

Welfare status of temple elephant Yashaswi



Assessment of welfare and management status of elephant Yashaswi , Kukke Subrahmanya temple, Sullia, South Canara, Karnataka, Southern India

Suparna Ganguly, Ramesh Belagere, Sujata S.R

Elephants in Captivity: CUPA/ANCF- Occasional Report No.21



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Preface

Temples have kept elephants as a sign of affluence, wealth and an attraction for the devotees. The origin of this practice is unknown. Neither do ancient texts mention any need or use of an elephant for religious ceremonies or functions. It can be deduced that elephants were parked in temples since they had vast wooded grounds, when not in use during wars in ancient India. These same places today have become vastly urbanised, and the open spaces they enjoyed have become concretised and heavily populated.

Elephant are a highly social, intelligent, sensitive, and long living species with a very complex system of communication. Females and their calves form the core unit of elephant families; females of all age class stay in their group throughout their lives, males disperse from the group at the age of sexual maturity, and are said to lead social but solitary lives. Given the complex social system and associated interaction among all individuals in an elephant herd, it is of immense importance to maintain captive animals in a group. As studies have shown elephants that are kept alone are more prone to aggression towards their keepers or the public than those that are kept as group.

In July 2013, the Animal Welfare Board of India directed their representative to visit the Kukke Subramanya temple (*see appendix I*), in order to ascertain the living conditions of the young female elephant in their care. This elephant succeeded the old temple elephant, Indumati (*see appendix II*), who died on May 12, 2008. The newspaper reports (*see appendix II*) that the 58 year old elephant had arthritis, joint pain, injury in her leg and indigestion may not have been the cause but contributing factors to her ill-health and pain, due to long years of defective upkeep, work and housing related issues.

This report attempts to objectively evaluate the physical environment the young elephant inhabits and the opportunities that may be present for her wellbeing and health. The same as been accomplished through direct observations, discussions with her mahout and authorities and study of the elephant's work and daily routine.

Acknowledgements

We thank the PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden Shri G.S. Prabhu, for giving us the permission to conduct the study and evaluation of Yashasvi. The Deputy Conservator of Forests Mangalore, Assistant Conservator of Forest Shri. Dinesh Kumar in Subramanya, Range Forest Officer Shri. Balakrishna .M made necessary arrangements for the AWBI & CUPA representative to observe and evaluate the elephant's welfare status. Temple authorities viz. the Assistant Executive Officer Shri. B. Gangayya, Shri. N.Padmanabh Shethgar K.S.S temple manager and the elephant mahout Shri. Guruprasad shared important information on the elephants housing, upkeep and maintenance, Shri. Srikrishna made the necessary arrangements in the temple for investigation. Forest guards Shri.Chandbadsha Mulla and Shri.Parashuram B. accompanied the representatives throughout the monitoring activities.

To all the officials and temple authorities we extend our thanks for their co-operation and support.

Executive summary

Elephant Yashaswi was gifted to the Kukke Subramanya Temple in 2007. She was brought at the age of 3.9 years, purchased from an owner in Assam (*see appendix III for ownership details*). Temple Elephant Yashasvi was observed over two days, with detailed notes on her housing, feeding, watering and work routine.

Elephant Yashaswi's acquisition from a private owner implies separation from a mother and herd at a very young age. Further, she was transported to a new and foreign environment (*see appendix III for transport details*) which implies transition to a location not considered ideal for elephant keeping. Rating for this parameter was 1.5, indicating a deviation of 75% from standards considered satisfactory in captivity.

The elephant shed is a combination of metal, concrete, stone, cement, plastic – all material considered totally inappropriate for an elephant shelter. Overall MR for shelter was 0.3, showing a deviation of 96% from ER.

Water is rationed in buckets with consequent less urination and defecation by the elephant. She is bathed and watered in the same place, with the same vessel. Though there is a river, she is not taken there for any activity. Overall MR for water was 2.1, showing a deviation of 74% from ER.

Since the elephant showed signs of sleep after food during noon (1.30PM) and also at night, this was unnaturally more than elephants do in the wild. It could be caused by high levels of boredom and inactivity. MR for sleeping place was 0.5 showing a deviation of 94% from ER for this parameter.

The elephant is used to being walked 5 kms on the tar road near temple premises for 2 hours. Overall MR for walk was 4, showing a deviation of 46% from ER.

Elephant was kept in social isolation. MR for this parameter was 0.0, showing 100% deviation from prescribed norms.

Since the elephant showed signs of stereotypy while she was chained in her shelter, MR for occurrence of stereotypy was 0.0, showing 100% deviation from ER.

The elephant was not left for free-ranging. MR was 0.0 implying 100% deviation from ER.

The elephant was used for temple rituals for two hours daily, in many unnatural positions like folding legs, nodding, pulling ropes etc. The elephant then was fed with prasadam and used for blessing and begging. Overall MR for work was 3.8 showing a deviation of 53% from ER.

The elephant is fed with 16 kg of cooked rations, 20 kgs of fruits and vegetables and 100 kg of natural grasses and leaves. During her walk the elephant went to shops and house gates and stood waiting for people to give her biscuits, fruits and chapatti (cooked wheat). Overall MR for food, combining both parameters together, was 3.5 with a deviation of 61% from ER.

The elephant went into heat cycle for the first time on 21st of July 2013 (during inspection). This was confirmed by the veterinary doctor to the mahout over phone. MR for occurrence of oestrus was 8.0, showing no deviation from ER.

Veterinarian was available and visited the elephant once in a month. He was unavailable during time of visit. Overall MR for veterinary care, combining both parameters together, was 7.0 with a deviation of 22% from ER.

Pooling all observed parameters together, MR was 2.8 showing a deviation of 66% from ER. 75% of the parameters show a deviation of 50% or more from ER. 58% of observed parameters show deviation of 75% or more from ER; each of these is distributed across constituents of captivity, i.e., shelter, water, food, chaining, movement (walk), social interaction and work.

This implies absence of satisfactory conditions across components of captivity which in turn will have an interactive effect on the physical and psychological health of the elephant.

A single mahout, who is unmarried and educated, looks after the elephant. His current salary is Rs. 3000/- from where he has taken out a private insurance policy. No cawadi or helper is engaged. Present experience as mahout is 9 years and uses stick and wooden ankush as tools to control the elephant.

Overall rating for mahout, pooling all parameters together, was 5.7 with a deviation of 29% from ER.

Recommendations

The recommendations are made keeping in mind an elephant's natural and social living behaviours, its biology, ethology and cognitive skills and its immense intelligence and ability to experience grief, boredom and fear in the same measure as humans.

The elephant shed, with 50x50 ft flooring, without walls, with thatch lining metal roof, should be made part of a 3-4 acre area with trees and grass, cordoned off with solar fencing. It should act as a chain-free corral system, allowing the elephant to roam freely within. The shed should act as her feeding station and to encourage movement and exploration, food should be placed at different parts of the fenced area. Tethering areas should be identified in different spots, with earth and mud floors, keeping in mind the nature of foot pad of the elephant which is damaged on cement, concrete or tarred surfaces.

