Care for Elephants

News – ZEN Zimbabwe Elephant Nursery,
Harare – 07/2019

**Marsie**

Marsie has made tremendous progress in her rehabilitation at the ZEN Nursery in Harare. She is a calm and collected elephant and has managed to bond with almost everyone. We are excited about her progress as she is seemingly on the right track towards a full reintroduction back into the wild. Planning is currently underway at the ZEN nursery for Marsie to “graduate” to the next stage of rehabilitation which would see her make the move up to our Re-Wilding facility in Victoria Falls. We will be sad to see little Marsie leave the nursery but we are all very excited to see her transition towards a life in the wild!

**Coco**

For nearly 12 months at the ZEN Nursery, Coco struggled to adapt. Slow growth, depression and challenges bonding with some of the ele’s left us very worried. Roxy and her team have worked tremendously hard to get this little baby right. After some adjustments to her milk formula and multiple visits from the Vet, Coco has started to improve drastically. She has turned a corner in the last two months and everyone is relieved. Coco is one of the kindest elephants we have had the pleasure to work with. This leaves her vulnerable to the bullying but she is learning to stand her ground as she finds her place in the herd.

**Unity**

Unity is without doubt the cheekiest elephant we have had through the nursery. Unity and Moyo have teamed up to become a force to be reckoned with. Unity was the first baby Moyo took under her wing and she is very protective of her role as a surrogate. Unity, knows exactly what times she is supposed to be fed and if the ele handlers are late, a loud bellowing can be heard across the Sanctuary. Unity continues to grow and develop well and her rehabilitation has been a smooth process in the last few months.

**Moyo**

Moyo is the heart and sole of the ZEN Nursery. Moyo plays such an important role for all our young babies that come into the nursery. Having been with us from the very beginning, she has seen it all. Moyo has had to grow up very quickly as her responsibilities have grown bigger and bigger. She is a very special elephant. Whilst she is grown into a more responsible elephant, taking on the role of looking after the babies, every moment she gets to express her playful character, she does. After all, she’s still a baby.
Limpopo

Limpopo has been a huge success at the ZEN Nursery. We managed to pull this baby through some extraordinarily difficult times. He is a miracle child that we are all so proud of. Now, nearly 8 months old, he is bigger than any other elephant we have had at his age. His naughty character, playful spirit, and boisterous attitude, has melted all of our hearts. He has also made a fantastic transition into the herd and now spends all the morning in the bush with the other elephants. This is a critical part of his rehabilitation and, under the wing of Moyo, we know he will be well taken care of. January, our head handler at the Nursery, has formed a remarkable bond with Limpopo. The human / animal relationships that are formed at ZEN is an important part of our work and we could never do what we do without the commitment and dedication of the entire team.

Kura

Also known as our “gentle giant”, Kura is grown into a huge young bull! While Moyo leads the herd from the front, Kura does from the back. He doesn’t miss a thing and he is always making sure that all the babies are carefully watched. Unfortunately, we continue to have challenges with his hind leg that was broken before he arrived at the nursery. As he grows into a bigger, taller elephant, the fused leg is not keeping up. We are engaging various people to try and come up with a solution for this as soon as possible. It doesn’t affect his health but does affect his mobility. If all goes to plan, Kura will also be moving with Marsie to our re-wilding facility later this year.
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Marsie, Unity und Moyo

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Coco

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