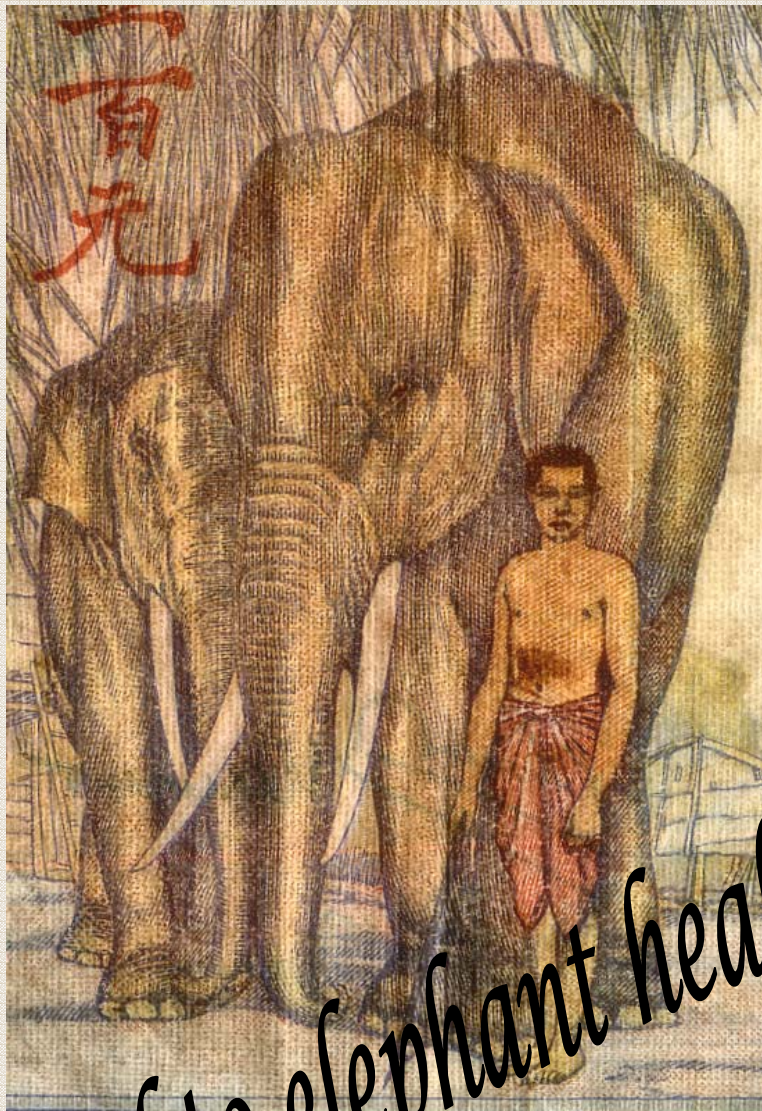
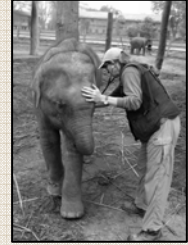
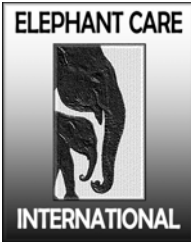


ELEPHANT CARE INTERNATIONAL



...dedicated to elephant healthcare

ANNUAL REPORT 2005



ELEPHANT CARE INTERNATIONAL (ECI)

Elephant Care International is the first nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to elephant healthcare. We provide direct care, information resources for caregivers, and support community-based initiatives to reduce deaths and injuries caused by human-elephant conflict.

ECI Board

Stephen Alter
Author; Guggenheim & Fullbright awards

Wilbur B. Amand VMD
Exec. Dir. Emeritus,
Amer. Assoc. Zoo Veterinarians, Editor Emeritus of the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine

Messiane Cazé
Executive Director.
The Alexander Abraham Foundation

Hank Hammatt
Co-founder & Executive Director of ECI, member of the IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group

Susan Mikota DVM
Co-founder & Director Veterinary Programs & Research for ECI, member IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group, author, Guggenheim award

Visions

Tuberculosis, MtB (TB), a killer disease introduced to elephants by humans is brought under control in captive elephants, eliminating the threat of introduction to wild elephants—where TB might be impossible to diagnose and treat.

