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ASIAN ELEPHANT SHAUNZI HAS MOVED TO LOS ANGELES

Fresno, CA –Fresno Chaffee Zoo officials are pleased to announce that a new home for female Asian elephant, Shaunzi, has been found!

On June 27, 2017, Shaunzi arrived at the Los Angeles Zoo.

“Shaunzi has been in Fresno for more than three decades and, while staff and guests are going to miss her, we are very excited to be able to relocate her to Los Angeles,” said Scott Barton, CEO at Fresno Chaffee Zoo. “We really feel like it’s the perfect fit for Shaunzi.”

The Los Angeles Zoo is currently home to three Asian elephants; two females and one male. After a standard quarantine period, Shaunzi will join them in the Elephants of Asia exhibit which opened in December 2010. The 6.56 acre exhibit includes over three acres of outdoor space, deep bathing pools, sandy hills, varied topography, a waterfall, and a variety of enrichment opportunities.

“We didn’t hesitate when asked by Fresno Chaffee Zoo to provide a home for Shaunzi,” said John Lewis, Los Angeles Zoo Director. “This is an Asian elephant who recently lost her lifetime companion, and we are able to provide her with socialization, excellent care, and a state-of-the-art facility where she can live out the rest of her years.”

Shaunzi came to Fresno Chaffee Zoo in April 1983 from Cristiani Bros. Circus. After 34 years in Fresno, she has had a big impact on guests and staff, alike. Elephant care staff member, Kim, has worked with Shaunzi since 1986, while staff member Harold has been a part of Shaunzi’s life since 1988. Lead elephant care staff member, Amber Talley, has worked with Shaunzi for 15 years.

“Sometimes, the best part of a relationship is found at the end, rather than the beginning,” said Amber Talley, lead elephant care staff member. “Working with Shaunzi over the past 15 years has been a true adventure, yet, after all of this time, being a part of the next phase of her life has been my favorite part of working with her. I will miss her playfulness and the causal way she crossed her back legs when waiting for dinner. I will miss getting to see her every day and being a part of her world. Shaunzi’s move marks the end of working with elephants for my career, but I couldn’t ask for a sweeter ending for me than a new beginning for her.”

"Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires wonder of our natural world, provides an engaging learning environment, and creates a passion for conservation."

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