



**the
Elephant
Sanctuary**
in Tennessee

THE ELEPHANT SANCTUARY RESPIRATORY PROTECTION AND INFECTION CONTROL PLAN

The following is the Elephant Sanctuary's respiratory protection and infection control plan which it will implement when a MTB culture positive elephant is in residence.

- The Sanctuary will adopt all aspects of the use and care of the N-95 mask as outlined by the Tennessee State Department of Health. The Sanctuary will utilize resources made available by reliable sources including the Tennessee State Department of Health to train staff, visitors and volunteers on the hazards, symptoms, and mode of transmission of *M. tuberculosis*. The Sanctuary will work with the Department of Health to track the MTB status of all personnel and will respond to recommendations made as result of any conversion by Sanctuary personnel.
- The Sanctuary will follow the MTB treatment protocol as established in the Guidelines for the Control of Tuberculosis in Elephants developed by the National Tuberculosis Working Group for Zoo and Wildlife Species.
- The care and treatment of all resident elephants, including MTB culture positive elephants, will be performed under the authority of Dr. Steven Scott, the vet of record. The Sanctuary will continue to consult with Dr. Susan Mikota, member of the National Tuberculosis Working Group for Zoo and Wildlife Species. Dr. Mikota has first hand experience with MTB culture positive elephants. She is intimately familiar with the medical history of the two elephants currently scheduled to be moved to the Sanctuary. Dr. Mikota has agreed to consult with the Sanctuary regarding the care and treatment of MTB elephants in residence. Dr. Freeland Dunker is the head veterinarian at the San Francisco Zoo. He developed and implemented successfully MTB treatment for an Asian elephant with a history of aggression towards people. Dr. Dunker has agreed to be available for consultation regarding the ongoing treatment of any MTB elephant in residence at the Sanctuary.
- When a MTB culture positive elephant is in residence at the Sanctuary, a sign notifying staff, visitors and volunteers will be posted. Additionally, when an elephant is identified as MTB culture positive, all persons entering the compound where the quarantine barn is located, will be informed of the hazard with a verbal warning and written handout informing them of TB situation and precautionary measures required by everyone who enters.
- The Sanctuary will control access to the area housing MTB culture positive elephants by administratively limiting access to essential personnel. No non essential visitor will be allowed on grounds.
- When a MTB culture positive elephant is in residence at the Sanctuary, the Sanctuary will take the following precautionary measures in the barn to reduce the risk of spreading the disease.

- Staff will be assigned so as to limit the risk of cross contamination. Two senior caregivers will supervise the care and treatment of any MTB culture positive elephant. Their access to both populations of elephants, MTB culture positive and non exposed, will be severely limited. An additional two caregivers will be assigned to the direct care and treatment of any MTB culture positive elephant. These two caregivers will have NO access to any other elephant until such time as the elephants in their care have had two consecutive negative trunk washes, 30 days apart following demonstration of achieving therapeutic drug levels as defined by the working group.
 - No pressure washer or leaf blower will be used to clean the barn
 - Radiant heaters will be used as opposed to the blower-style forced air heaters
 - When the barn is closed, cupola style exhaust fans equipped with HEPA filters will be used to draw air from the barn and dilute and disperse it into the atmosphere, in a direction not occupied by personnel or elephants.
 - Manure will be collected in a container separate from the other elephant's waste. It will be stored away from creeks, streams and elephants.
 - Mycobacteriocidal disinfectants will be utilized to clean the quarantine facility.
 - A fence barrier will be used to prevent dogs and other animals from entering the quarantine barn and pen.
 - All tools will be kept separate from the other barn and elephants.
 - All doors and windows on the east facing wall of the main elephant barn (the wall adjacent to the quarantine barn) will remain closed for the duration of time that any MTB culture positive elephant is inside the quarantine barn.
 - The existing elephant population will be restricted open air access of no closer than 75 feet to the quarantine barn and pen.
- All personnel will be provided with N-95 masks that have been appropriately fit-tested by a trained health care worker.
 - All staff having contact with MTB culture positive elephants will be provided with protective equipment, including N-95 masks that have been appropriately fit-tested by a trained health care worker. Additionally, gowns, gloves, boots and any other gear deemed appropriate by the attending veterinarian will be provided for and worn by staff when collecting trunk wash samples, treating and caring for MTB culture positive elephants. The attending veterinarian will be familiar with, and adhere to, the requirements and recommendations of "THE NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS WORKING GROUP FOR ZOO AND WILDLIFE SPECIES".
 - Any staff, visitor or volunteer that enters the compound when a MTB culture positive elephant is present will be required to put on their N-95 mask at the front gate, prior to entering Sanctuary property.
 - An N-95 mask will be required to be worn by all office personnel from the time they enter the property until they are inside the office space. The only time the office personnel will be allowed to not wear their mask will be while they are inside the office.
 - The office personnel will enter the office space from an interior door in the downstairs keeper area instead of the exterior upstairs door, and all office windows will be kept closed at all times.
 - The air intake to the office will be equipped with a HEPA air filter when an MTB culture positive elephant is in residence.
 - All personnel, including maintenance and caregivers, will be required to wear their mask while in proximity of the quarantine barn and yard whenever a MTB culture positive elephant is outside.
 - All personnel with access to the compound where the quarantine barn is located are required to have the 2-step TB test prior to being allowed on grounds. When there is a MTB culture positive elephant in residence, personnel will be given TB skin tests every three months.