



Amboseli Trust for Elephants
Amboseli Elephant Research Project
P.O. Box 15135
Langata 00509
Nairobi, Kenya
E-Mail: cmoss@elephanttrust.org
Website: www.elephanttrust.org

9 November 2011
Councillors
Toronto City Council

I am writing to support the decision of the Toronto City Council to move the three elephants at the Zoo to the PAWS Sanctuary in California.

I am the Director of the Amboseli Trust for Elephants and have been studying elephant behaviour and social organization of African elephants for 43 years in Tanzania and Kenya, but particularly in the Amboseli ecosystem. I study elephants as individuals and have followed the lives of over 2500 known elephants.

I understand the pain that the move is causing the elephant keepers. I know they care deeply for the elephants that they have been responsible for, because I personally know how it feels to lose elephants that one has known for many years. At the same time I would ask them to think of what is best for those elephants—another zoo with inadequate space and a life with little exercise and freedom of movement or the rolling hills of central California with sunshine, huge grassy fields and lakes to swim in?

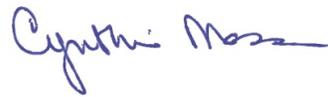
I have been to PAWS several times and I am always immensely impressed watching those elephants looking and acting like free-ranging elephants in Africa and Asia. Everything about their postures and behaviors (and I am an expert on elephant behaviour) indicate contentment and well-being. It is truly amazing what happens to elephants when they go to PAWS.

A good example is the case of Maggie, an African elephant. I was sent a video several years ago of Maggie at the Anchorage Zoo asking for my opinion of her condition. Watching it actually brought tears to my eyes. She was lethargic and distressed--she had continuous temporal gland secretion, her head hung low and she showed no interest in anything. Her body condition looked unhealthy to me—thin but bloated. Eventually she was sent to PAWS but not before collapsing and being unable to get up. Last year I saw Maggie at PAWS. She was a totally different elephant. Her eyes were bright, she carried her head in the normal way, and she

took an interest in everything around her. Best of all she had companions, two other African elephants who had clearly bonded closely with her.

I have no hesitation in saying that PAWS is an excellent facility for elephants. I hope the keepers will visit PAWS and see for themselves the condition, both physical and psychological, of the elephants there. I think they would be reassured that "their" elephants would have the best possible care of any place in North America. I urge them strongly to reconsider their stand. At the same time I urge the Toronto City Council to stand by the excellent decision they made.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia Moss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia Moss, Director