stick or a jambok nine times. This elephant urinates throughout this sequence. Her urine does not come in a normal stream but dribbles out. Her posture and the urination indicate terror. She is up against the bars, unable to escape, and as she is being beaten she bends her back legs as if she is trying to move further away from him.

A mahout then comes to help the man with the cap. The man with the cap beats the elephant a further three times. The mahout jerks on the ear loop (as we learned last year this loop has a sharp hook that digs into the tender posterior side of the elephant's ear as it is pulled) at least six times. He also pulls the elephant by the ear loop and even appears to swing around the elephant while hanging on the rope or chain that is attached to the loop.

During this sequence nearby elephants show signs of fear, frustration and anger, one kneeling down and tusking the ground.

7/6/99 In this sequence the same young female with one left tusk is shown running away from a man who is chasing her. She screams loudly as she runs down a narrow corridor between the building and the stockade. She is beaten seven times. It is hard to tell whether she is beaten with a stick or a jambok. She trumpets twice and screams again. She has temporal gland secretion. Other nearby elephants show strong postures and behaviours associated with fear.

The camera focuses on the marks left on the elephant's body after being beaten. I counted at least 10 very visible marks on the right side of the elephant's body and hind leg. Several of these had broken the skin.

Dated

Signed

Joyce H. Poole, Ph.D.