

From: Thomas Holt
To: vsmd.vsmdb.MBinkley
Subject: Notification of possible TB Exposure

Attached is a draft memo I would like to send to Dr. Arnoldi for review. It contains a proposed memo to AVIC's from me advising them of possible animal exposure to elephant TB. I am asking that they share this with state officials for whatever action they care to take. The list of States whose AVIC would receive a copy of this letter and the info pertaining to them is also enclosed. At one time we had discussed doing this and that you might want to send out a letter from Animal Care to the licensed facilities themselves. I would leave that to you but am feeling the need to get this out to animal health officials with Dr. Arnoldi's ok. Please give me your thoughts on this.

01/07/97 10E 07:01 FAX 1 515 453 0152 VS-ARU 2003
Lacatella .SNC

SUBJECT: Possible exposures to *M. tuberculosis*

January 4, 1997

TO: Kay Wheeler
Area Veterinarian In Charge
New York

Veterinary Services is continuing to provide assistance and support in follow-up to a finding of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in a herd of exhibition elephants owned by Mr. John Cuneo, The Hawthorn Corporation, headquartered in facilities in northern Illinois. Elephants from those facilities have been exhibited throughout the United States. Although exposure to other animals appears to be limited, this is to notify you that some animals located in your Area may have been exposed to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Please share the information provided below with appropriate State officials:

New York:

Animals at the Utica Zoo may have been exposed in 1995 to elephants that died in 1996 with pneumonia associated with culture confirmed *M. tuberculosis*. Animals at the Utica Zoo may also have been exposed in 1996 to elephants that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. Utica Zoo, Steele Hill Rd. Utica, NY, 13501 (315)738-0472.

Animals at the Catskill Game Farm, especially some Fallow Deer, may have been exposed in 1996 to elephants that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. Catskill Game Farm, 400 Game Farm Rd., Catskill, NY, 12414 (518)678-9030.

Two elephants from the Illinois herd died of pneumonia associated with *M. tuberculosis* in 1996. The remaining elephants that were associated with the infected elephants have undergone extensive diagnostic testing and will receive prophylactic or therapeutic treatments before returning to exhibition.

Veterinary Services in conjunction with the Animal Care Staff convened an advisory panel of zoo veterinarians affiliated with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians to assist in addressing this issue. On their advice and with the concurrence of the owner, Animal Care has been overseeing the diagnosis and treatment of these animals.

Again, please share this information with appropriate State officials for whatever action they deem appropriate. Dr. Miava

01/07/87 1CE 07:02 FAX 1 518 453 0132 VS-NRO 004
Binkley with Animal Care Staff can be contacted at (410) 571-9098
if further information on the exhibition elephants is needed or
you may contact the VS, Northern Regional Office at (518) 453-
0103.

Thomas J. Holt
Assistant Director - Northern Region
Veterinary Services

cc Regional Director
Dr. Essey

A List of Possible Exposures to *M. tuberculosis*

California:

Animals located on a farm owned by Mr. Gary Johnson, 27575 Hwy 74, Perri, CA 92570 (909)943-9227; may have been exposed to elephants that later died with tuberculosis. West

New York:

Animals at the Utica Zoo may have been exposed in 1995 to elephants that died in 1996 with pneumonia cause by *M. tuberculosis*. Animals at the Utica Zoo may also have been exposed in 1996 to elephants that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. Utica Zoo, Steele Hill Rd. Utica, NY, 13501 (315)738-0472. East

Animals at the Catskill Game Farm, especially some Fallow Deer, may have been exposed in 1996 to elephants that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. Catskill Game Farm, 400 Game Farm Rd., Catskill, NY, 12414 (518)678-9030.

Pennsylvania:

The Pittsburgh Zoo received three elephants, "Jack", "Maclean", and "Moja" which were exposed to an elephant in 1994 that has since responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. (unsure of address of the zoo or the current status of these elephants). One Hill Rd. Pittsburg, PA 23-c-009
East

Florida:

The Walker Brothers Circus have some Jacob sheep and ponies that were exposed over the last two years to elephants that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. Walker Brothers Circus, 410 Houle Ave. Sarasota, FL 34232 (813)378-0534. 15206

Animals owned by Alain Zerbini were exposed in 1996 to elephants that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. It is reported that Alain Zerbini has 12 goats, 2 sheep, 1 cow, 2 llama and 6 pigs and the address is given as 3327 51st, Sarasota, FL 34235 (941) 355-2545. East

Missouri:

In 1996, animals owned by the Tarzan Zerbini Circus may have been exposed to animals that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. The Tarzan Zerbini Circus reportedly has 7 elephants, 3 bears and 14 horses. Their address is given as The Tarzan Zerbini Circus 2317 S. Hall St., Webb City, MO 64870 (417) 781-4883.

Central

Also in 1996, animals owned by the George Carden Circus may have been exposed to animals that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. The George Carden Circus reportedly has 5 elephants, 1 cow, 20 goats, 1 llama, 2 pigs and 16 sheep. The address is given as; The George Carden Circus, 3879 W. State Hwy.. O, Springfield, MO 65803 (417)833-3588.

Oklahoma:

"Libby" a female elephant was exposed to elephants that later died with *M. tuberculosis* and other elephants that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis while on loan for breeding to the Hawthorne facility in Illinois. Libby is owned by D. R. Miller/Carson and Barnes Circus, Hugo OK. PO Box J Hugo, OK 74743

Central

73-C-001

Nebraska:

The animals at the Heritage Zoo may have been exposed in 1995 to elephants that later died with *M. tuberculosis* and in 1996 may have been exposed to other elephants that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. The Heritage Zoo is reported to have 18 primates, 3 goats, 2 pigs, 8 deer and other exotic animals. The address is given as Heritage Zoo, 2103 W. Stolley Park Rd., Grand Island, NE 68801 (308) 385-5416.

Central

Arkansas:

"Toby" was exposed to elephants in 1996 that later died with *M. tuberculosis* and other elephants that have responded positive to tests for tuberculosis. "Toby" is reported to be at the Riddles Elephant Farm and Wildlife Sanctuary in Quitman, AR.

Central

71-C-050
PO Box 715
Greenbrier, AR 72058