



## ASIAN ELEPHANT S U P P O R T

### **Greetings from Asian Elephant Support!**

Our latest update from Sumatra is a testimony to the scope of happenings one encounters when working for and with Asian elephants.

Collaboration and learning are keywords in our campaign to help both captive and wild Asian elephants. In the past couple of months, Christopher's group hosted Dr. Satya P. G. Bhalla, who is a veterinarian from Corbett Tiger Reserve. Dr. Bhalla came to volunteer and guest lecture to the veterinary faculty in Banda Aceh about conservation medicine and veterinary needs in his national park. Dr. Sonja Luz, a wildlife veterinarian from Singapore, who works on many conservation projects in south Asia and Africa, was also a guest lecturer addressing conservation medicine, reptile husbandry and medical care.

Facilitating the exchange of information and knowledge is an important part of improving our care of not only Asian elephants but all wildlife, and we certainly appreciate their extra effort in this direction.

Unfortunately, not all AES news is as positive and encouraging. Several weeks ago, a morning began with the call that's never wanted: Edi, one of the elephants at ECC Holiday Resort, was found dead. Christopher rushed to perform a necropsy, but the cause of death was not clearly revealed, so now we wait for the results from the lab. Prompt necropsies help us learn and expand our knowledge for ever-improving care. None the less, it is never easy to lose an elephant, especially when it is sudden and unexpected. We share in their loss.



*Vesswic vets performing regular health checks at the CRU Sampoinet in West Aceh*

In the beginning of December an emergency call came in from Aceh, as one of the male elephants in musth had attacked and seriously injured its mahout. The elephant was out of control, attacking people and cars on the main road. A standing sedation had to be administered from a distance using a blow pipe. The elephant's long tusks were trimmed for safety and he was secured with a 20' chain to a tree with easy access to food and water. Until he is no longer in musth, the elephant will still be restrained in the forest and looked after by the mahouts. His mahouts will move his location daily by luring him with bananas so that the chain can be removed and he is then relocated to an area with fresh fodder. Were it not for the vets and their ability to help bring this musth bull under control, the outcome would surely be grim! We so appreciate these people who make it possible for such animals to be taken care of for their own safety as well as the people in the area.



*Trimming the tusks on the sedated musth bull*

Now some very happy news! In November, Olive gave birth to her first calf, a very tiny (for an elephant!) but agile and healthy little girl. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Yuni at Tangkahan gave birth to a male calf weighing about 70 kg. It is Yuni's first calf and she is taking very good care of her baby and both mother and calf are in good health. Now the two mothers often stay together, giving the calves the chance to play and socialize. These are the moments that lift our hearts and reaffirm why we care so very much.



*Olive, her mahout, and Chris with Olive's calf Tangka*



*Yuni's calf and Olive's calf play and socialize*

And it's not always just about elephants. During Christopher's last visit to Aceh, he examined a tiger, which had been captured in central Aceh after killing some cattle and two villagers in the past three months. The tiger was sedated for a general health examination and found to be in good health and, according to his teeth, was estimated to be 6 to 7 years old. At the time of Christopher's writing, the tiger was still in quarantine, while options for release in a remote forest area are considered and evaluated. This is an example of people working primarily with one species and being in the position to help others. Thanks to Christopher and the Vesswic veterinarians, and here's to a very good 2011 for our Sumatran friends, both two and four-legged!



*Examination of a tiger by Vesswic veterinarians*

## THANK YOU

We at AES wish to extend a very sincere **Thank You** to each donor who has voted their support with a financial gift. We value that confidence and will always do our best for the animals we all care for so deeply. More requests for support are arriving for our consideration. This is a challenging time for all NGOs, and even more so, for the men and women in the field doing the difficult and important work that is so important to securing the future for elephants and other endangered animals that share our space.

*Please consider making a [donation](#) so that we can remain in a position to help projects that need support in their work for the future of Asian elephants.*

*You can [contact us](#) for more information, go to our website ([www.asianelephantsupport.org](http://www.asianelephantsupport.org)), and follow us on [Facebook](#) (Asian Elephant Support).*

***Thank you for your Support!***

### **ASIAN ELEPHANT SUPPORT**

[www.asianelephantsupport.org](http://www.asianelephantsupport.org)

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