



Expert statement Dr. S. Adams on elephants Rani and Carla from Circus Renz Berlin

Dr. Simon Adams is an independent Zoo and Wildlife Veterinary Adviser. In the past he has been a zoo and wildlife advisor to Care for the Wild International, the International Primate Protection League UK, Ulster SPCA, Irish SPCA, and Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage Elephant Orphanage, Kenya. Dr. Adams has a special interest in captive elephant welfare and management. Dr. Simon Adams states:

“The dehydrated/emaciated female could be due to diarrhea, mouth throat tooth problem or other systemic disease. The circus should have requested expert veterinary attention to determine and treat the cause. Therefore it would be useful to approach the local authority which licenses the circus to request that they check the circus's veterinary case history for this female. If there is none, then this would reflect poor welfare standards.”

“One of the eyes shows keratitis, due to which the elephant could be partially blind.”

“The white substance on the foot could be foot powder, an antiseptic.”

“Most likely the labia are a sign of season, but can be inflammation due to cystitis/vaginitis or a herpes virus attack.”

“The fresh wound near the ear would be consistent from the position with common Ankus (elephant hook) wound.”

“The right emaciated female has a swelling on the hind leg near the hip, most likely to be either a recent injection swelling (treatment), or older vaccination reaction or old herpes lesion. Both elephants have obvious ‘chain lines’ where they have leg chains applied on front and rear legs.”

“The sunken condition of the head of one of the elephants reflects a recent illness, as described above or starvation (which is very unlikely).”

“On the overall condition, from her demeanour I would suspect she is in the recovery phase unless this is a serious tooth problem, or due to a serious wasting disease e.g. TB (tuberculosis).”