

April - 2016

Petition

To,

**The Chief Secretary
State of Rajasthan**

**The Secretary
Tourism Department
Jaipur, Rajasthan**

**The Secretary
Forest Department
Jaipur Rajasthan**

SUB: To facilitate better lives for the Captive Elephants of Rajasthan and their mahouts and owners

We, the elephants' owners and mahouts of Hathigaon Elephant Village in Jaipur have signed this Petition for a change to initiate and improve welfare conditions for our captive elephants. We appeal to the authorities to facilitate transfer of all the elephants to the Nahargarh forest area which would be the most appropriate location for them.

To improve their living conditions, we need

- 1. A large piece of land for the elephants which should function like a care and rehabilitation facility or elephant nature park where the elephants can roam free of chains. This could be like a tourist attraction to create sustainable livelihood. Infrastructure of restaurants, cafes, guest houses, schools for the children of the mahouts, clinics for humans and elephants can be set up, in a natural, forested area.**
- 2. We do not want to continue elephant rides at Amer Fort anymore. Instead we wish to set up a friendly transport service from Jaipur to the Elephant Nature Park which tourist will visit for education and awareness and not only entertainment. Elephants living in improved captive conditions and with better welfare standards, freely roaming in a protected area, will be a major improvement of their present status. .**

We want to protect our elephants from being exploited by commercial tourism in a manner that puts their health and lives at risk, which is being done currently in Jaipur.

3. We agree that they are not doing well, physically and psychologically in heat and traffic. We need to change swiftly to a mode of functioning where elephants live in a protected and chain-free environment.

Tourists will be allowed to see the elephants from far distance, with the elephants freely roaming in a natural environment without being forced to do unnatural activities.

We need to ensure that they are kept in a stress free environment with good health and welfare status. For this we need the Government's assistance in many ways.

4. The elephant owners' families could be trained by craft designers for producing jewelry and the similar items which they can sell for their livelihood. They will be made responsible for the facility and its upkeep.

In this way we keep the family of mahouts, owners and their elephants happy and looked after.

5. We request the funds from The Elephant Welfare Society, currently with the Tourism Department of Rajasthan, to be transferred to The Elephant Society Fund to improve the current condition in the Elephant Village.

6. We commit to NOT procuring or replacing with new elephant vide gift, donation, power of attorney, sale, lease, hire, exchange or transfer from any state in India or another South Asian country, once an elephant dies which is held in custody by us.

We ask the Government of Rajasthan to kindly provide us with a natural tract of land, near a river, for the welfare of the elephants and their families.

SIGNED AS UNDER

Name: No. of elephants owned: Owner/Mahout or Both Phone No.