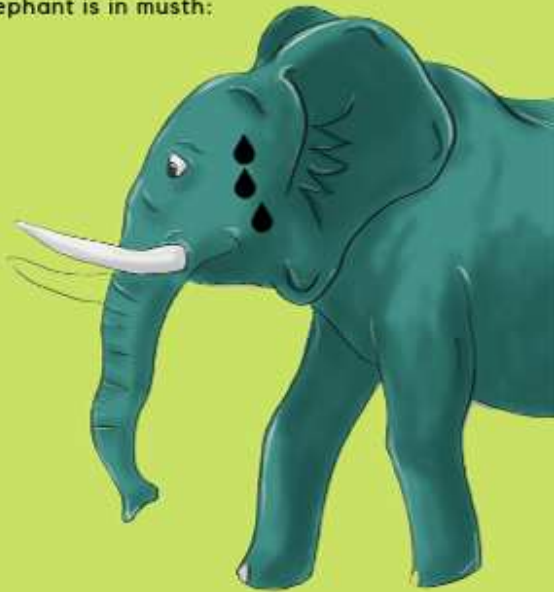


A FIGHTY GUY

Musth is a periodic condition in bull elephants (males), characterized by a sharp increase in reproductive hormones. In these periods the bulls are highly aggressive. Testosterone levels in an elephant in musth can be over 60 times higher than those of the same elephant at other times. They are terribly sensitive and do not tolerate any noise and sudden movements:

Be aware! in this period it is much, much better to stay away from the quarrelsome youngsters.

An elephant is in musth:



- swollen temple or temporal glands
- swollen trunk base
- an oily liquid comes out of the temple glands, leaving a black trace across the cheeks to the corners of the mouth
- penetrating smell of sweat and urine
- permanent dripping of urine and hind legs, which are wet on the inside by urine drop

ALWAYS GOOD RULES

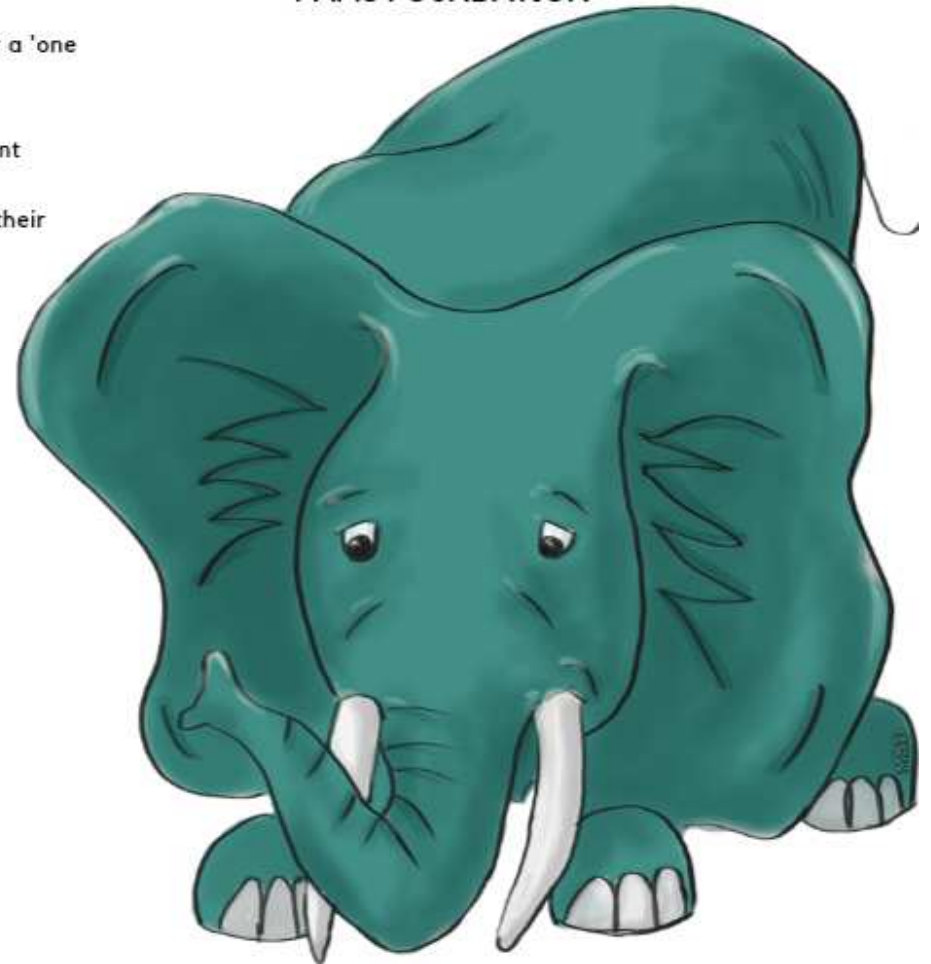
- Remember: elephants love peace and calm so move accordingly, never go to meet them and stay quiet and silent
- Stay far (at least 50 m) they love their own free space
- They are emotional animals, do not provoke them with abrupt movements or by getting too close
- Park to observe but prepare for a 'one point turn'
- Stay downwind from the elephant
- Do not block their way, cut off their escape route or encircle them.



