SAURAHA Elephant Foot Care Workshop
May 2010 – Chitwan, Nepal

Elephant Aid International - USA
Elephant Care International - USA
National Trust Nature Conservancy – Nepal

Program developed and presented by Carol Buckley. 2010
Foot Care

Goal: Maintain Healthy Nails and Pads
foot pads should be reasonably thick and have well defined tracks

A healthy pad protects the foot and nails from bruising – the arrows point to areas of unhealthy pad
overgrown nails, thin pads, and roads can cause dangerous wearing of the pad
walking on paved roads can cause dangerous thinning of the pads
the pad should have well defined tracks-
pads should not be smooth

this pad is thin
and too smooth
this pad and nails are severely overgrown
the back 1/3 of the foot is bruised
cuticles should be supple and short to allow for proper perspiration
nails should be free of cracks

trim cracks but do not file front of the nail
these nails are overgrown and have folded under the foot

the nails should be shorter than the pad
cuticles protect the connective tissue between the nail and the foot

these cuticles are dry and overgrown
cuticles should be short and soft
causes of foot problems for privately owned elephants in Sauraha

- asphalt and gravel roads
- hard packed earth roads
- concrete floors
- hours on chains
- low quality diet
- lack of foot care
- poor hygiene
Ways to maintain healthy feet are: avoid walking on asphalt, provide proper foot care, and maintain a clean stable.

If you must walk on asphalt always \textit{walk slow}. Fast and prolonged walking on asphalt can cause dangerous pad wear and nail splits.
foot care is important for foot health
you will need a skilled foot trimmer and the correct tools for the job