

SKY VET REPORT

OCTOBER 2017 TO JANUARY 2018



SKY VET QUARTERLY OVERVIEW

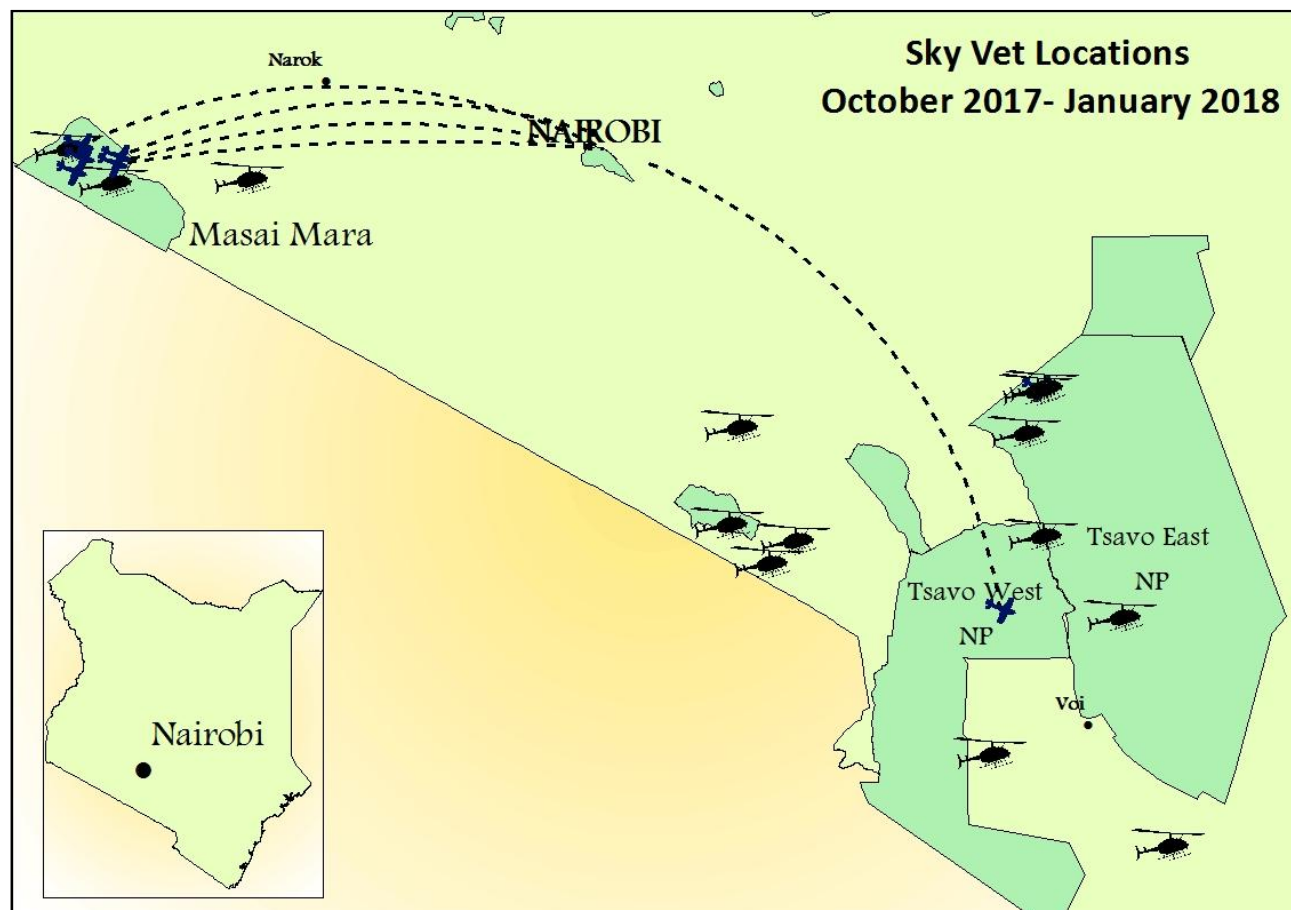
During October to January 2018 the DSWT/KWS Sky Vet program was called to handle **21 wildlife cases** (involving 36 animals) several of which were supported by the DSWT helicopter or outsourced aircraft to help with elephant darting operations as well as search and monitoring operations using the DSWT's fixed-wing aircrafts.

