

# **Signs of Health and Illness in Elephants**

<http://asesg.org/PDFfiles/2009/Signs of Health and Illness in Elephants.pdf>

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## **Signs of Health**

Ears flapping, tail or trunk swinging (constant motion)

Eyes clear and bright (a clear discharge from the conjunctival sac is normal)

Mouth, tongue, and inside of the trunk pink

Tip of the trunk moist

Skin soft and resilient

Moisture generally present at the base of the nail

Adequate body fat - not too fat or too lean

Appetite good

Appears content

Well-formed feces, brown in color (may vary with diet); a normal amount; no straining

Urine copious in amount, faintly yellow, with a pleasant odor; no straining during urination

## **Signs of Illness**

Listless

Decreased movement or exercise intolerance

Unusual behavior

Dull or sunken eyes,, thick ocular discharge

Mucous membranes pale, muddy, red, or dry

Discharge from the trunk

Coughing or other abnormal respiratory sounds

Dry skin, loss of elasticity, wounds

Weight loss, sunken abdomen, prominent ribs (see body condition index)

Decreased appetite, loss of appetite

Change in urine or feces (amount, color); straining

Lameness

Obvious pain

Any unusual swelling