

Elephant Orphans Never Forget

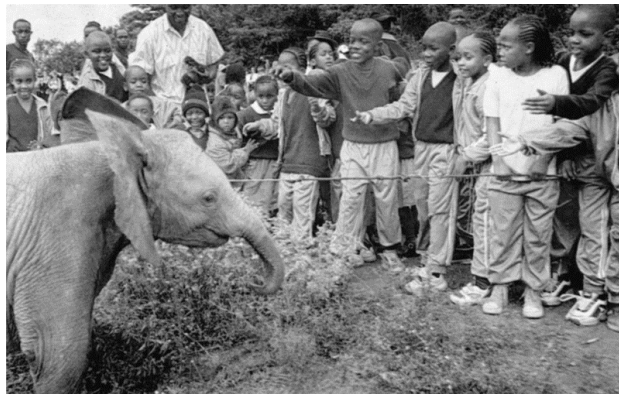
Baby elephants need to be reassured that they are loved and valued, so when they are orphaned their human keepers have to step into the role of parent, even to the point of sleeping with them.

Keepers live with their orphaned charges 24 hours a day at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in the Nairobi National Park in Kenya and are encouraged to demonstrate affection through touch, just as their mothers would.

The love and attention shown to the animals is, the Trust says, crucial to the psychological well-being of the orphans, who will be rejected by wild herds if they grow up neurotic or psychotic.

“Elephants can read a person’s heart, so it is important that such love is sincere,” the Trust maintains. The devotion of the keepers, who rotate between animals to prevent the baby elephants becoming unduly attached to one individual, can be remembered by the adult creatures decades later.

After their first year, the elephants join older groups to develop the survival skills they will need as adults. The Trust has given a home to dozens of baby elephants orphaned for a host of reasons, from abandonment to getting stuck in mud.



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Tekst 11

- 1p 29 Wat wordt in dit artikel verteld over olifanten die wees zijn geworden?
- A Ze blijven trouw aan de groep olifanten waar ze deel van uit maken.
 - B Ze krijgen een groep verzorgers die hen door het eerste jaar heen helpt.
 - C Ze worden overgebracht naar verschillende dierentuinen in de regio.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.