A world in which up-to-date and historical healthcare information on elephants will be available in one free accessible space...

A world in which human and elephant deaths caused by conflict over natural resources is alleviated, as villagers, aided by social, economic, and environmental agencies, are provided alternative means of income, allowing them to share their environment with elephants in greater harmony and dignity.

Goals

The World Health Organization, with help from the Gates Foundation, has established a goal of reducing TB in humans by fifty percent by 2015. We accept a similar challenge. Elephant Care International will provide leadership and technical expertise in diagnostics and treatment to assist range-country nations of Asia to complete TB testing of all captive elephants and human handlers by 2015. We have begun and will work with colleagues in Nepal to test, eradicate, or control this disease in elephants and mahouts by 2010.

We will continue expanding our free web-based elephant healthcare resources and will find grants and support to provide free technical books to field veterinarians working with elephants in Asia and Africa.

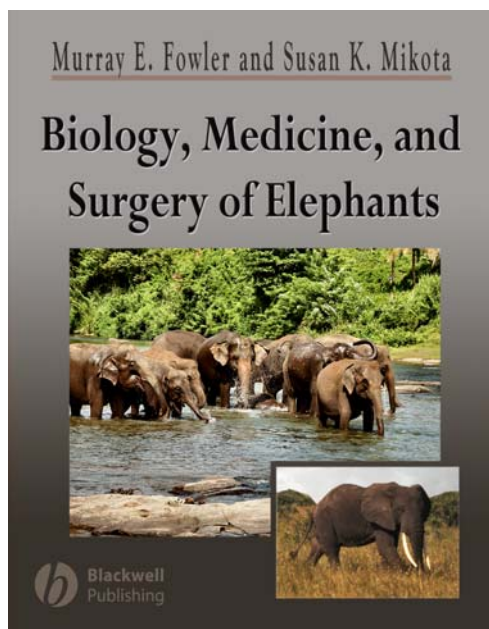
We will continue to work with range-country NGOs to assist in community-oriented action plans to improve the livelihood of rural villagers, consistent with reducing human-elephant conflict and the resultant injuries and deaths of humans and elephants.

Executive Director's Message

This has been an exciting (sometimes too exciting) organizational year. After several years of independent work with elephants in the U.S. and Sumatra, the co-founders, Susan Mikota and I launched Elephant Care International as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.

This action was made possible by the continued generous support of our benefactor, Nancy Abraham and the Alexander Abraham Foundation.

We found a low-cost base for our operations in Waveland, Mississippi and incorporated in March, 2005. In subsequent months associates and outside experts were invited to join ECI's professional Board of Directors and Advisory Board. I take this opportunity to thank you all for donating your time and expertise to the cause of improving the health and welfare of elephants worldwide.



Dr. Mikota continued her work on the first comprehensive text book on elephant healthcare. I assisted as the photography editor and cover designer. The final manuscript of *Elephant Biology, Medicine, and Surgery* was sent to the publisher in early August. This timing was fortuitous because on August 29, disaster struck.

The path of Hurricane Katrina was directly over the town of Waveland and our 85 year-old cottage home/office. Our house and all personal effects, elephant books, and files were destroyed. A 30 foot tidal surge carried away ninety percent of the coastal homes.



The home/office of ECI co-founders before and after Hurricane Katrina

There is a saying among the Marines, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." We salvaged what we could and began volunteering at the Emergency Animal Shelter at the LSU AgCenter's Parker Coliseum. Susan handled the shipment of unclaimed pets separated from owners after the hurricane. I photographed and documented all activities. Susan compiled the entire procedure and created a manual, **Guidelines for Establishing a Shelter for Owned Animals during Disasters.**



Dr. Mikota coordinating pet rescue shipments after Hurricane Katrina

I created and maintain the website (www.LSUEmergencyAnimalShelter.org) describing the experiences and making the manual available for other organizations and individuals involved in rescue work.

Although this delayed some of our ECI projects, it was necessary to lend care to the more immediate problem. At that time ECI was still awaiting full nonprofit status.

