

Twin Elephants Born in Nepal

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In recent times, captive elephants have been breeding excellently in Nepal. Captive elephants in different parks are now giving birth to babies and in almost all cases, breeding is done by wild dominant bulls. The Government of Nepal has established a Breeding Center in Chitwan National Park for elephants. Here also, cow elephants are mainly sired by dominant male wild elephants.

An elephant named “Devi Kali” from the Breeding Center in Chitwan National Park, gave birth to twin baby elephants on November 6th, 2008. Both babies are male. The first baby was born at 11:00 p.m. All the elephant handlers were working on the care of the first baby and they were surprised when after four hours at 3:00 a.m. of November 7th, another baby was born. The elephant handlers are very much delighted with the new babies and are committed to look after them. This is the first time that an elephant has given birth to twins in Nepal. Both babies were in good health and are a prime attraction for tourists in Chitwan. Now, the babies are enjoying life, playing with each other and suckling mother’s milk. It is really wonderful to watch them. The babies are named “Ram Gaj” and “Laxman Gaj” after two hindu brother gods. Devi Kali is now paid special attention and care. Later these babies will be trained and used for conservation purposes.

Devi Kali is around 48 years. She was brought from India during the late 80s. She gave birth to a male calf on August 7, 2004, which was named Krishna Prasad. Krishna is now trained and is separated from his mother. The twin elephants are her second calving.

The twin babies were sired by a wild elephant named “Romeo”. He is a resident of Chitwan National Park and people named him as he was a regular visitor to the center since 1997. Romeo remained a dominant male till he died in October

15, 2007. He has impregnated many females including cows of private hotels. His babies started to be born since late 1999. He has sired around 20 babies, most of which have survived. He was very large and aggressive. People still remember him and stories about him circulate in the elephant community.

There are around 200 captive elephants in Nepal. Around 100 of them are owned by the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation and 100 by private institutions. Elephants have socio-cultural and economic significance in Nepalese society. Government elephants are mainly used for the management of national parks. They are the backbone for the operation of these parks. Elephants are used for wildlife and park management; research; monitoring and for ecotourism. It is difficult to consider the working of parks without use of these wonderful animals.

Congratulations to Devi Kali and the dedicated people working for the conservation of this endangered species.

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Devi Kali with her twin babies