Gary Gilmour General Manager Blair Drummond Safari and Adventure Park

24 January 2017

Via e-mail: gary@blairdrummond.com

Dear Mr Gilmour,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA – one of the largest animal-protection groups in the UK, with over 1 million members and supporters – to urge you respectfully to cease your search for another elephant and instead send Blair Drummond's remaining elephant, Mondula, to a sanctuary where her environment and activities would more closely resemble the life she would have in the wild.

As you may know, in their natural habitats, elephants travel as far as 30 miles per day and are active for 18 hours daily. This freedom of movement and activity is essential to their physical and psychological well-being. Because of space limitations, zoos and safari parks – no matter how good their intentions may be – simply cannot provide for elephants' physical needs. As a result, captive elephants engage in unnatural forms of behaviour and suffer from musculoskeletal conditions, arthritis, foot and joint diseases, boredom, depression, malnutrition, poor physical fitness, and a host of other problems.

By all accounts, Mondula and her now deceased companion, Toto, had a frigid relationship – and the same issue may occur should another elephant be brought to the park. An accredited sanctuary that is home to many other elephants, on the other hand, would allow her to choose the company she keeps – something which is of grave importance to these highly social animals.

By sending Mondula to a reputable sanctuary, Blair Drummond would give her the opportunity to enjoy ample space and a more natural habitat – and the park would become part of a progressive trend, as more and more zoos close their elephant exhibits after acknowledging that such environments cannot fulfil the animals' complex needs. We stand ready to assist you in finding the right sanctuary.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. May we hear back from you at your earliest convenience?

Yours sincerely,

K. Henderson

Kirsty Henderson Senior Campaign Coordinator

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