

Clinical Notes - Individual Specimen Report
OREGON ZOO

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Scientific Name: <i>ELEPHAS MAXIMUS (no subsp)</i>	Accession #: 83053
Common Name: INDIAN ELEPHANT	Male
Name: HUGO	Birth: 24.Nov.1960 (Estimated)

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24.May.2000

Problem: cracked/broken nail - left front digit 4 (Confirmed); nail disease - right front digit 3 (Confirmed); physical examination ; PHLEBOTOMY; vaccination - left rear limb

S: Examined with keepers (RH, GG) and collection manager (CP) to evaluate overall condition and health. The animal was evaluated while in the restraint crush.

The animal appears to be in normal body condition. He just recently came out of approximately 6 months of musth and has lost a great deal of excess body weight during that time.

Because of the animal's temperament, the examination of his head was limited. His oral cavity could not be examined. The Lt ear had a small amount of tan waxy debris and the Rt. ear was very clean. Both eyes are clear through to the fundus. Normal PLR's OU, conjunctiva normal OU though there is a slight serous discharge OU at the medial canthi. Trunk use is normal though the distal end was amputated years ago.

Skin over the body and head appears normal. The tail hairs are all broken off very short but there are no impacted/ingrown hairs.

All feet have very overgrown cuticles. The nail have good spacing between them but the gaps between the nails are filled with excess keratinized tissue. The soles of the front feet are thick and overgrown with complex surfaces. The rear soles are thinner but overgrown around the margins. The feet have not been worked on in approx. 6 months because of musth. LF nail #4 has a small soft spot on the solar surface and a small crack in the center of the face which extends from the solar surface and heads proximally for approx. 1/3 of the length of the nail. Further evaluation of the nails is difficult because they are so in need of a trim. Photographs were taken of the solar surfaces of all feet - the dorsal aspects of the feet could not be safely photographed.

The animal was bled for CBC, chemistry, serum iron and serum vitamin E levels from the Rt medial saphenous vein and was vaccinated in the Lt semimembranosus area.

A: Good body condition following great loss of weight after 6 month musth. Feet are difficult to evaluate due to severe overgrowth but the chronic lesion on LF #4 persists.

P: Will await blood work results.

Rx: TETANUS TOXOID 5.0 ml IM SID for 1 dose. (135D) (MVF)

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1. Jun. 2000

Problem: cracked/broken nail - left front digit 4 (Confirmed); nail disease - right front digit 3 (Confirmed); anorexia (Confirmed)

S: Visually inspected following keeper report of anorexia. The animal apparently did not eat much if any of the hay offered by the night keeper last night and has eaten little if any of the hay offered today. The veterinary staff was not notified until fairly late in the day (3:00 PM) and attempts made by keepers to get the animal to move into the ERC were unsuccessful so an examination and blood work could not be done. The animal was shifted from the room he was in and his manure examined - it appeared normal. He had urinated several times and the urine residue appeared normal as well. The animal is alert and moving normally, not showing signs of bloat or colic, has normal respiratory character and no oral, nasal or ocular discharge (slt. tearing at medial canthi which is typical). He is not showing signs of musth (urine dribbling, temporal gland drainage, aggression).

A: Anorexia - unknown cause

P: Keepers will try to get the animal in the ERC tomorrow for an exam. He will be kept in tonight and monitored by night keepers. (MVF)

2. Jun. 2000

Problem: cracked/broken nail - left front digit 4 (Confirmed); nail disease - right front digit 3 (Confirmed); anorexia (Confirmed)

S: Animal is alert and active. He ate an entire bale of hay last night (typical) and has passed normal stool and urine overnight. He still would not load into the ERC today and keepers describe his behavior as misth-like though he is not showing other signs (aggression, draining, dribbling, temporal swelling). Will monitor throughout the day and recheck tomorrow.

A: Apparently resolved anorexia of unknown cause - animal appears normal physically

P: Cont. to monitor. (MVF)

3. Jun. 2000

Problem: cracked/broken nail - left front digit 4 (Confirmed); nail disease - right front digit 3 (Confirmed)

S: Animal is BAR, eating well, behaving normally. Urine and manure appear normal. Keepers report that he seemed normal yesterday as well.

A: Apparently resolved partial anorexia

P: Keepers to monitor (MVF)

4. Jun. 2000

Problem: cracked/broken nail - left front digit 4 (Confirmed); nail disease - right front digit 3 (Confirmed)

S: Keeper RH reports Hugo is eating, drinking and defecating as usual.

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4. Jun. 2000

Problem: cracked/broken nail - left front digit 4 (Confirmed); nail disease - right front digit 3 (Confirmed)
Hugo showed a bit more aggression yesterday, starting to attack doors (his usual musth behavior) and keepers suspect musth is really beginning again. They have not attempted to load Hugo into the ERC yet today due to conference activities.
P: Keepers to monitor. (LH)

7. Jun. 2000

Problem: cracked/broken nail - left front digit 4 (Confirmed); nail disease - right front digit 3 (Confirmed); CULTURE (MYCOBACTERIAL) - trunk
S: Cultured trunk mucus for Mycobacteria sp. to satisfy USDA annual requirements. Since the animal is in musth and not trained for trunk washing, we sampled him in the following manner: two sterile cotton-tipped applicators were inserted into a nostril (side by side) to collect mucus then swirled in a sterile specimen cup containing 60 ml saline. This was repeated several times for each nostril. A moderate amount of mucus was collected in this manner. This is culture 1 of 3.
P: Culture submitted to Kaiser Hospital Micro Lab for radiometric culture. (MVF)

8. Jun. 2000

Problem: cracked/broken nail - left front digit 4 (Confirmed); nail disease - right front digit 3 (Confirmed); CULTURE (MYCOBACTERIAL) - trunk
S: Cotton swabs used to collect trunk mucus for mycobacterial culture in the same manner it was done yesterday.
P: This is sample 2 of 3. Culture again early next week. (MVF)

6. Jul. 2000

Problem: cracked/broken nail - left front digit 4 (Confirmed); nail disease - right front digit 3 (Confirmed); CULTURE (MYCOBACTERIAL) - trunk
S: Cotton swabs used to acquire trunk mucus for TB culture since the animal is not trained for trunk wash technique. The animal was tested twice before but the third sample was not acquired within a week of the others so another set of three (within a week) will need to be done.

The animal was held off water overnight and the end of the trunk was swabbed several times with sterile swabs and the mucus transferred to a sterile vial of normal saline. A good sample of mucus was acquired.

P: Two more samples to go. (MVF)