



Forest Industry Organization declared the confiscated female elephant's death, Pang Srithong caused by tetanus

Mr. Worawit Rojanapaitoon, director of the National Elephant Institute under the Royal Patronage, revealed that the disputed elephant, Pang Srithong, had been infected with tetanus that caused her death before she was transferred to the center.

Thai Elephant Conservation Center (TECC) housed the disputed elephants during the case from the 3rd Protected Areas Regional Office (Baan Pong) of Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation. It housed 14 elephants on March 1, 2012 and another five elephants on March 5, 2012. TECC conducted a physical examine on all of the elephants and found that Pang Srithong was frail and feeble. She exhibited psychological problems such as nervousness and constant fear of the surroundings. The results of blood test performed on the first day she arrived showed that the white blood count was as high as 20400 (normal count 10000) which indicated that she has had an infection. As a result she was taken care of under full alert. On March 19, 2012 at around 8:30 pm, Pang Srithong fell to the ground with convulsion. Veterinary teams from the Elephant Hospital, TECC, and Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation performed full medical treatment. Pang Srithong was given saline solution and medicine to prevent muscular spasms and shock. On March 20, 2012 Pang Srithong died around 5:45 a.m. .

A veterinary team from the Elephant Hospital of TECC together with a veterinary team from Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation had performed an autopsy to determine the cause of death. Specimens of internal organs and stomach content were sent to the pathologists at Chiang Mai University and also to the Veterinary Research and Development Center (Upper Northern Region), the Department of Livestock Development.

On March 22, 2012 The Veterinary Research and Development Center reported on additional blood-test results of the disputed elephants Pang Srithong and Pang Nong Paeng and concluded the elephants had been infected with tetanus before they were transferred to TECC. Pang Nong Paeng is currently under veterinary intensive care.

The TECC Director added that the elephants, including the disputed elephants which the Forest Industry Organization received from Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plants Conservation, are housed in a spacious land area with natural surroundings and sufficient supplies of water and food. The large area allows various activities for the elephants. Each elephant is cared for by the keeper and a veterinary team has been arranged to treat sick elephants. We are confident in the standard of care. The disputed elephants with health problems or contagious diseases have been separated and received intensive care.

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