A cemented water tank, 5ft x 5ft x 4ft should be filled with clean potable drinking water at all times, available at will to the elephant. The bucket system needs to be discontinued since it is inconvenient and restrictive for the animal. Water testing to detect contaminants should be done periodically.

The elephant needs to be bathed in the river. The habit of bathing in the shed needs to be discontinued with immediate effect. For ideal bathing, the elephant has to be immersed in the water and scrubbed with brush or local materials for flaking off dead skin, parasites and other irritants. This is also a time of bonding between the elephant and mahout and at least two hours of the day should be reserved for this activity.

The elephant's daily walk should be a minimum of two hours in the morning and 2 hours in the evening on forest and mud roads. Tarred areas and concrete pathways should be strictly avoided. This is the foremost reason for all foot related veterinary problems that occur in captive elephants. The coolest hours of the day are the recommended time for walking - sunrise and sunset - to avoid the hottest parts of the day since elephants are susceptible to direct sunlight.

Yashaswi's work routine needs immediate and urgent reform. An elephant's limbs are **not** meant to be folded or contorted. Its natural position is straight and unlike other herbivores, it does not kneel down to graze. Regular kneeling, folding, bowing, nodding head, walking backwards etc. will lead to health ailments, like arthritis, bone deformities, joint pains and many other conditions at an older age. It may be relevant to remember here, that older elephant, Indumathi, from the same temple, died with severe and painful arthritis.

All the activities of the temple like ringing bells, bowing, kneeling etc are performance based and hence not in line with the housing of a wild animal like the elephant. It is recommended to discontinue the use of the elephant for all these purposes and for exhibition to the public and devotees.

Public should not be allowed to feed the elephant with random foods like sweets, fruits and rice. Its only feeding has to be in its enclosure, supervised by the mahout and rations specially weighed and given.

Cooked food - rice and ragi totalling approximately 16 kg, is inappropriate for a young elephant. This will incline her towards obesity and other diet related health problems. The recommendation is to substitute and wean her away gradually towards green grass, hay for roughage and fodder, seasonal fruits and vegetables in small quantities and raw rice in either grass or hay, to be fed as "kuchlis". An adult elephant eats approximately 250 kgs of food per day. Keeping in view that she is a sub-adult, a professional diet chart should be made by an elephant knowledgeable veterinarian and the same should be adhered to strictly without any other food ingested by way of begging in shops or handout by devotees in the temple premises.

Since the elephant is coming into natural oestrus cycles, her introduction to female elephants and males occasionally in forest camps would be beneficial for her mental and physical health.

Veterinarian was absent during time of visit. Veterinarian's knowledge of elephant welfare would be an added advantage in order to guide the temple authorities towards her improved management and dietary requirements.

It is recommended that mahout's salary be increased along with the responsibility of following directives issued from time to time by the committee members. It is advisable to appoint a cawadi or helper to assist the mahout in day to day activities, in view of any emergency or incident whereby the mahout may be unable to attend to his work for a span of few days.

It is recommended that a committee be formed comprising of representatives from the AWBI, Temple management, Forest Department and local SPCA to formulate and monitor the activities and living conditions of the elephant, from time to time. This would help the management to improve the welfare status of the elephant.

Introduction

Elephant Yashaswi was gifted to the Kukke Subramanya Temple in 2007. She was brought at the age of 3 years, purchased from an owner in Assam. The temple has no Ownership Certificate, though her donor was granted Transport Permit to have her trucked from Assam to Karnataka, a distance of approximately 2,500 km.

There were no inquiries made as to the expertise of the temple in keeping elephants nor was the status of their previous elephant enquired into. In 2003, the WLPA passed the Wildlife Stock Rules wherein no new Ownership Certificates could be issued without taking into account Section 42 which need to details the terms of housing, upkeep and maintenance. An All India survey of captive elephants conducted by CUPA-ANCF (Varma, et al., 2009) showed overall welfare rating for elephants in temples in Karnataka was 3.2. This specific rating was relatively low in comparison with other management regimes such as forest camps.

From time to time, public complaints bring focus on the management and work conditions of the temple elephants. This investigation has been in response to such a matter pertaining to this specific animal by the Animal Welfare Board of India, MoEF, Govt of India which requested the PCCF & CWW of Karnataka to permit an authorised representative to visit and submit detailed evaluation of the conditions prevailing at the temple. This investigation documents the initial procurement of the captive elephant, itself an aberration of welfare, to the many unnatural and abnormal conditions that it is subject to for a lifetime.

Objective

The captive conditions experienced by the female elephant Yashaswi in Kukke subrahmanya temple were observed and relevant data collected to assess the welfare status of the elephant in terms of prevailing physical, biological and psychological parameters.

The objective of the report is to demonstrate to the government authorities, temple management and policy makers the reality of the negative conditions that most of these elephants are subject to. Refusal to engage themselves with the situation will only worsen the conditions of these most iconic of India's mega species leading to unnecessary suffering and their untimely demise. We sincerely hope that this evaluation and documentation of temple elephants will prompt stakeholders to play an important role in redefining the role of elephants in religious institutions.

The role has to be additionally studied in view of the commercial usage that the elephants are routinely used for – as an instrument for attracting devotees, donations to temple and mahouts subsequently, begging from shops and public and other such related activities. Against the framework of law and the ethics of using a wild animal as a source of revenue, the presence of elephants in temples needs to be debated and questioned.

Method

Welfare in captivity can be assessed in different ways. Even though maintained in captivity, elephants cannot be considered to domesticated (Lair, 1997). Thus, maintaining a species by imposing alien captive conditions would impose changes in the physical and biological environment of the animal. It is this difference between conditions in captivity, evaluated as

separate parameters, and those experienced by its wild counterparts that is considered to lead to poor welfare conditions for the captive elephant. Captive conditions were subjected to a rating scale developed by a team of experts, from wildlife biologists to welfare activists, (Varma, 2008; Varma, et al., 2008; Varma and Prasad, 2008). The rating was then used to assess the welfare status of elephants and mahouts/ cawadis by comparing Expert Rating- ER (considered satisfactory for captive conditions) with Mean Rating- MR (rating of actual conditions). The premise is greater the difference between ER and MR, poorer the welfare status of the animal.

Results

Ratings for the observed parameters are presented:

Origin

- Born on 18-07-2004 this female elephant “Yashaswi” is said to be gifted to the Kukke Subhramanya temple in Sullia district, Mangalore by Shri. B.S. Anand Singh, Vaishnavi Minerals Hotel Shivananda, College Road, Hosapet, Bellary on 29-12-2007. She was 5 years old when the temple received her. The donor has said that he has also gifted a female calf to tirupati tirumala temple (named as Vyshnavi).
- The original owner of the animal is named Ms.Saiful Bibi W/O Mr.Noimuddin From Nahargaon Village, Doboka Post, Nahargaon District (Assam).
- Previously the elephant was named as “Jan” and on request by Shri B.S. Anand Singh, Kukke Subhramanya temple authorities renamed her as “Yashaswi”. The elephant also has a micro chip number “00064F2864” and was transported on road by truck from Pipra (Gopalgunj)-Patna-Ranchi-Bhubaneshwar-Vishakapatanam-Vijaywada-Chittur-Bangalore-**Dharmasthala** (Karnataka) from 27-09-2007 to 16-10-2007
- Previously the temple had a adult female elephant named indumati which is said to have been received as per Forest Department Order Number A.F.D 51/F.W.L.69 dated 30-06-1969. Indumati died due to illness/disease (*see appendix II for newspaper article and photo*)

Rating for this parameter was 1.5, indicating a deviation of 75% from standards considered satisfactory in captivity.

