



Elephant **Care** ASIA

**Elephant Healthcare and Welfare Training Workshop
23-29 September 2018 ~ Myanmar**

A Project of Elephant Care International

Report of Activities

Written by Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund
Workshop Manager / Fundraiser

Photographs by Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund and Dr. Willem Schaftenaar
iwork4wildlife@gmail.com

November 25, 2018

ElephantCARE ASIA Workshop Team

Dr. Susan Mikota

Veterinarian

Co-Founder and Director of Veterinary Programs and Research
Elephant Care International, USA

Dr. Willem Schaftenaar

Veterinarian

Veterinary Advisor to the Elephant Taxon Advisory Group (Europe)
Rotterdam Zoo, The Netherlands

Erin Ivory

Elephant Welfare Specialist
Animal Management Supervisor
North Carolina Zoo, USA

Hollis Burbank-Hammarlund

Founder and Director
Work for Wild Life International, USA

Workshop Partners

Dr. Khyne U. Mar

Veterinarian
Department of Animal
and Plant Sciences
University of Sheffield, UK

Dr. Janine L. Brown

National Zoological Park's
Endocrine Research Laboratory
Smithsonian Conservation
Biology Institute, USA

Tin Win Maw

Founder/Owner
Green Hill Valley Elephant Camp
Myanmar

Funding Support

Lush Cosmetics • Veterinarians International • Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation • Olsen Animal Trust
Vrienden van de Olifant • The Marjo Hoedemaker Elephant Foundation • Buttonwood Park Zoo

Our 2018 ElephantCARE ASIA Workshop ~ Passion, Purpose, Positive Change

Pooling the expertise, skills, and resources of our project's elephant care experts, our all-volunteer ElephantCARE ASIA Workshop team planned, organized, raised funds to support, and delivered an innovative, new elephant healthcare and welfare training program in Myanmar.

Our week-long workshop was specially designed for people whose professional careers include ensuring the health and wellbeing of captive Asian elephants living in sanctuaries, rescue centers, and other care facilities. Our workshop took place at [Green Hill Valley](#) (GHV)—Myanmar's premiere elephant sanctuary where elephant welfare, habitat reforestation, and sustainability are seamlessly integrated into elephant-friendly ecotourism. Owned and operated by Tin Win Maw and Htun Htun Wynn, GHV's staff, veterinarians, and mahouts care for eight former logging elephants that have been retired to GHV from the timber industry. These elephants were at the center of our workshop training sessions; we thank them for their gentle patience.

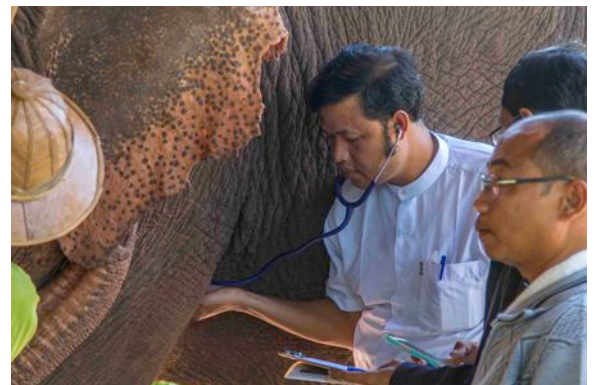


Dr. Susan Mikota and Ba draw blood for TB testing of GHV's elephants.



*Above: Green Hill Valley elephant shelters.
Below: Wellness exam and body condition score assessment.*

Global Reach to Key Stakeholders. To ensure the knowledge, hands-on skills, and training materials provided in our workshop would be put to immediate use to help captive Asian elephants *after the workshop*, we created a comprehensive application and screening process for prospective participants. In all, we received a total of 26 applications. Ten participants from eight Asian elephant range countries were selected by our team. They included practicing elephant veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and elephant



rescue facility managers from Sri Lanka, India, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nepal, and Indonesia (see “Meet our Participants” below). Two Western applicants involved with elephant welfare work in Asia were also selected. Nine additional elephant veterinarians from Myanmar—including three from GHV—joined our workshop for a total of 21 participants.

