



PO Box 15555, Mbagathi, Nairobi 00503, Kenya  
T: +254 (0)733 891 996      T: +254 (0)20 230 1396  
E: [info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org](mailto:info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org)  
[sheldrickwildlifetrust.org](http://sheldrickwildlifetrust.org)      [facebook.com/thedswt](https://facebook.com/thedswt)

SAVING WILD LIVES TODAY  
SECURING HABITATS FOR THE FUTURE

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

To:

Oregon Zoo Director, Don Moore  
Portland Metro Council President Tom Hughes  
Portland Metro Council Members  
Oregon Zoo Foundation

Dear President Hughes, Director Moore, Metro Councilors, and Zoo Foundation,

I have learned of Packy's recent death, and I was already familiar with the sad circumstances of his birth and long life at the Oregon Zoo. My experience with orphaned baby elephants at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has led me to the strong conviction that these magnificent creatures are uniquely unsuited to captivity, and that no elephant can thrive within the confines of a zoo.

Yet Packy's pitiable life and death could lead to something positive, which would be to begin to phase out your elephant exhibit. This is a decision which many progressive zoos in the U.S. and in Europe have already taken. A good first step to this end would be to release Chendra, the pygmy Borneo elephant in your possession, to a sanctuary. I understand that Chendra has been ostracized and bullied by other elephants at the zoo, and that she displays extreme stereotypical behavior. Giving her a chance at a new life in a sanctuary would be a fitting tribute to Packy, who never got such an opportunity.

It is my sincere wish that the Oregon Zoo will join the growing number of zoos that are more progressive in this area.

Kind regards,

Doctor Dame Daphne Sheldrick DBE