Shelter



Elephant shed



Dung was dumped in a pit next to shed



Space available in front of the shed



Elephant feeding in the shed



(Left) Space behind elephant was used to store fodder. (right) Roof height in shelter



Shed flooring showing dismantled stone surface behind elephant

- The elephant was provided with a concrete shelter of approximately 20Ft in height width and breadth.
- Flooring was made of stones and cement. Many places in the flooring stone slabs were loosely fixed and were moving when stepped on it.
- A metal gate to the enclosure to prevent people from entering in to the elephant shed.
- Plastic sheets were used to prevent rain water falling on the entrance of the shed.
- Mahouts house was built adjacent to the elephant shed.

This parameter was rated across three sub-parameters— shelter type, floor type and shade type. Figure 1 and 2 show comparison between ER and MR and percentage deviation from ER, respectively. It can be observed that deviation was more than 90% for the observed parameters.

Overall MR for shelter was 0.3 (se= 0.2, n=3), showing a deviation of 96% from ER.

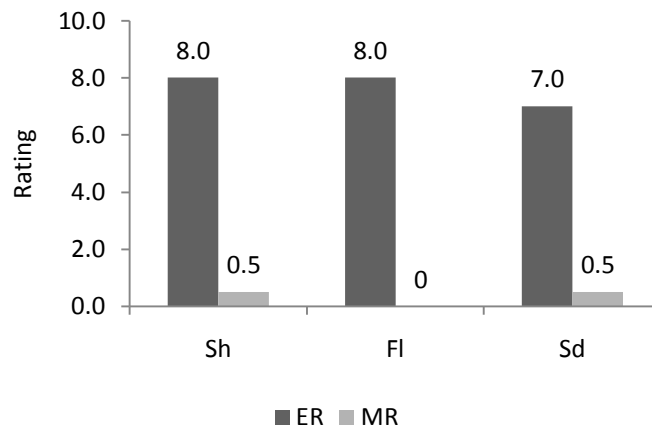


Figure 1: Comparison between ER and MR for shelter

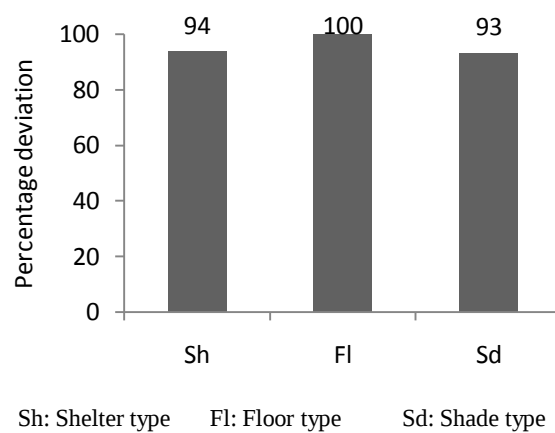
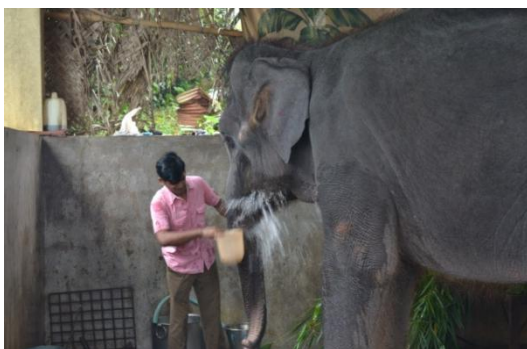


Figure 2: Percentage deviation from ER for shelter

Water and related parameters



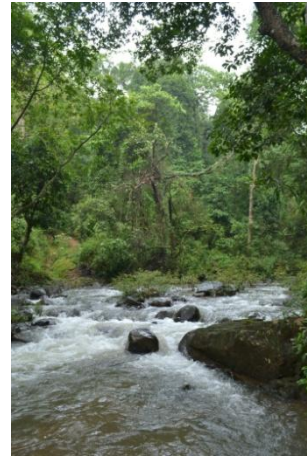
Mahout washing elephant using plastic jug and metal vessel



Plastic drum used to store water for elephant



Elephant drinking from metal vessel



Perennial water source near temple



Another view of water source



Elephant playing in water

- Water was provided in a metal vessel to drink and the same water was used to wash the elephant.
- The elephant was given water three times a day and one metal vessel full every time.
- Urination and defecation frequencies were very less. The elephant urinated only once in a day and twice in the night during two days of observation.
- The elephant defecated only at night during inspection.
- Though Kukke Subhramanya is located in Western Ghats and has many perennial water source the elephant was not used to drinking or bathing from nearby stream or river.
- When taken to a nearby water source the animal clearly showed lack of understanding as to what to do with water and played in it as the mahout walked her into the stream.

This parameter was rated across three sub-parameters— source of water, number of times the elephant consumed water (or was provided water to drink) and bathing place. Figure 3 and 4 show comparison between ER and MR and percentage deviation from ER, respectively.

Overall MR for water was 2.1 (se= 1.5, n=3), showing a deviation of 74% from ER.

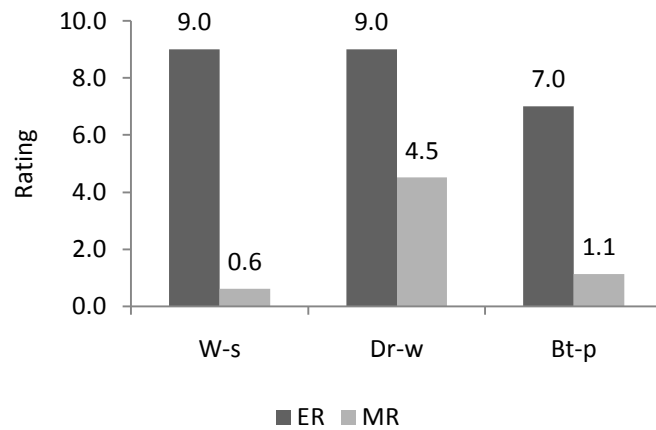
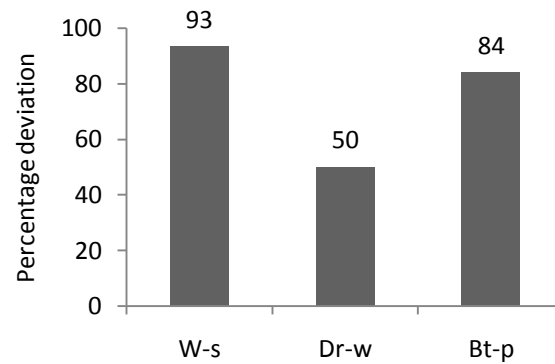


Figure 3: Comparison between ER and MR for water



W-s: Water source

Dr-w: Number of times drinking water

Bt-p: Bathing place

Figure 4: Percentage deviation from ER for water

Sleep and related parameters

- The elephant showed signs of sleep after food during noon (1.30PM)
- Elephant slept at night as well

MR for sleeping place was 0.5 showing a deviation of 94% from ER for this parameter.

