



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO VETERINARIANS

*“Dedicated to wildlife health and conservation”*

581705 White Oak Road • Yulee, Florida, 32097 • 904-225-3275 • Fax 904-225-3289

## AAZV ENDORSEMENT

**Project Title** – *“Disease Risk Analyses for Tuberculosis Detection and Prevalence in Elephants”.*

**Investigator** –

PI: Michele Miller, DVM, MS, PhD; Director of Conservation Medicine  
Palm Beach Zoo; 1301 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33405  
mmiller@palmbeachzoo.org

**Co-investigator(s)** –

1. Sharon Deem, DVM, PhD, DACZM; Director, Institute of Conservation Medicine  
St. Louis Zoo; One Government Drive, Saint Louis, Missouri 63110  
[deem@stlzoo.org](mailto:deem@stlzoo.org)
2. Dennis Schmitt DVM, PhD, DACT; Alumni Professor and Ringling Bros. Chair of  
Veterinary Care; Missouri State University; 203 Karl’s Hall, Missouri State University,  
901 South National Ave. Springfield, Missouri 65897, [dennischmitt@missouristate.edu](mailto:dennischmitt@missouristate.edu)
3. Ramiro Isaza, DVM, MS, MPH, Dipl. ACZM, Associate Professor of Zoological  
Medicine, Dept. of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Florida. [isazar@UFL.edu](mailto:isazar@UFL.edu)
4. Francisco Olea-Popelka, DVM, MSc. PhD; Associate Professor  
Colorado State University; College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences;  
Dept. of Clinical Sciences, Diagnostic Medicine Centre (DMC) building, room 207; Fort  
Collins, Colorado 8052, [folea@colostate.edu](mailto:folea@colostate.edu)

**Purpose** – A retrospective study of “exposure” (movement of elephants, contact time between elephants and humans, management system factors such as facility design and herd size, etc.), culture and serological results will allow calculation of predictive risk values. Comparison of risk factors with test results and infection status will be performed to refine interpretation of detection methods for TB in elephants.

**AAZV Position** – Support/Endorse

**Justification** - Elephant tuberculosis is a recognized disease problem in captive U.S. elephants. Fifty-three elephants have been confirmed with tuberculosis by culture between 1974 and 2011 (M. Miller, personal communication).

Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, Dipl. ACZM  
Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, Dip ACZM  
President, American Association of Zoo Veterinarians  
Director of Animal Health and Research  
The Kansas City Zoo  
6800 Zoo Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64132-1711  
[wksahc@juno.com](mailto:wksahc@juno.com)