



# Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release  
*Video Footage Available*

Date: March 11, 2004  
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## **Animal Advocates Testify Before SF Commission To Encourage Zoo To Move Elephants to Sanctuary**

*San Francisco, CA. . . .* Tonight, In Defense of Animals (IDA) and Citizens for Cruelty-Free Entertainment will urge the San Francisco Commission of Animal Control and Welfare to pass a resolution urging the San Francisco Zoo to immediately transfer to a sanctuary the remaining three elephants (Tinkerbelle, Maybelle and Lulu).

Presentations will be made and documents provided that outline the urgency for the relocation, of the three remaining elephants at the San Francisco Zoo, to a sanctuary setting where they can have access to a more proper environment which would include freedom of movement and access to a variety of natural substrates and live vegetation which is essential to the healing of the painful joint and foot problems the three elephants are currently suffering from.

**What: Testimony to Commission Urging Immediate Action to Move Elephants at Zoo**

**When: Thursday, March 11, 2004 @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Where: SF City Hall City Hall, Room 408 (fourth floor)**

Available at the Commission meeting will be medical records that document the health condition of Calle, Tinkerbelle, Maybelle and Lulu. Videotape and photos of the elephants will be available.

“After reading the medical records of Calle, Tinkerbelle, Maybelle, and Lulu there is no doubt in my mind that these animals have been subjected to the worse of neglect,” said Elliot Katz, DVM, president of In Defense of Animals. “They literally have been in pain from foot and joint problems for years; the public not realizing because the pain has been masked for years with painkillers and anti-inflammatory drugs as the joint and foot diseases progressed.”

“The absence of walking ...must have dramatic long-term effect on the elephants physical and mental stability and must ultimately affect its longevity and propagation.”

--1998, USDA elephant course document

“Tinkerbelle, Maybelle and Lulu were all taken from the wild and brought to the San Francisco Zoo in 1968 and 1962. They all have documented health problems which are caused by the captive environment and if they are not transferred to a sanctuary they will suffer the same fate as Calle,” said Deniz Bolbol, member of Citizens for Cruelty-Free Entertainment. “The Zoo, knowing about these health problems for years, has not done the best they can for the elephants – which is to give them to a sanctuary where they can have a chance at good health.”

The groups continue to press for the transfer to a sanctuary of Tinkerbelle, now the park’s lone Asian elephant, as well as Maybelle and Lulu, the two African elephants at the zoo.

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