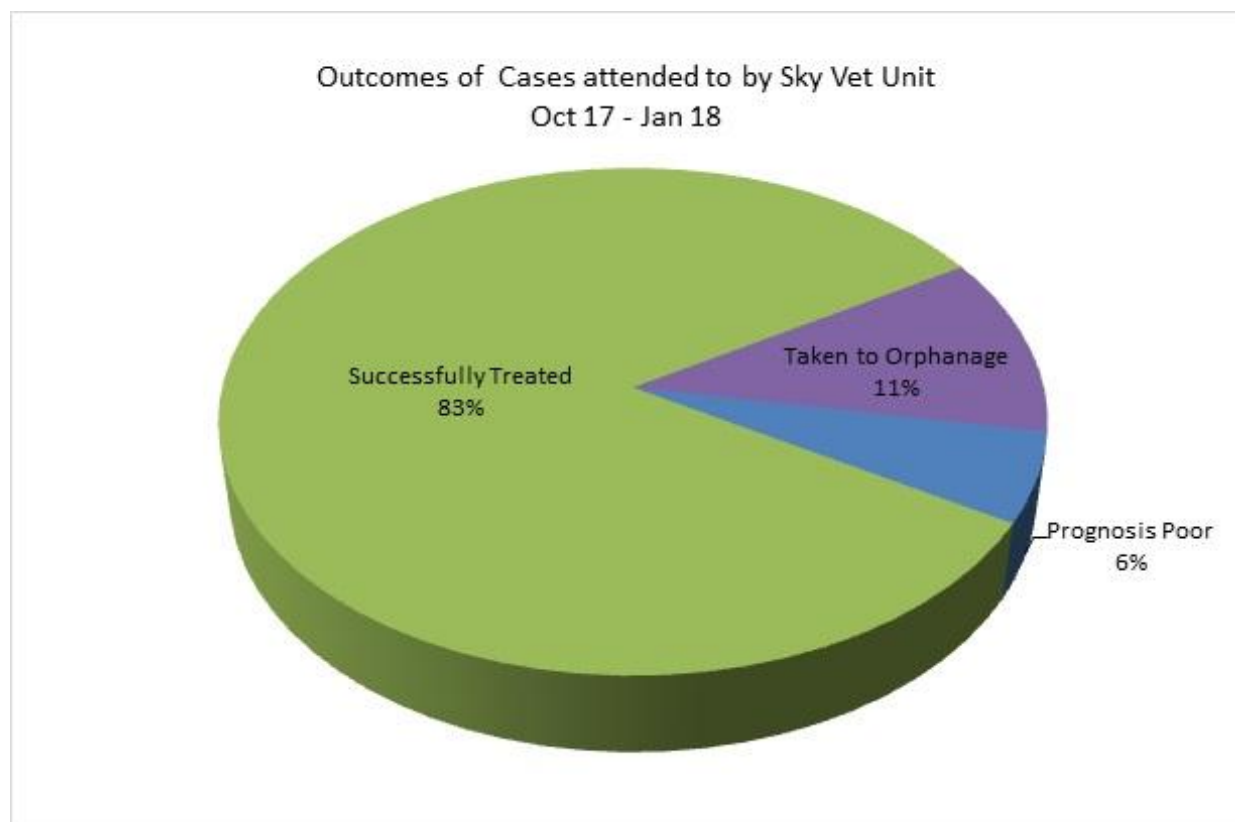
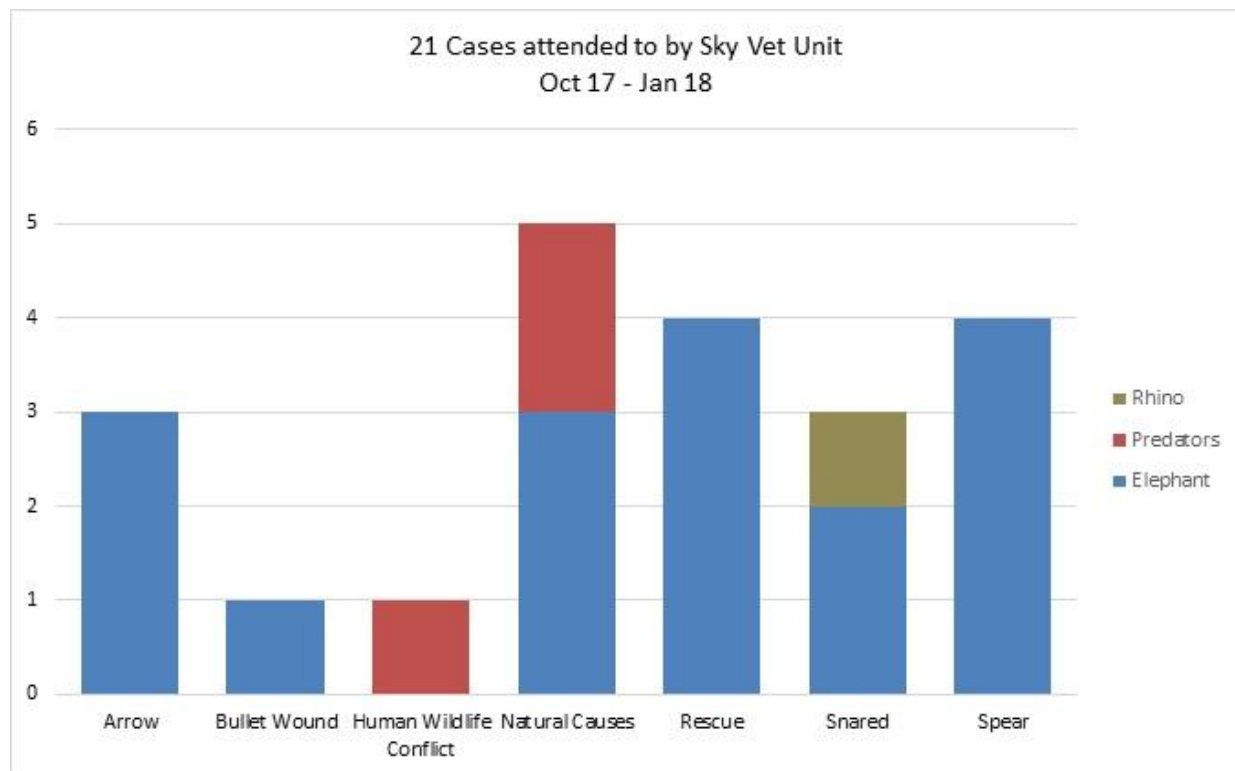
Of all the cases attended there were **18 elephant cases** including 4 spear cases, 3 poisoned arrow cases, 1 bullet wound case, 2 snare cases, 4 cases relating to natural causes and 4 emergency elephant calf rescues. Sky Vets also attended to 4 injured lions for natural causes, 1 lion for HWC and 1 snared rhino case. The KWS Veterinary Officers involved in these cases were flown to Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Park as well as the Masai Mara. Out of these cases treated there was a **94% success rate** which included positive prognoses as well as **4 successful elephant rescues**. Without rapid veterinary response, the majority of these cases would have died from their injuries.