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What if you meet an elephant?

PAMS FOUNDATION



MEETING AN ELEPHANT

Meeting an elephant is one of the most extraordinary experiences you can imagine. They are beautiful and very sensitive animals so it is always good to remember to respect their quiet when we meet them. Despite their size, if disturbed or treated with little respect, they can feel fragile and nervous.

Green zone: no danger!

you are part of the landscape

Yellow zone: he noticed you...

you are something moving in its space

Orange zone: you frightened!

Warning signs to say 'go away'!!



50 meters

Red zone: danger!!!

Too close! you're in the Fight zone, which means full charge and contact that can cause injury or death.....

WHAT ARE THE WARNING MESSAGES?

- Front foot swinging but not directed towards vehicle
- Breaking vegetation without eating it
- Coiling, uncoiling and twitching of trunk
- Touching temporal gland or eye with trunk
- Head shake not directed at vehicle
- Abrupt termination of current action while listening (usually by the entire group)
- Smelling towards vehicle with trunk

DO IT!

Driving

If you had the engine off, turn on and stay still

If the elephant is approaching, proceed slowly back without sudden movements

Walking

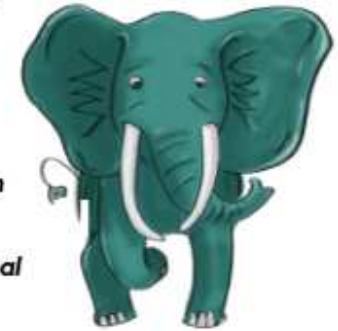
(you shouldn't be walking!!!!)

Just stay calm and still, so he knows you're not a threat. As soon as possible, walk back slowly, without turning your back on him, looking for a sheltered place.

IF HE FEELS THREATENED BY OUR PRESENCE, THINGS GET WORSE:

- Turning towards vehicle with ears spread
- Throwing objects towards vehicle
- Standing tall (head raised high, elephant peering over tusks, ears cocked and trunk hanging at acute angle)
- Head shake or jerk towards vehicle
- Forward trunk swish
- Charge towards vehicle
- Foot swung towards vehicle
- Threat display (Bending down with front of body onto knees and pushing head towards ground)

CHARGE!



An first hassle can become a charge...mock or real

MOCK CHARGE

This usually first involves a lot of ear flapping, head shaking and loud trumpeting that means: uncertainty about charging. The elephant then runs towards you with ears spread out, head held high, and trumpeting loudly. This is terrifying but be impressed, not surprised.

DO IT:

Driving or walking tries to stay calm and stay where you are!

TRUE CHARGE

In some unfortunate cases - rare - if the elephant is injured, weakened or feels without a way out it could really attack. It will fold its ears back, lower its head, bend its trunk under its chin and run at full speed on your vehicle. They will do it in silence, without baring.

DO IT:

Just drive and put on your seatbelts because the collision is really strong!!!!

- Walking (this is really the worst time to be walking)
- Run in a zig-zag pattern if the elephant makes a real charge.
- Find something to keep between you and the charging elephant.