

Lesson 3
READ THIS STORY #1, Basic

Elephants

Most tourists arrive in Nairobi to begin a hunting safari. Mr. Parelli was also planning on “shooting” wild animals, but he didn’t plan to use a weapon. The Wildlife Federation had hired him to get some great shots of elephants with his camera. He needed seven photos for their magazine.

In some parts of Africa, increasing elephant populations are encroaching on human settlements. Hungry pachyderms tramp across farmlands, stripping trees and ruining crops. An average adult elephant eats 650 pounds of vegetation a day.

So elephants were being tracked, tranquilized, and moved to less populated areas. This humane approach was designed to save the animals, but it is a dangerous procedure.

A tranquilized elephant can’t breathe through his mouth if he falls forward onto his trunk. He can’t flap his ears to maintain his cooling system. And he is so heavy that his own weight can crush his lungs.

So when an elephant is tranquilized, crews of men manually turn him over every 30 minutes. They also cool his body with water.

When the elephant is finally loaded into his shipping container, he is given an antidote to wake him up. The elephant is then able to stand up while being transported to a new home.

Mr. Parelli hoped that his photos would help raise funds to continue this relocation program.