



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lucas Meers ▪ 904.757.4463, ext. 211 ▪ cell: 636-328-2036 ▪ meersl@jacksonvillezoo.org
Lyndsay Plemmons ▪ 904.757.4463, ext. 208 ▪ cell: 904-728-0618 ▪ plemmons1@jacksonvillezoo.org

ELEPHANT HERD AT ZOO GROWS BY ONE

November 24, 2015 - Jacksonville, FL – On Friday, November 13, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) welcomed a female African elephant named Thandi to their herd. The roughly 34-year-old elephant came from The National Elephant Center (TNEC) in Fellsmere, Florida.

JZG is excited to have Thandi join the Zoo's two elephants, Ali and Sheena. The expert animal caretakers at JZG are providing an active social environment she needs to continue thriving. Through the years, Thandi has developed into a leader and exhibits matriarchal attributes when around other elephants. Though she is post-reproductive, she has been an excellent 'aunt' to elephant calves at other Zoos.

At JZG, Thandi will first experience a standard, 30-day quarantine period to ensure all is well prior to introduction to Ali and Sheena. JZG will announce Thandi's public debut in the coming weeks and keep guests updated on her progress.

As the largest terrestrial animal, African elephants can stand 7-12 feet at the shoulder and weigh anywhere between 7,000 and 12,000 pounds. Thandi stands ten feet tall and weighs in at 8,400 pounds.

About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit jacksonvillezoo.org.