

# Names, Sex, Birth Dates, Status, Anecdotes

Updated: Nov 2021

## Encounter Africa

### African Elephant: IUCN - Vulnerable

**Kimba** F 01 Aug 77 - wild born, came to CMZ in 1981.

**Lucky** F 01 Jan 79 -- wild born, came to CMZ in 1981, playful, will "trade" items for treats, paints as a form of enrichment

**Malaika** F 01 Jan 86 - came from CA, was in movies and commercials. Will bang on her bars for attention - this is a behavior which she learned in CA from her former owner. She was the only elephant in her former situation and banging on the bars of her enclosure "worked" -- she got the attention she sought. Malaika's former owner, a woman, became ill and CMZ was able to take her. She's a former hollywood star!! She has fallen twice and couldn't get up - the special crane system in our elephant barn helped to get her up. Without it, a fall could be fatal.

**Jambo** F 01 Jan 83 - Came from Kenya from a traveling road show with private owners, enthusiastic, largest elephant, very vocal and confident. Seeks out keeper attention over elephant attention. Often on exhibit by herself.

**Missy** F 01 Jan 69 - came with Lou Lou from the Richardson Zoo, KS. Missy and LouLou were a bonded pair - therefore were not separated. One of the oldest in human care.

**LouLou** F 01 Jan 82 - originally from Zimbabwe. She was transferred from Richardson Zoo with Missy. She has no tusks - tusks were infected and were removed. Originally named Kimba Lou - now only referred to as LouLou.

### Elephant anecdotes:

- Elephants and Rhinos are part of Quarters for Conservation program, \$25k goes to the Tsavo Trust from feeding experiences. The Tsavo Trust is a non-profit program in Kenya which does work protecting elephants/rhinos and other wildlife from poaching and other threats. It helps to protect the last of the "big tuskers" - elephants with giant tusks - up to 100 pounds each.

- Important care for elephants is rest. Keepers provide things for them to lean on in order for them to rest more easily
- Many new enrichment items have been incorporated in their enclosures to encourage interaction and exercise - new sand piles, different feeding stations, etc
- Lucky and Kimba were both wild born and came together to CMZ in 1981 from the same facility. They and now are a bonded pair. They were the first 2 African Elephants of our current group at CMZ. We did have Asian elephants at CMZ as early as the 1930's
- Jambo is most often housed alone, because she exhibits behaviors that tell us she prefers this. She still has touch access and visuals with other members of the elephant group, but seems to prefer to have her own space.
- Malaika spends time with Lucky and Kimba or by herself. Malaika communicates with keepers through her behavior when she would like to be by herself or do another activity/wants to move to a different area.
- Keepers constantly move the elephants around to different areas in their enclosure. No one is ever in isolation. Moving them around allows them to interact and socialize with the other elephants. In nature, a herd is a family unit. Our elephants all came from different places and are not related - they are not a herd.
- elephants are right or left sided, right or left tusked
- the keepers do "elephant yoga" with our herd to keep them limber
- Malaika has 2 short tusks due to breakage. Elephants often break their tusks in the wild. She broke her left tusk while "playing" with a stump/enrichment. It broke pretty close to the mouth. Vets put a clamp on it to keep it stable - it will hopefully grow out. Tusks grow a few inches each year.
- When Malaika first came to CMZ she was unfamiliar with water -- now is frequently seen playing in it

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## **Eastern Black Rhino: IUCN - Critically Endangered**

**Jumbe** M 06 Jan 03

### **Rhino anecdotes:**

- Jumbe's favorite treat is blueberry bagels
- came from a zoo in Texas, he was quite skittish when he first arrived - stuck close to keepers at first
- Rhinos have poor eyesight. They are always on alert and cautious of their environment. Movement and noises can "spook" them. Once when Jumbe first arrived he was out in his yard and a butterfly spooked him -- he ran all the way back to the barn.
- wants to "make friends" with elephants
- He is much more resilient to distractions and noise compared to when he first arrived at CMZ (excited children on the plane, noise and movement from guests, etc.) maybe because of the exposure due to construction.
- he seeks out attention from the keepers, he has stood up on his tree stump with his snout almost over his enclosure... to get attention from the keepers
- He is very playful. He will play with a tire spiral or firehose regularly. He likes to carry these items on his horn.

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## Cape Porcupine: IUCN - Least Concern

Waffles F 25 July 15

### Cape Porcupine anecdotes:

- Waffles gets to do walk abouts around zoo grounds about 3x/week. She is currently housed in different areas... sometimes where the Okapi has traditionally been
- missing her left eye, it happened at the zoo she came from before she came to CMZ
- getting very accustomed to people, guests can now touch her on the head

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### Meerkats anecdotes:

- Meerkats will interact with soap bubbles as enrichment - they stand up and pop them

- When keepers clean up the exhibit they often find "tons" of burlap bags, little balls and other enrichment items down in the tunnels
- African families like to have meerkats live near them to control scorpions/insects