

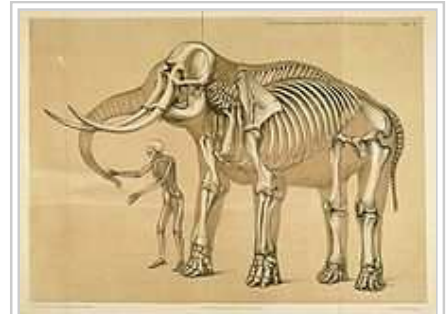
# Elephant



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Elephants** are large land mammals in two genera of the family Elephantidae: *Elephas* and *Loxodonta*. Three species of elephant are living today: the African Bush Elephant, the African Forest Elephant and the Asian Elephant (also known as the Indian Elephant). All other species and genera of Elephantidae are extinct, some since the last ice age: dwarf forms of mammoths may have survived as late as 2,000 BC.<sup>[1]</sup> Elephants and other Elephantidae were once classified with other thick-skinned animals in a now invalid order, Pachydermata.

Elephants are the largest land animals now living.<sup>[2]</sup> The elephant's gestation period is 22 months, the longest of any land animal. At birth it is common for an elephant calf to weigh 120 kilograms (260 lb). They typically live for 50 to 70 years, but the oldest recorded elephant lived for 82 years.<sup>[3]</sup> The largest elephant ever recorded was shot in Angola in 1956. This male weighed about 12,000 kilograms (26,000 lb),<sup>[4]</sup> with a shoulder height of 4.2 metres (14 ft), a metre (yard) taller than the average male African elephant.<sup>[5]</sup> The smallest elephants, about the size of a calf or a large pig, were a prehistoric species that lived on the island of Crete during the



Comparative view of the human and elephant frames, c1860.