

*Asian Elephant*  
*Elephas maximus*

***House Name: Emily*****Buttonwood Park Zoo Accession #:** 4**Studbook Number:****Date of Birth:** estimated 1964**Sex:** Female**Weight:** 8900 lb.**Diet:** Daily- Hay- Free choice

Mazuri Elephant Supplement

Produce- 13-15lb

Glycoflex

**Collection History:**

Birth Place was reportedly Thailand. She was acquired in April of 1968 from Southwicks and housed alone at the Buttonwood Park Zoo until November of 1983. In 1983 she was relocated to Baton Rouge Zoo until July of 1985 when she was returned to the BPZ and has remained until present. A second elephant "Ruth" was acquired in 1986 as a companion.

**Physical Characteristics:**

Emily has tusks which require periodic trimming/filing.

**Medical History:**

Overall, this animal is in good health. She is a solid and powerful animal. Over the last two years we have seen a slight decrease in the range of motion in her front carpal joints. It is most evident in the morning and appears to improve as she moves around during the day. She is currently not on any medications and responds well to exercise. In 2012 the barn floor was removed and replaced with a soft substrate (sand). Previously, she chose to lie down only on her left side and as a result had a chronic hip sore. Due to the mechanical causative agents, the sore was extremely resistant to treatment. With the removal of the concrete floor covered with mats and the addition of large sand piles, we have observed that Emily will now lay down on both sides. The hip and head sores have shown marked improvement as have the condition of her feet and her range of motion.

This animal is TB negative.

**Behavior/Training History:**

Emily is a dominant and strong willed animal. Patience and persistence in addition to comprehensive training plans are required as physical dominance or discipline has little effect. When scared or nervous, Emily will look to her handler for reassurance. This elephant does not interact well with other dominant cows. She either does not recognize or chooses not to exhibit appropriate behavioral responses in a herd setting. Displacement of the subordinate elephant and handlers has been observed when Emily becomes “frustrated”. Easily bored, she requires a lot of behavioral and environmental enrichment.

Positive reinforcement in the form of verbal praise, physical contact and food rewards go a long way with Emily. Tone of voice and physical cueing are also invaluable tools during training. Emily responds better to a firm tone of voice than to repeated physical cueing.

Overall, she is an affectionate animal, very vocal and tactile, willing to work and eager to cooperate with the handlers.

**Incident Reports**

None for the last 5 years

*Asian Elephant*  
*Elephas maximus*

**House Name: Ruth****Buttonwood Park Zoo Accession #: 5****House Name: Ruth****Date of Birth:** estimated 1958**Sex:** Female**Weight:** 7600 lb.**Studbook Number:****Diet:** Daily- Hay- free choice

Mazuri Elephant Supplement

Produce 13-15lb

Glycoflex

**Collection History:**

Collected from the wild- unknown location. This elephant was owned by Benson's Wild Animal Farm. She was sold to a private owner in 1978 and subsequently confiscated by the Animal Rescue League of Boston and USDI, and placed at the Buttonwood Park Zoo in 1986.

**Physical Characteristics:**

Compared to Emily, Ruth is much smaller in size and much quicker in her movements than Emily. Ruth also has small peg-like tusches not visible above the lip line.

**Medical History:**

Overall, this animal is in good health. She has a partial paralysis in her trunk (pre-dating placement here) and is unable able to lift the distal portion or curl the trunk in a forward position. She compensates and has adapted to eating and drinking well. In 1998 she suffered a corneal stromal abscess in the right eye, leaving a visible scar on the cornea of the eye. There is no noticeable visual impairment from the scar. Over the last two years we have seen a slight decrease in the range of motion in her front carpal joints. It is most evident in the morning and appears to improve as she moves around during the day. She is currently not on any medications and responds well to exercise. Ruth has also had intermittent nail issues ranging from abnormal growth to abscesses. In 2012 the barn floor was removed and replaced with a soft substrate (sand). With the removal of the concrete floor covered with mats and the addition of large sand piles, we have observed marked improvement in the condition of her feet and her range of motion.

She is TB negative.

**Behavior/Training History:**

The subordinate of the two elephants, Ruth is strong willed but herd dependent. She is intelligent, innovative and emotional. Particularly affectionate with handlers, she can also be deceptively coy. She will challenge authority if boundaries have not been clearly defined by the handler. When she first arrived, this elephant was in poor physical, mental and emotional condition. She was nervous, very distrustful and a “striker”. Patience and repetition are essential during training. When confused or unsure, Ruth becomes nervous and agitated and will search for the response a trainer is looking for, by performing variety of known behaviors consecutively. “Time Out’s” work extremely well, as does tone of voice. Ruth is very food motivated and also responds well to tactile praise and gentle reassurance. When focused on the task at hand, she will work with speed and efficiency. Overall, she is eager to cooperate and highly motivated.

**Incident Reports**

See attached Incident Reports for 10/9/10, 5/31/11, 9/28/11 and 8/9/12