

TINGKAH LAKU HARIAN GAJAH SUMATERA (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*) DI GEMBIRA LOKA ZOO, YOGYAKARTA

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INTISARI

Gajah Sumatera (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*) merupakan spesies berstatus kritis terancam punah sehingga perlu ditangkarkan, baik secara insitu maupun eksitu. Gembira Loka (GL) Zoo merupakan salah satu tempat penangkaran eksitu gajah Sumatera di Indonesia. Penangkaran gajah harus dapat memastikan kenyamanan, keamanan, dan kebebasan gajah. Tujuan penulisan Tugas Akhir tingkah laku gajah Sumatera adalah untuk mengetahui pola tingkah laku harian gajah Sumatera di GL Zoo yang terdiri dari perilaku makan, minum, menggaram, mandi, berteduh, dan bermain. Sampel yang digunakan sebagai sumber data adalah tiga ekor gajah betina berumur 25 hingga 32 tahun dan kisaran berat badan 2.361 hingga 2.967 kg ditentukan secara *purposive sampling*. Metode pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan mencatat kondisi lingkungan yang meliputi suhu dan kelembapan selama 45 hari pada pukul 07.00, 12.00, dan 17.00 WIB menyesuaikan jam operasional. Tingkah laku harian gajah diamati selama sebelas hari di tengah periode pengambilan data kondisi lingkungan. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa lingkungan gajah Sumatera di GL Zoo sudah sesuai standar dengan suhu dan kelembapan rata-rata, yaitu 25 hingga 32°C dan 65 hingga 86%. Gajah di GL Zoo tidak dirantai dan diperlakukan baik oleh *mahout* sehingga tidak menunjukkan tanda stres. Gajah berperilaku normal, tidak agresif, dan mampu bersosialisasi dengan sesama. Tingkah laku gajah Sumatera di GL Zoo dipengaruhi oleh faktor umur, karakter, dan status hierarki. Natasha sebagai gajah *alpha* lebih dominan dibanding gajah lain saat mengakses pakan, kubangan, dan tempat berteduh. Lisi bersifat individualis sehingga tidak terpengaruh dengan sifat dominan Natasha. Eca adalah gajah termuda, menempati posisi terendah dalam status hierarki, sehingga sering mengalah dalam kompetisi untuk mendapatkan akses pakan, kubangan, dan berteduh di bawah *cungkup*.

Kata kunci : gajah Sumatera, GL Zoo, lingkungan, tingkah laku

DAILY BEHAVIOR OF SUMATRAN ELEPHANT (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*) AT GEMBIRA LOKA ZOO, YOGYAKARTA

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ABSTRACT

Sumatran elephants (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*) are a critically endangered species that need to be bred, both in situ and ex situ. Gembira Loka (GL) Zoo is one of the ex situ breeding places for Sumatran elephants in Indonesia. Elephant breeding must be able to ensure the comfort, safety, and freedom of elephants. The purpose of writing the final project on elephant behavior is to determine the daily behavior patterns of Sumatran elephants at GL Zoo which consist of eating, drinking, salting, bathing, taking shelter, and playing. The samples used as the data source were three female elephants aged 25 to 32 years, with body weights ranging from 2,361 to 2,967 kg, determined using purposive sampling. The data collection method was conducted by recording environmental conditions, including temperature and humidity, for 45 days at 07.00 a.m., 12.00 p.m., and 05.00 p.m., adjusted to operational hours. The daily behavior of the elephants was observed for eleven days in the middle of the environmental data collection period. The analysis results showed that the environment of Sumatran elephants at GL Zoo met the standards, with an average temperature and humidity ranging from 25 to 32°C and 65 to 86%. Elephants at GL Zoo were not chained and treated well by mahouts so that they did not show signs of stress. Elephants behaved normally, were not aggressive, and were able to socialize with each other. The behavior of Sumatran elephants at GL Zoo was influenced by age, character, and hierarchical status. Natasha as the alpha elephant was more dominant than other elephants when accessing food, wallows, and shelters. Lisi was individualistic, so that she was not affected by Natasha's dominant nature. Eca was the youngest elephant, occupying the lowest position in the hierarchical status, so she often lost in the competition to get access to food, wallows, and shelter under the canopy.

Keywords: Sumatran elephant, GL Zoo, environment, behavior