



November. 15, 2012

TO: John Tracogna, CEO
Toronto Zoo

CC: Rick Barongi, Board Chair
The National Elephant Center

Dear Mr. Tracogna,

Thank you for your interest in The National Elephant Center. Per your request, I am providing an update on The Center's progress.

Construction of Phase One is progressing on schedule. Phase One encompasses about a quarter of the full 225-acre site, including one elephant barn with capacity for eight elephants, attached paddocks and three interconnected pastures featuring ponds and trees. We project Phase One construction will be complete in February 2013. We expect to be fully staffed and capable of caring for elephants by early spring of 2013.

As a new facility, The National Elephant Center does not yet have any elephants in our care. Therefore there are no active elephant disease issues onsite. As we prepare to care for elephants at The Center, we are dedicated to the health and welfare of each individual animal. Before considering any elephant for The Center, we will require complete medical records and results of the most recent tests (within the last year) for Tuberculosis, performed as mandated by The United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS).

The National Elephant Center's philosophy is to provide high-quality care tailored to meet the needs of each individual animal's health and welfare. Caretakers do not occupy the same space as adult elephants, other than a medical emergency, as there is always a protective barrier in place. This is sometimes referred to as "protected contact," which the Toronto Zoo elephants are already comfortable with. Additional information on our facility and our elephant care philosophy is available on our website, www.nationalelephantcenter.org.

If the Toronto Zoo is looking for a new home for its geriatric elephants, we are open to discuss the possibility of The National Elephant Center providing them with care should you wish to explore this option further.

Thank you again for contacting us. Please feel free to contact our Board Chair or me should you have further questions.

Sincerely,
John Lehnhardt
John Lehnhardt

Executive Director

The National Elephant Center

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