

Lucy is the New Maggie

A summary of similarities between Lucy, an ailing female elephant at the Edmonton Valley Zoo and Maggie, an ailing female elephant who was moved from the Alaska Zoo to a California sanctuary in 2007 and is thriving in her new environment.

<u>Maggie/ Alaska Zoo</u>	<u>Lucy/ Edmonton Valley Zoo</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maggie was captured from the wild in southern Africa when she was an infant.• Maggie was shipped to the Alaska Zoo where she was the star attraction for more than two decades.• Maggie had an elephant companion named Annabelle for 15 years while living at the zoo.• Maggie was left alone at the zoo after Annabelle died in 1997 as a result of chronic foot infections.• Maggie was locked inside a small cement-floored barn when the zoo was closed and during cold and inclement weather.• The zoo claimed that Maggie's walks around the zoo grounds were adequate exercise for her. They later built a exercise treadmill in her barn for the days she could not be outside but Maggie never used it.• The Alaska Zoo claimed Maggie could not be moved to a sanctuary because she was not social with Annabelle and therefore would not do well with other elephants. They insisted that she was happy in the company of her keepers at the zoo.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucy was captured from the wild in Sri Lanka when she was an infant.• Lucy was shipped to the Edmonton Valley Zoo. Official Zoo documents describe Lucy as the "zoo icon" and "célèbre for fundraising."• Lucy had an elephant companion named Samantha for 18 years while living at the zoo.• Lucy has been alone at the zoo since Samantha was sent to a US zoo on a long-term breeding loan.• Lucy is locked inside a small cement-floored barn when the zoo is closed and during cold and inclement weather.• The zoo claims that Lucy's walks around around the zoo grounds are adequate exercise for her.• Lucy suffers from chronic foot infections, arthritis and ongoing respiratory problems.• The Valley Zoo claims Lucy cannot be moved to a sanctuary because she was not social with Samantha (zoo records contradict that claim). Zoo officials insist that Lucy is happy in the company of her keepers at the zoo.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Alaska Zoo claimed that it would be risky to Maggie's health to move her to a sanctuary.• Maggie went down due to colic and could not get up again. The Alaska Zoo had to bring in heavy equipment to get her back on her feet, only to find she was unable to get up again a few days later.• After significant public pressure to move Maggie to a better facility, the Alaska Zoo agreed to move her to the PAWS sanctuary in California.• Like all of the other elephants that have been labeled as anti-social by their previous custodians, Maggie began to socialize normally after arriving at the sanctuary.• Maggie's health has improved since she has been living at the PAWS sanctuary. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Valley Zoo claims that it is too risky to Lucy's health to move her to a sanctuary.• Lucy's medical records show that she was in the early stages of colic in the summer of 2008 and over the years has had difficulty getting up and on some days will barely eat or drink.• The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee has offered to take Lucy if the zoo agrees to move her.• Valley Zoo officials continue to claim it is too risky to move Lucy to a sanctuary because she may be stressed by being with other elephants and it may exacerbate her respiratory problem which they believe is linked to a mal-positioned tooth. |
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It is time to move Lucy!