Walk and related parameters



Walking on mud in front of elephant shed



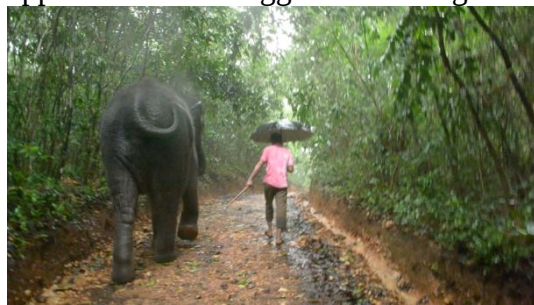
Walking on tar road near temple



Approach road to suggested walking route



Mud path in suggested route



Forested mud road on the way to water stream



Scope of foraging, elephant trying to de-bark a tree while on her way to suggested water source

- The elephant walked on the road, near temple premises.
- A natural water source and mud road was identified and shown to the mahout during the inspection.
- Current walking route consisted of tar roads and confined walking space for the elephant.
- There is a constant fear of wild elephants that was repeatedly expressed by the mahout and hence had stopped taking elephant on walk in forested areas.
- The elephant was made to walk for 3Km during the inspection in forested area from 4PM to 5PM.
- Elephant attendance records showed that the elephant has been walked from 4PM to 6PM and for 5KM (See annexure---)

This parameter was rated across three sub-parameters— opportunity to walk, nature of terrain and distance walked. Figure 5 and 6 show comparison between ER and MR and percentage deviation from ER, respectively.

Overall MR for walk was 4.3 (se= 3.2, n=3), showing a deviation of 46% from ER.

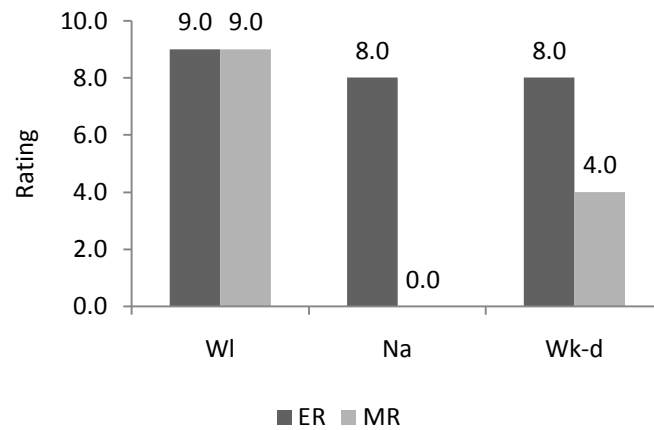
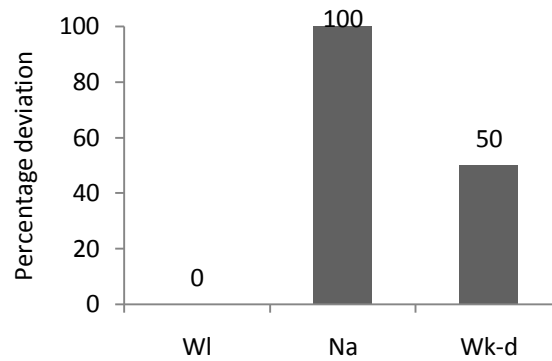


Figure 5: Comparison between ER and MR for walk



WI: Opportunity to walk

Na: Nature of terrain

Wk-d: Distance walked

Figure 6: Percentage deviation from ER for walk

Social interaction

Elephant was kept in social isolation.

MR for this parameter was 0.0, showing 100% deviation from prescribed norms.

Observed Behaviour





Stereotypic behaviour shown by the elephant while she stood in her shed. Top left (swinging to left) top right and bottom left (swinging to right, notice front left leg of elephant of same position) Bottom right (swinging back to left)

- The elephant showed signs of stereotypy while she was chained in her shelter (concrete shed with tiled roofing)
- It was observed that the elephant did not show any signs of stereotypy during rest of the activities other than while she was in the shelter.
- The elephant started swinging whenever she went into her regular standing position in the shelter (see figure above)
- During her temple rituals (work) she did not show any signs of stereotypy even while she was standing in front of the deity for more than 15 minutes while she immediately went into stereotypy after walking into her shed though she was not chained.
- It is possible that the elephant, from a very young age, had been chained in a confined place for a long time and had no scope of activities. This animal subsequently developed stereotypy.

MR for occurrence of stereotypy was 0.0, showing 100% deviation from ER.

Free-ranging status

- The elephant was not left for free-ranging

MR was 0.0 implying 100% deviation from ER.

Work type



Elephant blessing devotees in temple



Elephant kneeling down while doing gajapooja (location1)



Elephant kneeling down while doing gajapooja (location 2)



Elephant kneeling down while doing gajapooja (location 3)



Elephant lifting leg and saluting the deity



Elephant blessing priest in temple

- The elephant was used for temple rituals from 11AM to 12PM and 7PM to 8PM
- During the rituals elephant rang huge gong bell for 3 minutes and 45 seconds using her trunk and nodding her head while people stood in close vicinity of the elephant. Elephant kneeled down and saluted (gajapooja) the deity.
- The elephant then was fed with prasadam (4Kgs of cooked rice)
- Later elephant performed gajapooja in three different places at the temple.
- Elephant blessed people while she walked in and out of the temple and people offered her banana and money.
- Elephant went for walk from 4 to 5 PM during the observation and walked for 3Kms
- Elephant stood in its shed on stone flooring rest of the time in a day.
- Foraging and feeding are the other activities that elephant did while it was in its shed

This parameter was rated across four sub-parameters— work type, duration, time of work and food availability while working. Figure 7 and 8 show comparison between ER and MR and percentage deviation from ER, respectively.

Overall MR for work was 3.8 (se= 1.9, n=4), showing a deviation of 53% from ER.

