

Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!

## A Healthy Animal Starts with Healthy Feet

All of the Asian Elephant Support directors were pleased at the success of the “Hoof Knives for Mahouts-India” program. It is important that we help supply the people who have dedicated their lives to caring for the captive elephants, and protecting wild elephants, with the proper tools and equipment.

But why are foot care and foot care tools so important? Like all animals, elephants depend upon the ability to find food, water, and shelter to survive. Good health starts with healthy feet. Even wild elephants have cracks in their pads and toenails, and for the elephants in human care, it is an important part of caring for them.

Did you know that elephants are actually walking on their tip toes? The bottom of an elephant’s foot is a callus-like material similar to the “frog” on a horse’s hoof. The majority of the foot is made up of cushiony material that supports the elephant’s weight — almost like a big Nike tennis shoe!



For the captive population, the knives are used to trim the excess pad and nails, and to remove stones or other debris embedded in the elephant’s foot. However, daily foot care involves more than trimming the pad and nails. To maintain healthy feet, elephants must have adequate exercise and a proper diet. They need to have their feet inspected on a daily basis for abscesses caused by an injury or debris. Left untreated, an abscess can become deadly by spreading the infection to other parts of the body.

AES is working with skilled veterinarians to teach the mahouts the proper use of these tools to maintain healthy feet. In turn, some of these elephants are helping to protect their wild counterparts by patrolling the forest for illegal activities such as poaching.

Do you have a question about foot care or elephants in general? Drop us a line at [elephants@asianelephantsupport.org](mailto:elephants@asianelephantsupport.org). We would love to hear from you.

## Continuing our Relationship with ElephantAsia

With an increase in the number of human-elephant conflicts (HEC) and other issues facing Asian elephants today, the Elephant Hospital in Laos is seeing an increase in the number elephants that require treatment. In many situations, it is critical to have an accurate weight to determine the proper dosage of medication to avoid overdosing. Also, with medication not as accessible as in the West, it is important to use the correct amount.

Your donations have made it possible for AES to purchase a portable scale for the Elephant Hospital. As shown in the picture, the scales have arrived and will be hand-delivered in August by our president. Watch for more updates from Laos over the next couple of months!



## **Earn Donations for AES by Eating Out & Shopping & Searching Online!**

Summer months are busy travel times for many of us and using GoodDining and GoodSearch when traveling couldn't be easier. This program allows you to earn money for AES just by doing things you already do, like eating out and shopping and searching online, and no extra effort or costs are required on your part!

When you're signed up for the GoodDining program, a percentage of your bill will be donated to AES when eating at participating restaurants. And you'd be surprised at how many restaurants do participate! We stopped by an IHOP after our annual meeting and had no idea they were a participating restaurant. Because we were already signed up, no further action was required on our part and we got our food and AES got a donation. What's not to love about that?

And, if you need to search for something online, use GoodSearch because every search entry earns AES a penny (which doesn't seem like much but it is if all of our supporters use it!). And, if your GoodSearch leads you to an item you wish to purchase online, use GoodShop and we'll receive even more donations! No extra effort or money is involved on your part.

Visit <http://asianelephantsupport.org/goodsearch-shopping.asp> for more information. Thanks for your support!

## THANK YOU

*We at AES wish to extend a very sincere thank you to each donor who has voted their support with a financial gift. We value that confidence and will always do our best for the animals we all care for so deeply.*

*Please visit our website ([www.asianelephantsupport.org](http://www.asianelephantsupport.org)) and follow us on [Facebook](#) (Asian Elephant Support). If you have questions, please [contact us](#). We appreciate your support. Please consider a [donation](#) to help Asian elephants and those who care for them.*

### **ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT**

[www.asianelephantsupport.org](http://www.asianelephantsupport.org)

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*Asian Elephant Support is a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization; donations are tax-deductible.*