



# ELEPHANT *Whispers*

## *Elephant Profile*

# SHAMWARI

*In the Shona language, the name Shamwari means 'friend' and true to his name, Shamwari is a lovely warm elephant who takes great pleasure in human company and attention. His tall forelegs are the object of much admiration!*

When we first met Shamwari, he had a serious infection in his 'nether regions'. The vet put him under anesthetic and treated him; thereafter medication had to be applied twice daily. Shamwari became nervous of people approaching him from behind and being close to his legs, as the treatment inevitably resulted in him experiencing discomfort. Whilst we are against the elephant doing 'circus type' tricks, we had to think out the box, and in an effort to help Shamwari become more relaxed and trusting once the treatment was complete, the Elephant Grooms taught Shamwari to kick a ball. Not only did he enjoy the positive encouragement and their enthusiasm at his success, but when the Grooms kicked the ball back to Shamwari, it would roll under him, or near his back legs and he would allow them to fetch the ball. Shamwari gradually became more comfortable with people being close to him, and behind him. Not being able to control their excitement, our dogs joined in the game so we ended up with a happy relaxed elephant and two busy dogs!

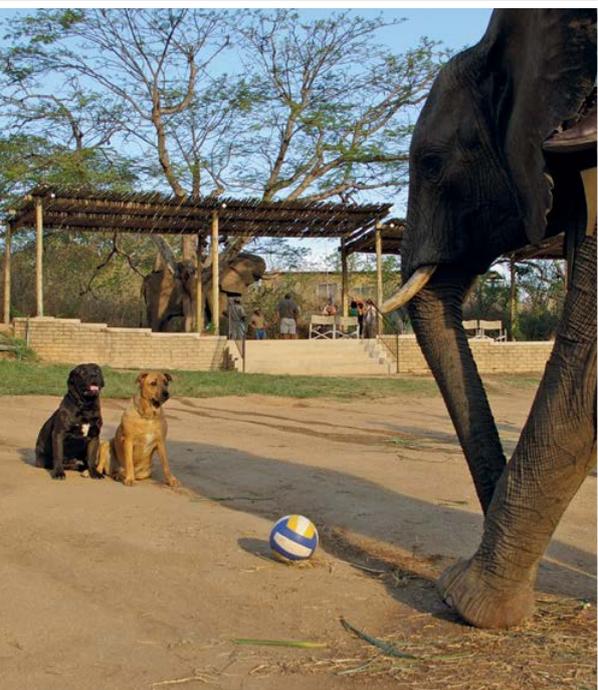
## *Shamwari* AT A GLANCE

Sex: Male

Age: 24 Years

Shoulder Height: 3.04m

Approximate Weight: ± 3 tons



Shamwari's increasing self-confidence and sense of humour are an absolute joy to witness. He loves to fill his trunk with water, line up an unsuspecting target and drench them with spray. Initially he would spray the water on the ground, but quickly realized he would get more of a reaction spraying us!

He has also learnt to shake his head when we ask – are you Shamwari – he replies with a vigorous head nod, and a quick request for a treat!