Funding Support. Having worked throughout Asia for many years, our ElephantCARE ASIA team understood the financial constraints of prospective applicants from Asian elephant range countries for whom the workshop fee would be unaffordable. With a goal to reach these very stakeholders, we applied for and received scholarship funding from seven foundations/funders, which supported nine workshop participants with full or partial scholarships. Funders included: Lush Cosmetics, Veterinarians International, Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation, Olsen Animal Trust, Vrienden van de Olifant (Friends of Elephants), the Marjo Hoedemaker Elephant Foundation, and Buttonwood Park Zoo. Lush Cosmetics also supported the purchase of essential veterinary equipment and supplies. We wholeheartedly thank our funders for their kind support!



Dr. Willem Schaftenaar explains the results of an ultrasound exam with GHV mahouts.

The Workshop - 100% About Elephants 100% of the Time!

Our 12 workshop participants traveled, lived, and worked with our workshop team and partners, providing opportunities to share knowledge, secure advice for situations and conditions affecting their elephants, and develop close bonds and friendships with like-minded colleagues from all around the globe.

Delivered in the classroom, in clinical labs, and in the field from September 23 to 29 of 2018, our ElephantCARE ASIA Workshop curriculum combined detailed healthcare information with positive reinforcement training (PRT) and hands-on practice to ensure our participants gained the knowledge and skills they need to better care for their elephants in a non-stressful way. Curriculum was developed specifically for our workshop by our team and partners and was distributed to all participants on a flash drive for future reference and sharing with others. Topics included:

- **Status of Elephants in Myanmar** (Dr. Khyne Mar)
- **Anatomy and Physiology** (Dr. Susan Mikota)



- **Health and Wellness Exam** (Dr. Susan Mikota)
- **The Science and Art of Teaching** (Erin Ivory)
- **Positive Reinforcement Training Lab** (Erin Ivory)
- **Wellness Exam/Body Score Training** (Dr. Susan Mikota, Dr. Willem Schaftenaar, Erin Ivory)
- **Lameness and Orthopedic Problems** (Dr. Willem Schaftenaar)
- **Eye Problems** (Dr. Khyne Mar)
- **Diagnostic Methods for Elephants: Hematology and Urinalysis** (Dr. Susan Mikota)
- **Elephant Behavior, Motivation, and Natural History; Let's Get to Know Them** (Erin Ivory)
- **Reproduction Part 1** (Dr. Willem Schaftenaar)
- **Diagnostic Lab: Hematology and Urinalysis** (Dr. Susan Mikota, Dr. Willem Schaftenaar, Dr. Janine Brown)
- **Medication Techniques, Basic Elephant Pharmacy, Important Drugs and Dosages, Pain Meds** (Dr. Susan Mikota)
- **The Science and Art of Teaching 2: How Elephants Become Willing Participants in Their Own Care** (Erin Ivory)
- **Foot Anatomy, Basic Foot Care, Common Foot Problems** (Dr. Susan Mikota)
- **Welfare and Tourism Issues for Elephants in Asia** (Dr. Janine Brown)
- **Foot Care Lab / Enrichment** (Erin Ivory, Dr. Susan Mikota, Dr. Willem Schaftenaar)
- **Reproduction Part 2** (Dr. Willem Schaftenaar)
- **Wound Management** (Dr. Susan Mikota)
- **Anesthesia, Sedation, Manual Restraint** (Dr. Willem Schaftenaar)
- **Management During Anesthesia, Sedation, Manual Restraint** (Erin Ivory)
- **Herpes** (Dr. Willem Schaftenaar)
- **Ultrasound Lab and Sedation Training** (Dr. Willem Schaftenaar)
- **Preventative Health** (Dr. Khyne Mar)



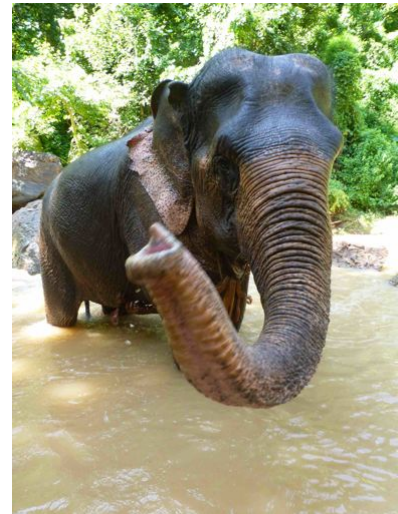
- **TB** (Dr. Susan Mikota)
- **Managing for Complexity: How to Develop Socially, Physically and Mentally Complex Environments for Elephants** (Erin Ivory)
- **Dental Disorders** (Dr. Willem Schaftenaar)
- **Diagnostic Methods for Elephants: Serum Chemistry Analysis** (Dr. Susan Mikota)
- **Postmortem Examination** (Dr. Willem Schaftenaar)



Photos left to right, top to bottom: Foot care lab; ultra-sound of gun-shot wound; teaching TB; sulcus infection check; field lab team work; testing a home-made blood centrifuge; award ceremony; ECA Team: Willem, Erin, Hollis, Susan.

