





abu camp elephant programme

MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND WORK ETHIC HANDLERS CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

MISSION STATEMENT

The Abu Camp Elephant Programme will be a world leader in the management of captive and wild African elephants through the use of progressive management practices, scientific research and operant conditioning through positive reinforcement.

- As custodians of the elephants entrusted to our care we shall strive to:
- Institute and operate by, a strict code of conduct which ensures that the welfare of our elephants and the people who come into contact with them is of utmost priority.
- Accept that 'ownership' of this relationship between humans and African Elephants is a lifetime commitment & we will endeavour to honour this commitment through on-going responsibility.
- Institute a policy of transparency to landowners, members of the public, animal welfare organisations and government authorities with regards our elephant husbandry and training methods.

- House our elephants in a safe environment, where income derived from tourism enables us to fulfill our responsibilities.
- Offer conservation through education by allowing tourists, local and underprivileged communities and educational groups the opportunity to interact closely with our elephants and therefore better understand their history and the plight of the African Elephant across the continent.
- Learn through on-going research opportunities more about elephants in captivity, their husbandry, training and welfare.
- Achieve a healthy environment which offers elephants a lifestyle which, to the best of our ability, is as close to their natural lifestyle as possible.
- Create a highly skilled workforce equipped to work with elephants through job opportunities and education.
- Promote and ensure that the welfare of elephants in captivity is not abused in the name of commercial gain.
- Institute comprehensive safety measures which protect the elephants, guests and handlers in our operations from any potential harm.



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MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES & WORK ETHIC

- The unique relationship between man and elephant is based solely on the use of positive training principles and founded on trust and mutual respect between man and animal.
- We accept that there is no wrong or right method of training but we endeavour to institute control methods which are humane and acceptable and within our own value boundaries. Our training principles are based on "positive reinforcement" which is an age-old technique adapted to modern standards.
- We will strive to ensure the elephants in our care are free-roaming for most of the day, allowing them time to be together and to essentially 'be elephants' in as natural an environment as possible. We believe our elephants must be given every opportunity to live as normal a life as possible.
- We believe that the ideal environment for the African elephant is in the wild, together with their resident family herds. We will under no circumstances interfere with this harmonious and rightful existence, our goal being to offer elephants in need, a safe haven wherever being part of a viable wild herd is not an option.
- Striving to support the conservation efforts needed to secure free ranging wild elephant herds are the very basis of our elephant conservation policy.
- We believe that separating young elephants from adults during culling or capture operations is not a humane or acceptable practice. This practice is cruel and without justification and if elephant herds must be culled, whole family unit culling is a more humane and acceptable alternative.
- We will operate within a strict code of conduct which ensures that our elephants' welfare is of utmost priority. Should one of them be too old, injured, too young or of wrong disposition, they shall not be used commercially and will be afforded a safe haven within the resident herd, under our care.
- We will adhere to a strict programme where our elephants are not "worked" for more than 4 hours a day. We accept that there are limits to the elephants' necessary exposure to humans and will limit this whenever their well-being or welfare is in any way compromised.
- We accept that 'owning' an elephant is a life-time commitment and that each elephant's welfare is entirely our own responsibility, from the time we become their custodians to the time that same elephant passes on.



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- On-going research and development in training skills is essential. All too little is known about these skills and we will endeavour as a company to keep our staff well trained and abreast of current knowledge and skills.
- We accept that our elephant handling staff are an integral part of our business and every effort is made to monitor them carefully, keep them well informed and highly skilled and rewarded for their commitment and accumulated skills. We believe that a high turnover of staff is detrimental to the elephants in our care and we will endeavour to maintain bonds formed with our handling staff and elephants to the best of our ability.
- We will only accept genuine orphaned elephants into our custody and only if we are confident that we have the necessary skilled staff available for their ongoing care.
- We will operate within a strict framework of safety regulations when dealing with guests, and employees. We will endeavour to institute these measures in all circumstances to avoid any unnecessary accidents or incidents. Should these safety measures be compromised in any way, we will not hesitate to dismiss any personnel or remove any guest from the compromised situation.
- We acknowledge the vital role and impact elephant operations such as Abu Camp play in environmental education, and encourage children, interested parties and rural visitors to visit and interact with the elephants where possible.



ABU CAMP
Okavango Delta - Botswana



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