

of 10mg and 5mg Ketamine and Xylazine, found to be satisfactory to perform caudectomy. The salivation noticed during the induction phase persisted throughout the period and due to the swallowing reflex being intact, no untoward effects could be noticed. The twitching of the ear pinna and lateral movements of the head observed, showed the animals effort to get to normal position.

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#### VET BRIEF

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### A CASE OF UPPER MOTOR NEURON AFFECTION IN A RESCUED CHIMPANZEE (*PAN TROGLODYTES*)

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**web supplement**

A 22-year old female chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) was rescued from a circus company by the SPCA, Chennai and brought to the Arignar Anna Zoological Park veterinary hospital, Vandalur on 9 January 2003 for health assessment and intensive treatment. The animal was severely anaemic. Past history revealed that the chimp, used for performance in the circus, had fallen while performing and had become paralytic and bedridden since. Preliminary examination revealed that the chimp was severely emaciated, recumbent, with multiple decubitous ulcers involving hip joints, ilium, right tarsal joint and mid thoracic region (Image 1<sup>w</sup>). Ancylosis of stifle and hip joints was also noticed. No medical history could be retrieved from the person accompanying the chimp.

The chimp was transferred to a room for further clinical examination and treatment. Faecal samples were collected and examined for helminthic infestation, and no ova or eggs could

be detected. Blood samples were collected and the animal was dewormed with Pyrantel pamoate (5mg/kg bodyweight). Tetanus toxoid (0.5ml) was administered as a prophylactic measure. The decubitous ulcers were cleaned and dressed twice daily. The animal's position was changed once in three hours to avoid continuous pressure over the pressure points. Diet was supplemented with haematinics and multivitamin syrup and was the diet intake was monitored carefully. A course of Ampicillin and Cloxacillin (20mg/kg bodyweight) injection was given intramuscularly.

The blood samples were sent to Centralized Clinical Laboratory, Madras Veterinary College for haematology, which revealed low PCV (16%) and haemoglobin (4g/dL). Heparinized blood samples were sent to Central University Lab, TANUVAS and the samples were negative for any haemagglutinating virus.

Radiological examination was done and an old compressed fracture of T<sub>8</sub>-T<sub>9</sub> thoracic vertebrae with calcification was detected.

Based on the above findings, the condition was diagnosed as upper motor neuron affection and the prognosis was found to be unfavourable. It was decided to manage the case accordingly, so that the life of the chimp was extended as long as possible. To treat and to avoid further development of decubitous ulcers, the chimp was kept over an electric pressure alternating bed and the treatment was continued. The condition of the chimp improved by this treatment with evidence of healing of the decubitous ulcers. However, after a period of about one month, the chimps appetite gradually reduced, it became dull and finally died. The fractured thoracics was confirmed in the necropsy.

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<sup>w</sup> See Image 1 on the web at [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org)