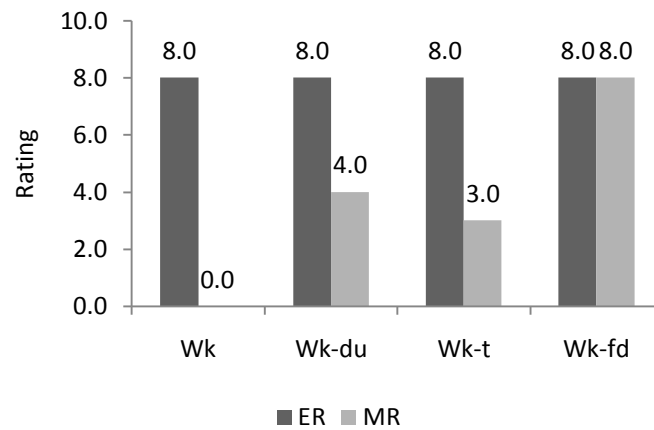
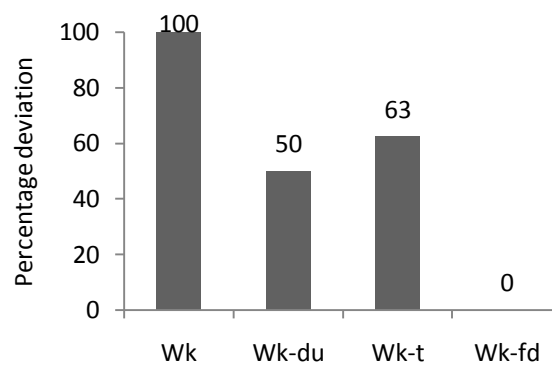


Figure 7: Comparison between ER and MR for work



Wk: Work type

Wk-du: Work duration

Wk-t: Time of work

Wk-fd: Food during work

Figure 8: Percentage deviation from ER for walk

Provision of food



Bamboo being supplied as one of the food source for elephant



Horse gram stored in container as food source for elephant



Elephant being fed with chapatti (cooked wheat)



Elephant being fed with Marie biscuits in shop



Elephant being fed with vegetables in shop



Elephant being fed with pineapple at a house



Elephant fed with cooked and mashed horsegram



Rice offered to elephant after gajapooja in temple

- The elephant is fed with 5Kgs cooked rice, 7Kgs of cooked ragi, 8 Kgs of horse gram, 20Kgs of fruits and vegetables and 100Kgs of grass, ficus and bamboo. The elephant received approximately 50 gms salt in her diet
- During her walk the elephant went to shops and house gates and stood waiting for people to give her biscuits, fruits and chapatti (cooked wheat)
- The elephant was fed with approximately 4 Kgs of rice after her pooja in the main temple.
- During her time in shelter the elephant was fed with cooked ragi, horse gram, bamboo, jackfruit tree, palm and banyan tree branches.

MR for food provision type, i.e., allowed to forage in forest or provided stall feed, was 0.0 implying 100% deviation from ER. MR for number of food items provided was 7.0, with a deviation of 22% from ER.

Overall MR for food, combining both parameters together, was 3.5 (n=2) with a deviation of 61% from ER.

Reproductive status

- The elephant went into heat cycle for the first time on 21st of July 2013 (during inspection). This was confirmed by the veterinary doctor to the mahout over phone. MR for occurrence of oestrus was 8.0, showing no deviation from ER.

Health status and veterinary care

- Veterinarian was available and visited the elephant once in a month.
- Veterinarian was on leave during the inspection

MR for veterinary care was 9.0 implying 0% deviation from ER. MR for frequency of veterinarian's visit was 5.0, with a deviation of 44% from ER.

Overall MR for veterinary care, combining both parameters together, was 7.0 (n=2) with a deviation of 22% from ER.

Overall rating for elephant

Pooling all observed parameters together, MR was 2.8 (se= 0.7, n= 24) showing a deviation of 66% from ER. Figure 9 represents percentage deviation for each of the parameters observed, arranged in order of minimum to maximum.

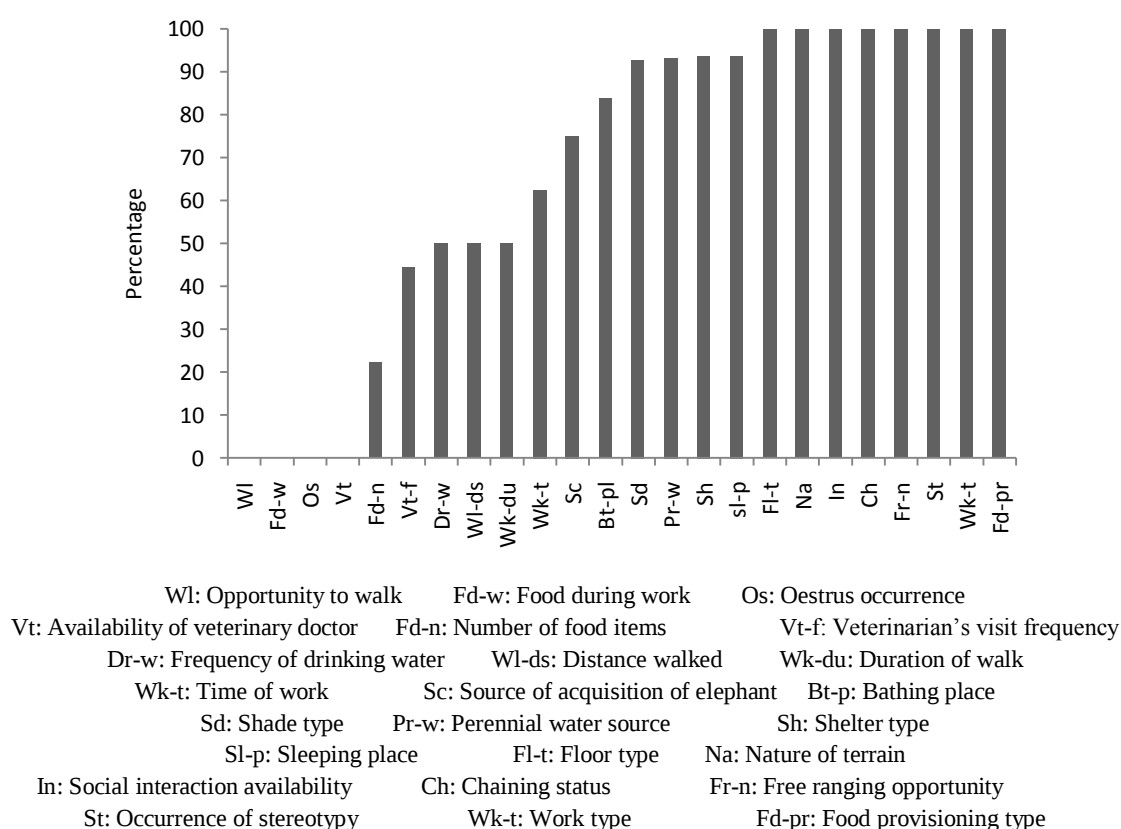


Figure 9: Percentage deviation across observed parameters

The figure shows that 75% of the parameters (n= 24) show a deviation of 50% or more from ER. 58% of observed parameters show deviation of 75% or more from ER; each of these is distributed across constituents of captivity, i.e., shelter, water, food, chaining, movement (walk), social interaction and work. This implies absence of satisfactory conditions across components of captivity which in turn will have an interactive effect on the physical and psychological health of the elephant. An All India survey of captive elephants conducted CUPA-ANCF (Varma, et al., 2009) showed overall welfare rating for elephants in temples in Karnataka was 3.2 (se= 0.3, n= 58) and this rating was relatively low in comparison with other management regimes such as Forest camps, Zoos and Private owners.

