



Expert statement Peter Stroud on elephants Rani and Carla from Circus Renz Berlin

Peter Stroud worked in major Australian zoos for 23 years, as a keeper, curator and director. From 1993 to 2003 he was active in the development of zoo elephant management in the Australasian region. He now works as an independent zoological consultant. Peter Stroud has pursued a special interest in elephant welfare for over 15 years. He is a member of the Asian Elephant Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). In 2010, Peter Stroud agreed to join the Advisory Council of Elephant Aid International, assisting individual elephants in Asia. In June 2011 Peter Stroud joined ElephantVoices as Elephant Welfare Specialist. Peter Stroud states:

“I am not a qualified veterinarian but offer the following observations, based on my experiences with elephants and with other experts in elephant management and welfare.”

“In my opinion the eye depicted is almost certainly sight-less. Blind.”

“The feet skin and nails are in poor to very poor condition, consistent with a life spent on hard surfaces without opportunities to bathe in water. It is not clear what the white substance is - it may indicate some treatment of the foot. In several images of the feet chronic serious problems are indicated that are likely to compromise the life of the elephant if left untreated.”

“The labia could indicate a papilloma - I have seen benign tumours like this and I believe they have been noted in Asian elephant cows. I have little knowledge of this issue.”

“The wound next to the ear would appear to have been caused by a sharp object. As the elephant is managed in free-contact and as inflicting pain in the sensitive tissue in and around the ear is a traditional method of asserting dominance/ control over the elephant, it would be reasonable to assume that this wound has been caused by a trainer using an ankus (bullhook).”

“The marks on the legs are consistent with those shown by elephants that are regularly chained tightly and with marks shown by elephants that have incurred wounds from tethering, often associated with their wild capture. It is likely that these elephants are chained during transport. Marks on their bodies could also indicate some rubbing/ abrasion during transport.”

“The shrunken appearance of the head tissue is I believe, often seen in captive elephants that have been traumatised mentally and physically. It is also seen in old elephants. Looking at the overall confirmation of these elephants I would assume they are at least late middle-aged and have led an arduous life without opportunities to exercise and socialise appropriately. I would

not hesitate to say, in my opinion, that these elephants have been abused although I know that proving this to the satisfaction of any legal process is very difficult.”

“The condition of these elephants is so obviously poor that I think any suitably experienced veterinarian would concur with my observations.”

Peter Stroud