

The First European Elephant Management School in Hagenbeck`s Tierpark, Hamburg, Germany

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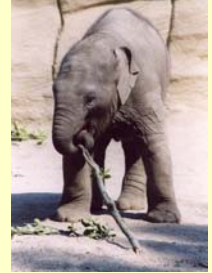


Introduction

Since 2003 the First European Elephant Management School takes place at Tierpark Hagenbeck in Hamburg, Germany and will be held on an annual base. This 9 day course results out of the idea of Elephant Business and Hagenbeck`s Tierpark. Its goal is to teach husbandry, medical care and training techniques on Free Contact & Protected Contact elephants and also to be able to exchange experiences among professional elephant people from all over the world. It combines theoretical lessons with the unique opportunity to gain practical hands-on-experience on the elephants.

Teaching Surroundings

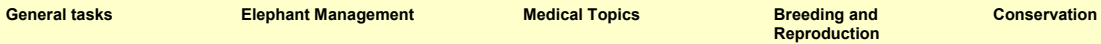
Hagenbeck keeps 10 Asian cows under full contact and one mature bull under Protected Contact conditions. This special environment provides the participants with the opportunity to compare and interact with these forms of husbandry. The differences in safety, husbandry and handling are important matters that need to be outlined.



Curriculum

The curriculum covers a broad variety of all important subjects and is divided up into theoretical lectures and a large scale of practical experiences with the animals themselves.

It consists of:



Elephant Management

This subject deals with Elephant Program Design, Working Routine like the Morning wash routine and the Exercise routines, Facility design and maintenance as well as with the appearance of the keepers (e.g. uniforms, dialogue). The Vision and Goals of a proper elephant program are outlined and methods of handling and Behavioural Enrichment are presented. Even Transportation is planned and performed by the participants themselves under professional guidance.



Medical Topics

The Medical Prevention Techniques and Body Hygiene include foot care, skin care, tusks and teeth, ears and eyes, tail care, bed & pressure sore treatment, medical training and Veterinary inspections. Medical Procedures are discussed and many cases are presented that cover foot problems, immobilization and tooth extraction. The most important diseases (e.g. Herpes, Tuberculosis and Pox) are presented and treatment and prophylaxis options outlined.



Breeding & Reproduction

The main topics of this task are herd dynamic, fertility control, cycle monitoring, ultrasound, semen collection, artificial insemination and birth (preparations, protocols, caesarean, births within elephant group, handling and training of baby elephants)



Birth facilities, births in natural circumstances and training of baby elephants are important tasks. Besides lessons, ultrasound will be performed by experts.



Impressions of the participants of 2003:

It was a privilege to witness the Hagenbeck elephant tradition, unique in many ways...Personally, until now I have been looking at the elephants through a window; after this school a huge door has opened on the elephant world.Thanks to the generous lectures and the experience shared by all the participants."

"I have found this to be a wonderful unique experience. By providing us the actual situations rather than just videos, you have taught so much more..."

The next European Elephant Management School will take place from 01.11. – 09.11.200

For further information:

www.elephant-management.com

