



**AZA Board of Directors Policy Banning the Use of Bullhooks to Manage
Elephants at AZA-Accredited Facilities
Adopted June 6, 2022**

Reaffirming and completing implementation of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Board of Directors (the Board) policy of July 25, 2019 (below), in which the Board stated its intention to completely phase out any use of the bullhook by January 1, 2023, the Board hereby directs AZA staff, in consultation with the Accreditation Commission, to revise accreditation standards to prohibit all uses of the bullhook effective January 1, 2023.

The Board encourages those elephant holders who have not yet phased out all uses of the bullhook to consult the AZA Elephant Taxon Advisory Group and other AZA members who safely manage their elephants, including for training, medical care, and husbandry, without using the bullhook.

**AZA Board of Directors Policy on the Use of Bullhooks to Manage
Elephants at AZA-Accredited Facilities
(superseded by June 6, 2022, policy)**

The Board of Directors is committed to continued progress in implementing its policy on Maximizing Occupational Safety of Elephant Care Professionals at AZA-accredited and AZA-certified related facilities and AZA's Standards for Elephant Management and Care. It is the intent of the Board to completely phase-out any use of the bullhook by 1 January 2023. In furtherance of that goal, it is resolved that —

1. By 1 January 2021, the bullhook may not be used in daily care and management of elephants or in routine elephant training.
2. If a facility director determines it necessary, the bullhook may be made accessible to respond to specific emergency situations, or to use in non-routine prescribed medical procedures for tethered elephants that have been historically trained with the bullhook.
3. Any use of the bullhook for emergencies or non-routine medical procedures must be based on a written policy outlining those specific situations and procedures and ensuring that use of the bullhook in those situations will not support or require its use in daily care or routine training.

4. AZA will provide a list of resources to aid in the transition away from all uses of the bullhook.
5. A question will be added to the Annual Elephant Report regarding the use of the bullhook.