

To tusk fracture

## Case report

# Bilateral tusk fractures in a juvenile Asian elephant

Place: Dak Lak elephant Conservation Center Vietnam

Date: 2020, October

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### History

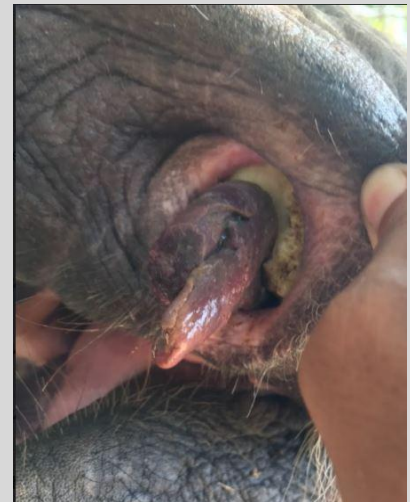
5 years old Asian elephant bull, orphan since it was 5 months old. Fractured one tusk when attacked by a 10 years old orphan bull kept in the same enclosure. Within 1 week it fractured its other tusk just when it was poking with that tusk in the soil.



Healthy dental pulp tissue protruding from the fractured right tusk



Fractured tusk tip with corresponding pulp tissue



Necrotic dental pulp tissue a few days after tusk fracture. Note the swollen sulcus and the irregular aspect of the tusk remnant

### Treatment

The elephant was sedated 1 week after the tusks fractured. In the mean time the pulp tissues were flushed 3 times per day with saline solution and 10% Betadine solution. On closer inspection of the day of treatment it was concluded that the longitudinal cracks in the tusk remnants were running too deep to consider partial pulpectomy followed by closure of the pulp chamber using glass ionomer cement.

Continuation of the conservative treatment was elected as follow-up treatment.

# Treatment results



Right tusk 2 months after fracture



Left tusk 2 months after fracture



Right tusk 3 months after fracture. Note the continuing growth of the tusk and the vital aspect of the pulp enabled by daily flushing and cleaning. Some pus accumulation is observed.



Left tusk 3 months after fracture. Note the continuing growth of the tusk and the vital aspect of the pulp enabled by daily flushing and cleaning.

**TO BE CONTINUED**