

Elephants need space, complex social interactions, intellectual stimulation, and a large variety of plants for food. They need freedom. They need to be able to make choices. They need to be actual elephants rather than just hollow, captive caricatures imprisoned for human entertainment.

Dr. Bob Jacobs



Nonhuman Rights Project

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This [#WorldElephantWeek](#), we need your help to change the narrative about elephants in captivity. Here are just some of the reasons why we fight for their freedom. 🐘

🐘 Elephants are highly emotionally complex animals who form strong social bonds with one another. Many zoos separate elephants from their herds and families, and some even keep elephants in solitary confinement—taking away the companionship elephants need to thrive.

🌍 In the wild, elephants roam up to 60 miles per day. This roaming is necessary for keeping their bodies active and their minds stimulated. Zoo exhibits deprive elephants of this space—often leading their bodies and minds to deteriorate.

💔 Elephants can suffer from boredom, loneliness, anxiety, and even post-traumatic stress disorder. Because zoos can't meet elephants' complex physical, social, and cognitive needs, elephants show signs of extreme stress in captivity.

The evidence and the law are clear: Elephants suffer in zoos, and they need and deserve legal rights to protect them from this suffering. That's why we're fighting for them with litigation, legislation, and education.

Will you join the movement to secure a better future for elephants with us? Share to raise awareness, and join our movement to change the future for elephants suffering in captivity:

<https://donate.nonhumanrights.org/a/elephant-week>

Elephants in Captivity: Backgrounder