



Date: June 17, 2008
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Zoo's African Elephants 'Weighing In'

Zoo staffers knew Rosie and Juno, the Jackson Zoo's two female African Elephants, weighed at least 4 tons, but this Tuesday afternoon the two "girls" stepped on the scales with little hesitation to a crowd of visitors and media to reveal just how heavy they were – a feat not too many human females (or males for that matter) are very inclined to do.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) loaned the Jackson Zoo truck scales so keeper staff can get an accurate weight of the world's largest land mammal.

Members of the animal staff have trained the elephants to step on the scales to be weighed.

"We weigh Rosie and Juno twice a year," said lead elephant keeper Percy King, "It's good to keep a record of dramatic changes in weight that could indicate serious health issues."



Photo: Rosie places one front foot on the front scale and one back foot on the front scale and lifts the other two to produce an exact weight.

Rosie is 37-years-old and Juno is 28-years old and both are in excellent health.

Oh, and for the weights:

Rosie is 8,650 lbs. and Juno is 8,300 lbs.