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MEDIA PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Today at 2 pm with Callee, Trails of Africa's second African Bull Elephant. Opportunity to interview the Zoo's veterinarian regarding Callee's care and his Zookeeper regarding his training and environment.

Trails of Africa's Second Bull Elephant Arrives at the Birmingham Zoo

The Birmingham Zoo proudly announces the arrival of its second African bull elephant for Trails of Africa. Callee, a 10 year old, African bull elephant made the Birmingham Zoo his home arriving from Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Callee, pronounced Cal-lee, stands almost 8 feet tall and weighs over 5,000 pounds. After a standard quarantine period and introduction to his new surroundings, Callee will begin to explore his new home, Trails of Africa. "We are thrilled to have Callee as the second edition to Trails of Africa, which will have its Grand Opening in April. This will be a historic occasion for the Birmingham Zoo," says Dr. William R. Foster, President and CEO of the Birmingham Zoo. The Trails of Africa exhibit will assist zoos across the country in vital research on African bull elephant behavior and male reproductive research. This research will benefit the science of conservation for African bull elephants worldwide, and establish the Birmingham Zoo as a leader in African bull elephant conservation. Trails of Africa is the first exhibit of its kind in the world.

In the wild, African bulls often form groups. As young bulls mature, they are pushed out of their mother's herd. This was occurring for Callee at the Pittsburgh Zoo. When this occurs they gravitate to an older bull, perhaps to learn from him. This dynamic is the model for Trails of Africa. It will house a group of male elephants, or "bull" elephants. Bulwagi, the Zoo's first elephant, will be the patriarch of this group of younger adolescent bull elephants.

The Zoo encourages the public to visit Callee and the entire Trails of Africa exhibit in the Spring of 2011. He is the second elephant to arrive for this new exhibit. The Birmingham Zoo is anticipating new companions for Callee and Bulwagi.

For more information about the Birmingham Zoo, please visit www.birminghamzoo.com.

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