Status of infrastructure

- The mahout was given a house that was adjacent to elephant shed. Food for elephant was cooked in the same place where the mahout stayed.
- Mahouts parents lived in kukke subrahmanya town and provided food on daily basis to the mahout.

Mahout/cawadi status



Mahout house adjacent to elephant shed



Mahout decorating elephant before taking it to temple



Mahout Guruprasad

- Mahout's name Guruprasad, Age 26yrs, unmarried.
- Mahout has done his SSLC and is currently getting a salary of three thousand rupees per month. Current expectations of salary are eight thousand rupees.
- The mahout has done his insurance on his own.
- Cawadi is not appointed to the elephant.
- Mahout did not have any influence from alcoholism or smoking
- Responded well for inspection and showed lack of experience in controlling the elephant during critical times. Present experience as mahout is 9 years.
- Mahout used stick and wooden ankush as tools to control the elephant.

Overall rating for mahout, pooling all parameters together, was 5.7 with a deviation of 29% from ER. Figure 10 depicts the comparative ratings for observed parameters and figure 11 shows the percentage deviation for the same.

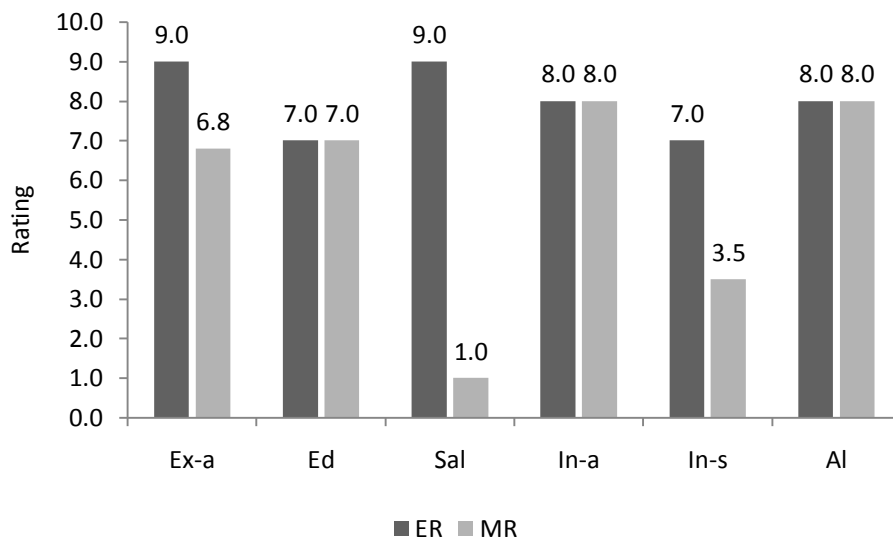
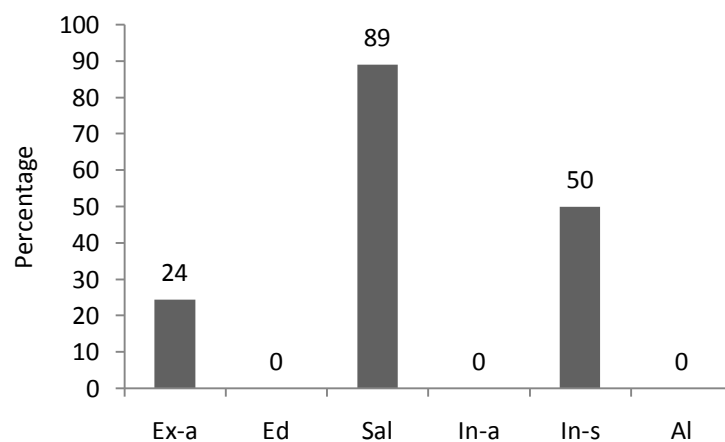


Figure 10: Comparison between ER and MR for Mahout's professional and socio-economic status



Ex-a: Experience (as fraction of mahout age) Ed: Education status Sal: Salary drawn
 In-a: Insurance availability In-s: Insurance source Al: Alcohol consumption

Figure 11: Percentage deviation for professional and socio-economic status

While mahout's professional experience showed less than 25% deviation from ER, his salary and insurance cover indicated 89% and 50% difference from ER. These two features, namely, salary and provision of insurance cover by employers, if perceived to be less than satisfactory by employees, can lead to discontent and disinterest in his profession.

Conclusion

This report is an attempt to scientifically evaluate and analyse the current housing, living and work conditions of the elephant, Yashaswi, at the Kukke Subramanya Temple. It is also meant to explore possibilities of immediate and long term improvement in the quality of her life. There are many recommendations of purely practical nature which, if implemented, is guaranteed to add years of good health and mental well being for the elephant. The recommendations have been designed to integrate as much of natural life as is possible in captivity, without totally compromising all her natural instincts, and behaviour as an elephant, which is usually the case with elephants in religious institutions. .

In each of the parameters observed for the elephant at least one feature showed 70% or more deviation from satisfactory standards. Following features need to be provided as a minimum:

- a. A shelter with natural flooring
- b. Opportunity to forage in forest conditions
- c. Access by elephant to free-flowing water to drink/bathe/wallow
- d. Limited duration of work, elephant should not be made to bless or beg from devotees
- e. Opportunity to interact with other elephants
- f. Detailed maintenance of medical history of the elephant

For mahout:

- a. Increase in salary provided
- b. Provision of insurance cover by employer (temple)
- c. Greater interaction between management and mahout regarding not only mahout's economic standing but elephant husbandry

Reference

1. Varma, S. (2008) Identifying and defining welfare parameters for captive elephants and their mahouts in India, In: Welfare and management of elephants in Captivity: Proceedings of a Workshop on Welfare Parameters and their Significance for Captive Elephants and their Mahouts in India. (S. Varma and D. Prasad, eds.), pp. 7-16. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) and Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF), Bangalore, India.
2. Varma, S. and Prasad, D. (2008) Welfare and management of elephants in captivity—insights and recommendations, In: Welfare and management of elephants in Captivity: Proceedings of a Workshop on Welfare Parameters and their Significance for Captive Elephants and their Mahouts in India. (S. Varma and D. Prasad, eds.), pp. 54-64. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India,

Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) and Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF), Bangalore, India.

3. Varma, S., Sujatha S.R., van de Brand, J., Ganguly, S. and Shiela R. (2008) Draft concept note on welfare parameters and their significance for captive elephants and their mahouts in India, In: Welfare and management of elephants in Captivity: Proceedings of a Workshop on Welfare Parameters and their Significance for Captive Elephants and their Mahouts in India. (S. Varma and D. Prasad, eds.), pp. 17-53. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India, Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) and Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF), Bangalore, India
4. Varma, S., Sujata, S.R., Sathyanarayana, M.C., Easwaran, E. K., Rajeev, T.S., Agarwa, M., Mohanraj, N., and Bhanage, N. (2009). An Investigation into the Status, Management and Welfare Significance, CUPA/ANCF-Technical Report No 13. Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) and Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF), Bangalore, India

Appendix I

GRAM : JIVABANDHU

Phone: 044-2457 1024

044-245 / 1025

Fax : 044-245 / 1016



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

(Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)

Post Box No. 8672

13/1, Third Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvannamiyur, Chennai - 600 041.