After shipping out the last pets, Dr. Mikota turned her attention to our Nepal TB Project. This project was a partnership with ECI, Tufts University, and IAAS of Nepal. Final lab results from the 120 elephants tested for TB are pending. This was the first comprehensive testing of range country elephants for TB and the first to evaluate and compare several promising new diagnostic tools. The laboratory testing was funded by a grant from the Mazuri Corporation.



Romeo is the name of this wild elephant in Nepal. He has just been darted to calm him down after raiding this village.

Our TB work is vitally important. Since 1994, 12 percent of Asian elephants in the U.S. have been diagnosed with TB. Infection rates among captive elephants in Asia are unknown, but human TB rates are 40-60 times higher than in the U.S.

Tuberculosis has not yet been found in wild elephants, but where captive and wild elephants commingle, there is potential for disease introduction. **We must prevent the spread of TB to wild elephant populations where diagnosis and treatment might be impossible.**

Hank Hammatt
Executive Director

2005 Accomplishments

- Completed and submitted *Elephant Biology, Medicine, and Surgery* to the publisher
- Conducted the first comprehensive TB testing of elephants in Asia.
- Compared five TB diagnostic methods in elephants, including a significant new blood test with promising accuracy and immediate results.
- Submitted a book chapter: Capturing wild elephants – implications for conservation and animal welfare. In: *Never Forgetting: Elephants and Ethics*. Johns Hopkins University Press (in press) – Mikota, S.K., Hammatt, H. and Fahrimal, Y. 2007.
- Four scientific papers published
- Convened a panel of experts for a TB Workshop
- Achieved full nonprofit status
- Established a professional Board of Directors and Advisory Board
- Received a \$4,500 Mazuri grant for TB work
- Received a \$30,000 Alexander Abraham organizational grant
- Expanded our www.elephantcare.org website, updated Elephant Healthcare Database
- Responded to emergency veterinary requests from The U.S., New Zealand, Australia, Botswana, South Africa, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia and others.
- Continued to apply pressure to relieve elephant atrocities in Indonesia
- Instructed veterinarians for USDA elephant training course
- Donated \$3,100 to researchers working on a long-term contraceptive as an alternative to culling African elephants.
- Assisted at LSU pet rescue operation
- Compiled *Guidelines for Establishing a Shelter for Owned Animals during Disasters* manual and created website, www.LSUEmergencyAnimalShelter.org

“I have been worshipping at the altar of your Elephant Formulary.”

... email from an Australian veterinarian using our free online resources

2006-2007 Objectives

- Begin TB testing of 500-800 captive elephants in India
- Provide community funding for alternative crop production in an area of human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka
- Begin a major online elephant medicine image gallery
- Host a TB Workshop to investigate new technologies and arrive at recommendations for treating or segregating TB-infected elephants in range countries
- Complete TB testing of all captive elephants and handlers in Nepal
- Initiate efforts to segregate and treat TB-infected elephants in Nepal
- Initiate plans for a Field Veterinary Officer position in Southeast Asia
- Secure funding and begin the free distribution of *Elephant Biology, Medicine, and Surgery* to field veterinarians in range countries
- Expand ECI Board by 1-2 independent directors
- Develop additional fund-raising strategies
- Investigate acupuncture as a treatment technique for arthritis in elephants
- Develop and expand our Elephant Footprint Conservation Program: simple, cost-saving ideas that protect nature & save elephants!

Acknowledgements

We thank our Board members, advisors, and especially our donors, grantors, and volunteers for helping us help the elephants.

Special thanks to Jonelle Furmark for the donation of a computer; to Blair Csuti and Khyne U Mar for the donations of books; and to Bill and Trudy Abad for books and extensive help with our database! Our website lists many other volunteers and donors who have assisted us.

ECI only became an official nonprofit organization in December '05, yet much has already been accomplished! We look forward to expanding our donor and grantor base so that we can accomplish more in 2006 and beyond! Please join with our volunteers and donors as we improve the health and welfare of elephants everywhere!



ECI exists because of donors and volunteers!

Help us help the elephants!

Please go to <http://www.elephantcare.org/whatucan.htm> to learn how.

Leave a comment: <http://www.elephantcare.org/feedbac5.htm>

