

Title:

What You Have In Common With Elephants

Word Count:

331

Summary:

In many parts of India, elephants are used for manual labour; it is a tradition that has been passed down for generations. Now although they are relatively peaceful animals, elephants are incredibly strong and can be very difficult to control. To deal with this, handlers developed a method that allows them to ^condition~ elephants while they are young. This conditioning involves tyi...

Keywords:

belief, conditioning, control

Article Body:

In many parts of India, elephants are used for manual labour; it is a tradition that has been passed down for generations. Now although they are relatively peaceful animals, elephants are incredibly strong and can be very difficult to control. To deal with this, handlers developed a method that allows them to ^condition~ elephants while they are young. This conditioning involves tying a young elephant's legs to a stake in the ground with a very strong rope. Whenever the baby elephant attempts to break free, it discovers that the rope is too strong. As the elephant grows to its full size, it continues to accept the idea that the rope prevents it from walking away. With this belief firmly in place, the handlers can restrain a full-sized elephant easily with a single rope. Now, it is easy to see that elephants and human beings are completely different; however, this example is a good one. The reality of this example is that the elephant can walk away at any time, and that it would be very difficult to control. No, we are not elephants, but just like them, many of us create limiting beliefs about ourselves.

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