Email : awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in

No.9-1/2013-14/PCA

Dated 11th July, 2013

The Secretary,
Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA)
KVAFSU-CUPA Animal Shelter
Veterinary College Campus, Hebbal,
Bangalore-560 024.
E-mail: suparnaganguly@gmail.com

Sir

Sub: Authorization for inspecting an Elephant named Yashaswi in Kukke Subramanya Temple in Mangalore District, Karnataka – Reg.

With reference to the subject cited above, I am to inform that Board has been informed of complaints about the treatment of a young female elephant named Yashaswi housed at Kukke Subramanya Temple in Mangalore District, Karnataka and am directed to forward herewith the authorization letter to CUPA for carrying out an inspection of the Elephant named Yashaswi at the temple regarding its upkeep, work, health and maintenance and welfare conditions.

You are requested to kindly inspect the elephant along with an official of the Forest Department (to be assigned by the Chief WLW) and submit a detailed report to the Board with a copy to the Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka. Kindly treat this matter as most urgent for further necessary action and acknowledge receipt of the same.

Yours faithfully,


(S. UMA RANI)
Secretary

Copy to:

1) Shri G.S. Prabhu, IFS, Chief Wildlife Warden & PCCF (WL), Government of Karnataka, 61, Aranya Bhawan, IInd Floor, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru 560 003. Tel.: 08023341993/23345846 Fax: 080-23346389. E-mail: pccfwl@gmail.com – with a request to kindly depute an official of the Forest Department to carry out the inspection of the Elephant Yashaswi at Kukke Subramanya Temple in Mangalore District along with the representative(s) of CUPA, Bangalore

2) Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, AWBI.

Encl. as above.

Authorisation letter (page 1) given by AWBI for Yashaswi's inspection

GRAM : JIVABANDHU

Phone: 044-2457 1024

044-2457 1025

Fax : 044-2457 1016



ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

(Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)

Post Box No. 8672

13/1, Third Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvannamipur, Chennai - 600 041.

Email : awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in

No.9-1/2013-14/PCA

Dated 10th July, 2013

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

The Board has received complaint that cruelty is being inflicted to a young female elephant named Yashaswi, housed in Kukke Subramanya Temple in Mangalore District, Karnataka.

In this connection the Board hereby authorizes the representative(s) of Compassionate Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA), Bangalore, an NGO recognized by AWBI which is also engaged in the study of Captive elephants in various management regimes in India, to conduct an inspection at the above place and submit a status report of the elephant 'Yashaswi'. The objective of the report is to verify her upkeep, work, health and maintenance and welfare conditions etc...

The report will be technical document, which will be submitted to AWBI with a copy to the Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka.

In this connection, the official(s) of the Temple Administration and Forest/Wildlife Department etc are requested to extend their full co-operation to the authorized representative(s) of CUPA to inspect the elephant, interact with the mahout and observe the animal and submit the report to AWBI and Chief Wildlife Warden & PCCF (WL) regarding its upkeep, work, health and maintenance and welfare conditions.


(S.UMA RANI)
Secretary

The Secretary,
Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA)
KVAFSU-CUPA Animal Shelter
Veterinary College Campus, Hebbal,
Bangalore-560 024.

Shri G.S. Prabhu, IFS,
Chief Wildlife Warden & PCCF (WL), Government of Karnataka,
61, Aranya Bhawan, IInd Floor, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru 560 003.

Authorisation letter (page 2) given by AWBI for Yashaswi's inspection

Appendix II

Tuesday, May 13, 2008 1:27:29 PM (IST)

Like 0 Tweet 0

Sullia: Subrahmanya Temple Elephant 'Indumati' Passes Away

Daijiworld Media Network - Sullia (GA)

Sullia, May 13: Indumati, the elephant of famous Kukke Shree Subrahmanya Temple near here passed away in Subrahmanya on Monday May 12 night.

'Indumati' was indeed a crowd-puller and was attracting devotees in large number with her loving mannerisms. The 50-year-old elephant had been in the service of the famous temple for long. She was the most popular elephant among the devotees even after the arrival of 'Yashaswi', another young elephant which is serving Subrahmanya temple at present.

Indumati used kneel down and even prostrated itself in devotion and adoration, received Gajalakshmi puja offered by devotees. More than these, she used to be the special attraction during almost all the celebrations of the temple. She was the leader of the devotees during special pujas, processions etc. For all the children who came to the temple, 'Indumati' was always a special attraction. Owing to her mild nature and soft mannerisms, children hardly had any problem in approaching Indumati. Accordingly her death has come as a big shock to everybody, including the temple staff who had a very cordial relationship with Indumati for long.

She had been suffering after injuring her leg some five years ago. There were some complaints that she was being neglected a bit after the arrival of young 'Yashaswi'. On Monday morning her caretaker found that she was ailing and finding difficult even to get up. Though veterinary doctor was summoned from Sakleshpur almost immediately by the temple administration, she breathed her last before he arrived. Hundreds of devotees gathered around her and were praying for her recovery during her final hours. But all their prayers, wishes went in vain, as Indumati breathed her last around 12.30 am on Tuesday.

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DECCAN HERALD
Wednesday, May 14, 2008

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Other Headlines

- And now, begins the poll betting...
- Ayurveda college, hospital in city
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- Ole Chandru aske to resign
- AT A GLANCE
- Congress will develop More as IT hub: Sonia
- Subramanya temple elephant Indumathi dies
- Rice ill-informed: Chidambaram
- Two more trains to Blore
- Villagers to boycott polls
- Doddammadevi fest on May 16
- Karnataka is not Gujarat: DBC
- Cong, BJP, JDS are parties of criminal

Deccan Herald » District » Detailed Story

FINAL TRIBUTES PAID
Subramanya temple elephant Indumathi dies

DH News Service, Subrahmanya:

Much admired female elephant of Kukke Sri Subrahmanya Temple, Indumathi, breathed her last on Monday night after a brief illness. Final tributes were paid to the 58-year-old elephant at Nakshatravana on the banks of river Kumaradhara on Tuesday.

Indumathi had recovered from a sore on its stomach recently; but she was suffering from indigestion for the past two days. Unable to respond to the treatments of senior doctor Dr Venkatachalapathy, she passed away at 11.40 pm on Monday, leaving thousands of her admirers amidst grief.

Though it was night, people irrespective of age, gathered at the temple premises in large groups to get a final glimpse of Indumathi. The elephant had a special place during all temple rituals throughout its life. She was a part and parcel of Panchami Ratha and Brahma Ratha celebrations. Junior elephant Yashaswi paid his tributes by offering a garland; meanwhile hundreds of devotees paid their respects by offering cloths and flowers. The dead body was loaded to a lorry by using a crane, and the decorated vehicle was taken in a procession to Nakshatravana.

