

Bupa Facts-

From Author Nicholas Courtney:

In 1980 John Chipperfield caught Bupa (pronounced “Boopa”), age 4, in **Uganda**, which saved her life from the Ugandan military, who had killed her Mom & Dad in target practice. Bupa was sold to the **Dublin Zoo**.

3 years later John Chipperfield found Bupa up for sale and notified Colin Tennant (Lord Glenconner, 3rd Baron- close friend of Princess Margaret), as he was looking for publicity for his new business venture on the island of St. Lucia. Colin purchased Bupa and she was moved from Dublin, Ireland to **Longleat**, England. Then Bupa, was moved to **Tilbury docks** where she boarded a **Geest Banana boat** that was headed **for Castries, St. Lucia**.

Colin had flown out 2 Indian mahouts to take care of Bupa, but because Bupa took a liking to “Kent Adonai” (the 1st person to make “Bupa’s” acquaintance at the dock in Castries), both Indians we

not needed. One must have been Alex- the Indian that Bob and Terri Pone had met.

Bob info: In 1984 when Bob met Bupa, Alex said Bupa was 8. This would make 1976 her birth year. It's acknowledged that Ugandan elephants give birth all year around so it's not possible to estimate the month or even time of year that, Bupa was born..

Some facts:

Colin's daughters, Amy and May Tennant, are twins.

(Flora) May Pamela Tennant She is married to Anton Creasy. Amy Jasmine Elizabeth Tennant is her sister and they both **named "Bupa."**

1. We know Bupa was **born in Uganda** and became orphaned.

2. Shipped to the **Dublin Zoo** in Ireland.

3. Then to **Longleat Safari Park**

4. Then to **Tilbury docks**

5. 1982 shipped Bupa to **Castries, St. Lucia** on a Banana boat. Kent Adonai, a dock worker, age 18 was offered the job of care giver by Colin Tennant. He was the first St. Lucian to greet, Bupa.

6. Bupa lived on between the **Pitons on Sugar Beach, located on Tennant's "Jalousie Plantation."**

7. Bupa **died circa Nov/Dec 1993** at the age of 17 after eating raw, bread dough. The dough fermented, expanded and ultimately asphyxiated her.

Lives: Sugar Beach, Jalousie Plantation, Soufriere,
Saint Lucia **Education: Home Schooled in
Uganda Land-Smarts in St. Lucia**

Bupa lived at:

St. Lucia, Lesser Antilles, Caribbean Sea Sugar
Beach, St. Lucia.

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“BUPA LIVES”

By Dan Dessaint

Here's a seaworthy story that I'm sure every cruiser will enjoy. It's about an elephant, a beautiful bay and two young sailors. It was on a cruise in the Grenadines that these young cruisers viewed and touched the most valuable treasure to ever grace any of the Caribbean islands, an Elephant called Bupa. Those two seafaring people are Bob and Terri Pone and their adventure occurred in 1984.

Bob and Terri love the ocean and their dream was to cruise to as many Islands as they could while still preserving their home life. To feed their dream they snuck away every once in awhile but always kept their children, their home and employment their top priorities. The way they quenched their thirst for open-sea sailing was by bareboat chartering and it was during one of these charters in 1984 that they met Bupa the St. Lucia elephant.



Their cruise began out of Marigot Bay, St. Lucia, and using charts as their guide they decided to start their cruise by first sailing down to Carriacou Island, bypassing the beautiful Piton Mountains located just a few nautical miles south of Marigot Bay. They photographed the Pitons as well as they passed and said to each other, “this is where we'll anchor overnight before returning to home port.”

After 10 days of Island hopping their tropical sailing adventure was nearing its end, so they started back to port.

Bob and Terri have bareboat chartered in many places and they both agreed that their Windward Island's adventure well as of all their

was their best open water sailing, as island experiences.

