

Elephant Haven European Elephant Sanctuary statement regarding the elephant, Dumba.

20th January 2021

Dumba is currently situated 6 hours, by road transport, from Europe's only dedicated elephant sanctuary situated in South West France. Elephant Haven is ready to receive Dumba, and her owners, to allow them immediate access to the facility at any time.

The principle of 'Protected Contact' of the sanctuary will allow veterinarians easy access, to quickly and comfortably assess Dumba's health needs and administer appropriate treatments. Elephant Haven has access to specialist elephant veterinarian expertise acquired through working with other elephant sanctuaries worldwide and having the support of others within France.

Should Dumba become dangerous (as can happen when an elephant is in pain) a protected contact environment is necessary for the safeguarding of both people and elephant.

As the sanctuary has no other animals at this time, any disease risk to other elephants is negated and the barn is installed with HEPA filters to maintain internal air quality and minimise spread of infectious disease.

Dumba will be offered an enclosure which offers her the choice of an indoor heated barn designed as a place of shelter, comfort and care. As an older elephant, the soft sand floors and sand piles of the barn will allow Dumba some relief from carrying her large weight, enabling easier resting positions. With unrestricted access to an outdoor paddock she will have the opportunity to exercise natural behaviours, such as scratching, leaning, bathing and browsing for food, if she is physically willing to do so.

Elephant Haven has appropriate and varied food supplies in abundance, to meet any recommended dietary requirements that Dumba may have. There is a machine to chop her food into manageable pieces if necessary. There is a plentiful supply of nutritional supplements, fresh browse, hay, fruits and vegetables on site.

With 24 hour CCTV on site, and 2 experienced elephant carers living on the premises, Dumba will be monitored and tended to at all times to ensure her comfort and wellbeing.

Longer term care goals can also be met - the facility can offer specialist infra-red treatments for the arthritic pain often seen in captive elephants.

The funding of each element of care from transportation to veterinary assessment, treatment and feeding, is fully covered by the financial backing of Elephant Haven's numerous worldwide stakeholders and supporters.

We are ready to help Dumba now.

Sofie Goetghebeur, President

Tony Verhulst, Operations Director, Capacitaire of Asian and African elephants.

Joint Founders of Elephant Haven European Elephant Sanctuary