DECCAN HERALD
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Weather

Newspaper articles reporting earlier elephant Indumathi's death



Indumathi

Previous elephant in Kukke Subrahmanya temple that died due to various health related problems

Appendix III

FORM NO. XV
Rule No 56 Section -42
ASSAM WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) RULES, 1994 - 1997
Certificate of ownership

Owner's Copy
En/11/06

Certificate No. NAC/NS/J.V.R/205 of 2006

Dated- 4-11-2006.

Office of the Conservator of Forests,
Northern Assam Circle: Tezpur.

It is hereby certified that, Mrs. Saiful Bibi, wife of Md. Noim Uddin, Vill-
Nahargaon, P.O. Doboka, P.S.Doboka, Dist.-Nagaon (Assam) has under her control,
custody or possession the following animal.

Item including species from which derived	Description such as sex dimension, weight etc.	Number	Place where kept	Identification marks
1	2	3	4	5
Domestic Elephant (Calf)	Name : Jan. Sex : Female. Bandh: Mirika. Nail: 18 Nos. Tail: Full Height: 1.30 mtr Ear/Eye: Perfect. Age: Date of birth 18-07-04 Purpose: Personal use Microchip No. 00064F2864.	1 (one) No	At her home	Not detected



Place - Tezpur.
Dated-4-11-2006



En/11/06
Signature and designation of the
Issuing Authority
Conservator of Forests
Northern Assam Circle, Tezpur

R. R. Roy
2

Ownership details of Yashaswi with old name "jan"

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS-CUM-CHIEF WILDLIFE
WARDEN, BIHAR, PATNA.

4th Floor, Technology Bhawan, Vishwariya Complex, Baily Road, Patna-15 Bihar.

Memo No. 858 / Patna Date 22.9.07

Permission to Transport the scheduled animal
[See Ss- 40 (2) & 43 (2) of the Wildlife (P) Act, 1972]

Mrs. Saiful Bibi, W/o Md. NoimUddin, Village - Nahargaon, P.O./P.S.- Doboka, Dist. Nagaon(Assam) Presently at: Sri Sumit Kumar Yadav, Vill - Pipra, P.O.- SaraiyanNarendra P.S. - Barauli Dist: Gopalganj hereby granted permission under section 40 (2) of the Wildlife (P) Act, 1972 to transport the scheduled animal of the description and in the manner detailed below:

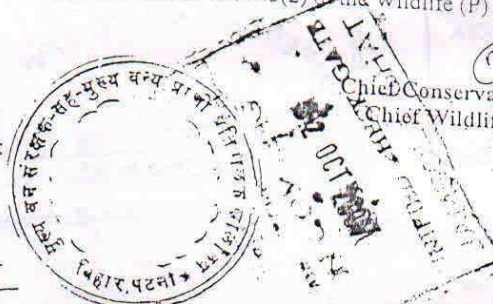
[A] Description of the Scheduled Animal :

- (i) Type of animal - Indian Elephant (Elephas maximus)- Sch I, Part I.
- (ii) Name- Jan, Sex- Female, Height- 1.30 Mtr. Age- 18.07.2004 (DOB)
- (iii) Microchip No: - 00064F2864

[B] Manner of Transport:

- (i) Mode of transport: - By Road.
- (ii) Vehicle used - Truck
- (iii) Route:-Pipra(Gopalganj)/Patna-Ranchi-Bhubneshwar-Vishakhapatnam-Vijaywada-Chitur-Bangalore- Dharamsthala(Karnatka)
- (iv) Period allowed for transportation: 27.09.2007 to 16.10.2007
- (v) The animal in transit shall be examined by a veterinarian after every day during journey and in case of any distress the local forest officials shall be informed at once.
- (vi) On reaching the destination, the concerned authorised officer/Chief Wildlife Warden shall be informed as required U/S -43(2) of the Wildlife (P) Act, 1972.

Seal:
Place-Patna, Date:



रजि. नं० AP74

5558 नाल - से राजा रत्न

मुख्य वन्य प्राणी संरक्षण अधिकारी

संयोजक

सहायक वन्य प्राणी संरक्षण अधिकारी

सहायक

सहायक

सहायक

R. R. P. S.

11/10/07

से. राजा रत्न

1/10/2007

नाडी 10

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Transport permit issued by CCF Bihar, Patna

Project Team

Field Investigators

Ramesh Belagere

Iyaraj .K

Research Team

S. R. Sujata

Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA)

Adviser

Prof. R. Sukumar

Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012

Co-Investigators

Mrs. Suparna Baksi-Ganguly & Dr. Shiela Rao
Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA),
Veterinary College Campus, Hebbal, Bangalore 560 024, &
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre (WRRC),
Bannerghatta Biological Park,
Bangalore – 560083

Principal Investigator

Mr. Surendra Varma

Asian Elephant Research & Conservation Centre (A Division of Asian Nature
Conservation Foundation (ANCF)), Innovation Centre, Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore 560 012



Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) is a non-profit public charitable trust registered in 1991 that works for the welfare of all animals. Since 1994, CUPA has worked in close collaboration with government departments and agencies on various projects. CUPA's mission is to protect animals from abuse and violence and do what may be required to alleviate their suffering at the hands of humans. CUPA does not differentiate among pet, stray or wild animals, since all of them require assistance and relief from cruelty, neglect and harm. The organisation's objective has been to design services and facilities which are employed fully in the realisation of these goals.



Asian Nature Conservation Foundation (ANCF) is a non-profit public charitable trust set up to meet the need for an informed decision-making framework to stem the rapidly declining natural landscape and biological diversity of India and other countries of tropical Asia. The Foundation undertakes activities independently and in coordination with governmental agencies, research institutions, conservation NGOs and individuals from India and abroad, in all matters relating to conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, endangered flora and fauna, wildlife habitats and environment including forests and wetlands. It participates and disseminates the procured information, knowledge and inferences in professional, academic and public fora.



Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (WRRC) is a registered public charitable trust for the welfare of wild animals and birds that often find themselves trapped in an urban environment. The Trust is a sister in concern of CUPA and both organisations complement each other in their services. WRRC was established as a separate Trust in 1999.



Foundation for Ecology and Education Development (FEED) is a registered charitable trust working for the cause of nature conservation and conservation education. Situated in Bangalore, the trust looks forward to impart the knowledge about Ecology and importance of its conservation through education and awareness programmes. Working for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation the organisation provides help in studies regarding welfare and conflict mitigation of captive wildlife as well as the ones' in the wild.



In July 2013, the Animal Welfare Board of India directed their representative to visit the Kukke Subramanya temple, in order to ascertain the living conditions of the young female elephant named Yashaswi in their care. Yashaswi was gifted to the temple when she was 3.9 year old. The elephant with an earlier name “Jan” was later renamed as “Yashaswi. This report attempts to objectively evaluate the physical environment the young elephant inhabits and the opportunities that may be present for her wellbeing and health. The same as been accomplished through direct observations, discussions with her mahout and authorities and study of the elephant’s work and daily routine.

