



ELEPHANT AID INTERNATIONAL
One World...One Elephant at a Time

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**BO THE ELEPHANT CELEBRATES HIS SECOND YEAR OF RETIREMENT
AT ELEPHANT REFUGE NORTH AMERICA**

ATTAPULGUS, GA, September 21, 2023:

On September 23, 2021, Bo, an Asian elephant in the prime of his life, stepped out of his circus trailer for the last time. George Carden, the owner of Carden International Circus, ready to release his lead performer, opened the heavy metal door wide and whispered, "You're home now."

Within moments, Bo stuck his trunk out of the trailer for his first whiff of the southern pines, fresh grasses, and Georgia red clay. In no time, Bo stepped outside, 10'6" tall and 12,000 pounds, and entered the elephant paradise where he would spend the rest of his long life.

After 30 years as a star performer, he was now free. His first instinct was to go straight through a cluster of trees to see what lie beyond. There he saw hundreds of acres of pasture and woods, all within reach. He was ready to explore.

Bo, born in captivity and accustomed to hard concrete floors, soon discovered the elephant barn with comfortable sand-filled stalls, perfect for both his feet and body, as well as a lake and ponds for leisurely swims. His playfulness came out immediately, making the staff form an instant affection for him.

Now, two years later, Bo has designated dozens of prime napping locations throughout the 850-acre habitat. Whether it is under a cluster of moss-covered oaks or the edge of a mud wallow, Bo is the picture of relaxation, sleeping soundly on his side after hours of grazing, covering himself with protective dirt or mud, and playing with his favorite dog, Samie.

Bo was castrated at a young age, so he has spent his life in the company of female elephants, both before and after retirement. His kind and gentle nature made it easy for both of his Refuge companions to bond with him soon after their arrival—first Tarra, then Mundi. Elephants are wise creatures, and Bo, being raised from infancy by a herd of "auntie elephants," understands the emotional needs of other elephants and enjoys being a friend, teacher, and playmate.

At age 36, Bo is in his prime. He is healthy, strong, and the picture of emotional well-being. Bo could live into his 70s with a promising future filled with decades of adventures shared with his elephant family under the warm Georgia sun.

You can watch Bo live via the Refuge EleCams at <https://elephantaidthinternational.org/elephant-cam/>.

To learn more about Bo and Elephant Refuge North America, visit <https://elephantaidthinternational.org/elephant-bo/>.

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About Elephant Refuge North America (ERNA): The Refuge is a project of Elephant Aid International. Its 850 acres of lush pastures, forests, creeks, and spring-fed lakes provide a natural environment where captive-held elephants can retire and thrive.

About Elephant Aid International (EAI): Carol Buckley founded EAI, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, in 2010 to improve the lives of captive elephants worldwide. EAI enlists scientists, veterinarians, mahouts [elephant handlers], and owners in improving elephant welfare. EAI also provides education and hands-on assistance to improve elephants' care, training, and handling. Learn more at <http://elephantaidthinternational.org>.