

THE 10 PRINCIPLES OF BEING SANCTUARY

Boon Lott's Elephant Sanctuary (BLES) beautifully embodies the *10 Principles of Being Sanctuary*. Created by The Kerulos Center (www.kerulos.org), the principles are based on the science and psychology of trauma recovery. These attributes and philosophy translate to sanctuary design and care that nurture Elephant health, recovery, and well-being.

Principle 1. Knowing

An environment tailored to Elephants

Knowledge of Elephant natural history, psychology and individual personalities provide the foundation for healthful recovery.



Principle 2. Safety

A space of complete physical and psychological security.

Captive elephants come from harsh, and uncertain environments. Creating a physical, social, and psychological safe space allows Elephants to direct all their energies to healing.



Principle 3. Assurance

Lifelong, consistent care

Elephants can live well into their sixties. A forever home means planning for funds, land, and care in perpetuity for their lifetimes.



Principle 4. Belonging

Cultivating positive relationships and personal space

Love is the foundation for healing. Through healthy, non-dominating relationships with other Elephants, mahouts, and the environment, Sanctuary residents find home again.



Principle 5. Parity

A culture of fairness and reciprocity

Parity requires human caregivers to accept and support Elephant needs and aspirations even when they do not always coincide with human timetables and desires.



Principle 6. Being Heard

Listening in to mental and physical needs.

Listening is the opposite of exerting control. It entails paying attention to individual moods and feelings through the eyes and values of an Elephant.



Principle 7. Self-determination

Encourage independence and Self-authority

Sanctuary grounds and care are designed to optimize the ability of Elephant residents to be who, where, and how they want to be.



Principle 8. Acceptance

Promoting dignity and freedom

In captive working environments, Elephants are not allowed to express themselves without being punished. A culture of acceptance is the open embrace of all forms of Elephant self-expression.



Principle 9. Empowerment

Providing opportunities for individuals to put their aspirations into action.

Deprivation and abuse are designed to crush individuality and initiative. Being



Sanctuary cultivates inner and outer landscapes that re-ignite a sense of self and confidence in the absence of fear.

Principle 10: Trust

Maintaining an absence of threat and cultivating patience and openness.

Healing takes time. When the principles of Being Sanctuary are applied, Elephants begin to relax deeply, to trust themselves and those around them. Trust cultivates inner peace.



A loving heart is the beginning of all knowledge.

- Thomas Carlyle

How You Can Help

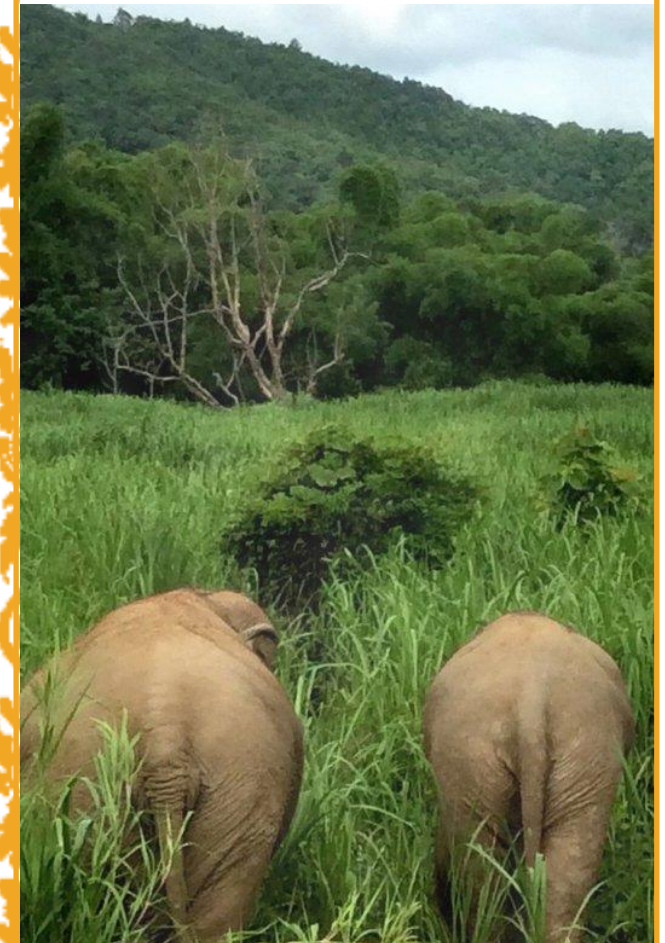


BLES strives to rescue and protect the elephants of Thailand from abuse and ultimate extinction. To support the Elephants and learn more, please visit us at www.blesele.org.



Photo credits:
Kerulos-BLES intern Rebecca Winkler

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