

## Correspondence

*Comments on: Florence Labatut and Ingrid Suter (2010) The Veterinary Care of Domesticated Elephants in Laos by a Mobile Veterinary Unit. Gajah 32: 21-26.*

Let me at the outset congratulate you for the interesting and informative article. However, I feel that it is only proper to make some constructive suggestions.

1. All the trade names should be preceded by the drug name or pharmacopoeia name since these drugs may not be available in other countries under the same trade name.

2. Reference is made to Penicillin-Streptomycin (20/20) 50 ml: it should be given as IU - Penicillin and grams - Streptomycin since they are expressed like that only. Also route of administration like IM or IV should be stated.

3. Table 1. Some drugs are stated as being given for 6 months to 1 year. It is not clear whether it is once in 6 months or once a year or some other frequency. Hence a more descriptive phrase would help.

4. Eye discharge. It is not to be taken seriously unless there is any clinical condition like conjunctivitis. Elephants do not have nasolacrimal duct as we have, which take the tears to the eye if it is small quantities. But in elephants any amount of lachrymal secretion (in elephants there is no lachrymal gland and in its place it is the Harderian gland which is also seen in birds) is drained over the skin, hence easily noticed.

5. Dermatitis is often a management problem for want of proper scrubbing and bathing except as in the case of lice. Lice are easily detected looking at the tail hairs and ear hairs where they are seen very commonly.

6. Urinary infection. This is often due to lack of enough water for drinking. Often crystalluria is confused as urinary infection. Also dose and route of administration.

7. Only approved vaccination for elephants is for Anthrax. No other vaccination for any disease has been officially recommended.

8. Vitamins: Please give dose, route, frequency etc.

These are only constructive suggestions on some important points. I hope you will take in the right spirit.

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Minneriya National Park, Sri Lanka  
(see book review on page 84)  
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