Melya’s letter:

In 2006, the then-director of the Los Angeles Zoo testified to the City Council that Gita the elephant was in good health. Two months later, she died of ailments related to the size and quality of her exhibit.

Billy is now demonstrating the exact same problems. The Performing Animal Welfare Society - PAWS sanctuary in Northern California has 15 acres of soft earth, trees and lakes waiting for Billy so he can heal. In 2007, Ruby the elephant was sent from the L.A. Zoo to the PAWS sanctuary. There was no question about whether it was accredited by the Assn. of Zoos and Aquariums, something the zoo now says it wants for whatever facility Billy is sent to.

Since the L.A. Zoo has already sent an elephant to PAWS, there is no reason why it should not send Billy.

Melya Kaplan, Santa Monica
The writer is the founder and executive director of Voice For The Animals Foundation

Morgan’s letter:

I appreciate the editorial but, again, am left to wonder, where is the leadership within the L.A. City Council? A highly social, sentient and long-lived animal remains in the L.A. Zoo in spite of overwhelming and conclusive evidence that no city zoo, no matter how well-intentioned or well-funded, can provide adequately for such a large animal. Zoos cannot justify captive elephants on the basis of education. Take a look for yourself. What can be learned? Any such claims of educational merit are educational malpractice pure and simple.

Morgan Schwartz
Retired Teacher and Administrator
Culver City