

Correspondence

Response to: Susan Mikota et al. (2011) Correspondence. Gajah 34: 6.

[Comments on Summary of the 4. Annual Tuberculosis and Elephants Workshop. Gajah 33: 68-70.]

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the May 30, 2011 letter, and hopefully facilitate future progress in our understanding of tuberculosis in elephants. There were four Annual Tuberculosis in Elephants Workshops jointly hosted by the International Elephant Foundation and Ringling Bros. Center for Elephant Conservation in 2007-2010. Several of the signatories of the May 2011 letter either attended or were invited but were unable to attend. Because of the focused nature of the November 2010 workshop, namely on future research needs for treatment of elephant tuberculosis, one of the signatories of the May 2011 letter was selected for invitation but was unable to attend the November workshop.

In a spirit of cooperation in August 2011, the majority of the authors of this letter and the May 2011 letter met in Fort Worth, Texas to participate in a workshop entitled Management and Research Priorities of Tuberculosis for Elephants in Human Care - Stakeholders Task Force. The American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, Association of Zoos and Aquariums Elephant Taxon Advisory Group, Elephant Managers Association, Fort Worth Zoo, International Elephant Foundation, and the Ringling Bros. Center for Elephant

Conservation organized and facilitated the workshop to share current science and research information about tuberculosis in elephants and through facilitated and breakout sessions identified research and management priorities and action plans to further understand the identification, management and treatment of tuberculosis in elephants. Thirty-three participants – including veterinarians, elephant care experts, human Tb professionals, public health experts – discussed concerns, clarified areas of disagreement and identified partnerships to advance our knowledge of tuberculosis in elephants.

Collaboration, cooperation and communication is essential across the spectrum of elephant care to ensure the well-being of Asian elephants globally. We appreciate the expertise of all involved and the level of commitment we all have for Asian elephants.

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Elephants in a habitat improved area at Kuiburi National Park, Thailand

Photo by Wayuphong Jitvijak