Meet Our 2018 ElephantCARE ASIA Workshop Participants

Our 'EleCare Heroes' will take back to their respective countries, facilities, and careers a wealth of knowledge and new skills to enhance the lives of the captive elephants in their care. We enthusiastically thank them for their dedication to excellence and commitment to making a difference!



Front row, left to right:

- **Dr. Agung Kusasti** - Veterinarian and Manager, Conservation Response Unit, South Aceh, INDONESIA
- **Dr. Vanthinh Pham** – Veterinarian, Daklak Elephant Conservation Center in Vietnam, VIETNAM
- **Dr. M. Kamalanathan** - Veterinarian at Wildlife SOS Elephant Sanctuary, INDIA

Middle row, left to right:

- **Naresh Kumar** – Manager at Wildlife SOS Elephant Sanctuary, INDIA
- **Marina Loch** - Veterinary Student, GERMANY
- **Dr. Pang Prathana Inthawong**- Veterinarian, ZPO Mobile Elephant Clinic, Surin Thailand, THAILAND
- **Kan Sounthone** - Veterinary Technician at Elephant Conservation Centre, Sayaboury, LAOS

Back row, left to right:

- **Dr. Malaka Kasun Abeywardana** – Veterinarian/Manager, Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home, SRI LANKA
- **Molly Birchmore** - Support staff and elephant care volunteer at Tiger Tops, NEPAL (United Kingdom)
- **Helga Hrimati Dasi Illo** - Veterinary Technician and Manager at Mayapur Elephant Care Center, INDIA
- **Purushotam Pandey** - Veterinary Technician at Chitwan National Park, Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation, NEPAL
- **Dr. Chenda Oung** - Veterinarian at Wildlife Alliance, Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre, CAMBODIA

Additional workshop participants (from Myanmar) included: GHV's veterinarians, **Sayar Ba, Dr. Ko Ko Latt**, and **Dr. Aung Myint**; and **Dr. Saw Plei Saw, Dr. Saw Bon, Dr. Kyaw San Linn, Dr. Wun Htun, Dr. Myo Nayzar** and **Dr. Soe Soe Naung**. We thank them for sharing their vast knowledge of Myanmar's captive elephants.



GHV mahouts making target poles for positive reinforcement training.



GHV's lead veterinarian, Ba, consults with Dr. Susan Mikota and Dr. Willem Schaftenaar.



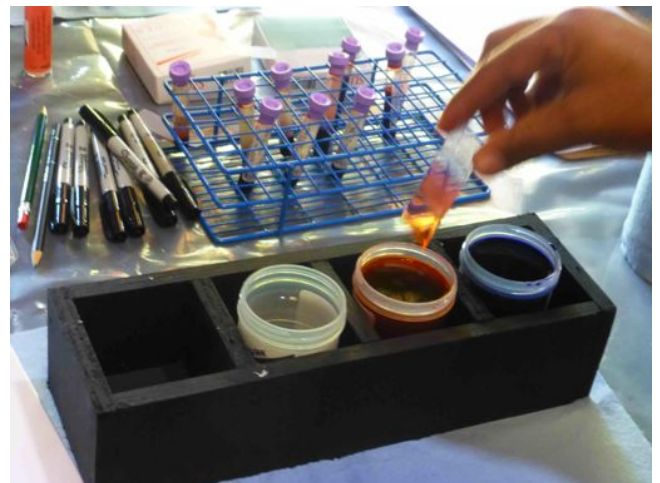
Elephant behavior expert Erin Ivory shares foot care tools and techniques with workshop participants.



Evaluating the health of GHV's elephants using ultra-sound.



Our gracious Green Hill Valley hosts—Htun, Maw, and Ba—with Khyne Mar and participating Myanmar veterinarians.



Testing blood samples taken from GHV's elephants to assess their overall health.