As previously toward the small bay that they had noticed sail back was reach at 15 knots and Moorings Beneteau thrilling and could actually see St. miles out. As they dwarfed them, 2400 feet out of the water. The bay was absolutely calm with crystal clear water that hemmed a white sand beach.



decided, Bob and Terri sailed (Sugar Bay), between the Pitons on the first day of their cruise. Their incredibly fast; the wind was beam they averaged 9 knots in their 39. At the very least it was both a beautiful sailing experience. They Lucia's Pitons Mountains many approached the small bay, the Pitons looking like giant sentinels standing

Bob's morning ritual of enjoying a cup of coffee in the stern of the vessel, while watching the sunrise, was interrupted when he heard a loud commotion coming from the beach. He had heard what he thought were pigs squealing and then saw the pigs running in all directions from a mud pit located close to Sugar Beach. Bob then saw a pig flying through the air and landing on the beach. At first he couldn't believe his eyes. Then, in the middle of the mud pit, Bob saw an elephant, yes, an elephant. Bob shook his head in disbelief. Yep... it was an elephant challenging the pigs for the mud pit. He also instinctively thought, "what the heck is an elephant doing living on the beach of a Caribbean island?" Bob called to his wife who was still comfortably asleep. "Terri, you may want to see this and bring the camera. We're going exploring."

Bob and Terri decided to go ashore as quickly as possible... breakfast in hand. As they approached the beach in their dinghy, they could see Bupa heading for the spot she thought they'd be landing on the beach. As Bob and Terri stepped onto the beach, Bupa was like a playful, little kid there to greet them with her handler, Alex. It was more than apparent that Bupa was terribly excited to see them. Bupa was even more excited to see what Terri had in her hand (the source of Bupa's curiosity- FOOD!), which was some bread and bananas in a paper bag. As they approached Bupa, Terri hid the bag behind her back. This was not a good idea. Bupa



became so excited, she started probing Terri with her trunk, frantically searching for the bag. The more Terri tried to avoid Bupa's trunk the more Bupa was determined to get to the bag. Terri finally gave in when Bupa's trunk slipped under her blouse, which would have been no match for a determined trunk attached to an extremely enthusiastic elephant. For Bob and Terri, it was not only great fun to watch, but a once-in-a-lifetime experience they will never forget.

Accordingly, they fed Bupa, photographed Bupa, and talked to Alex about her. Alex told them that Bupa was 8 years old and loved to be with people as well as her animal friends. Alex asked if Terri wanted to ride on

Bupa but she declined. Terri rubbed Bupa all over and Bupa seemed to really enjoy the affection. Bupa was clearly people friendly and was very happy in her environment; and Alex was obviously very loved by "Bupa." Alex also indicated that when Bupa saw a boat she would run to the beach and wait for the people to would swim out



Not long after, Bupa's backyard was a horse,

come ashore. On some occasions Bupa to greet the cruisers.

Alex took Bob and Terri on a tour of and showed them Bupa's friends. There goats, sheep, ducks, geese and, of

course, the piggies. “Bupa,” was obviously the boss but she loved and protected her barnyard friends. Alex showed them “Bupa's,” dining room and bedroom, which was an old, abandoned sugar mill building once used for processing rum. “Bupa,” was free to roam what seemed to be hundreds of acres covered with palm trees and beautiful tropical plants... truly a paradise sheltered by mountains that were visible from virtually every part of the island, and officially known as the Jalousie Plantation. Without a shadow of a doubt, “Bupa,” was the absolute highlight of Bob and Terri Pone’s Windward Island adventure.

Editor's note: Sadly, Bupa passed away February 1993. Bupa had no idea what an impression she would leave behind or how much she would be loved and remembered. Bupa who lived between the Pitons and who gave so many boaters joy is now alive in spirit through a children's book and song. Artist, author and song writer Dan Dessaint from Ledyard, CT was so inspired by Bupa and her story, compelled him to write a children's book and song about her, called Bupa the Surf Elephant. Bupa and Dan's story is an inspiration to all of us, young and old.



What makes this children's book more exciting is the story behind Bupa's story which connects to celebrities, Lords, Princesses, Countesses and even to the Queen of England. But that's another story. There has even been mention of a Bupa the Surf Elephant ride at a new amusement park being developed in Massachusetts. Bupa's legacy lives on.

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