The DSWT Eurocopter continues to prove itself as an invaluable asset in the field, especially in the emergency rescue of orphaned or injured baby elephants. Within hours this helicopter can be at the scene of any rescue, transporting even a larger baby elephant from Tsavo to the DSWT Nairobi Nursery within the hour, ensuring the calf receives rapid care and attention. Before this process would have taken a whole day, time which many baby elephants do not have.

During this reporting period the Amboseli Mobile Veterinary Unit was on Annual Leave in January 2018 necessitating increased support from the Sky Vet Unit in the greater Amboseli region.

The Sky Vet program has deployed KWS vets to the following locations during this reporting period





CASE 1: 5th October 2017

MARA TRIANGLE

ELEPHANT TREATMENT

INTRODUCTION

This young bull has been treated twice before with the latest treatment done a year ago. He has a fibroma that has developed on his left heel. Though benign, it occasionally gets abraded causing ulcerations with maggot infestation and sepsis. Once treated, the wound heals, and the problem goes away for some time but recurs when the fibroma gets injured again. The overall body condition of this bull is good, and his mobility is not affected, and treatment helps him afford some quality of his life.

CHEMICAL IMMOBILIZATION & TREATMENT

Restraint was achieved chemically by use of 15mgs etorphine hydrochloride delivered through a 1.5ml daninject dart. This being the third time of treatment, this elephant could not be approached by vehicle for darting as he had good memory and was nervous running away on approach. Darting was therefore done from the DSWT helicopter. It took seven minutes for the drugs to take full effect with this elephant assuming left lateral recumbency. Examination revealed a maggot infested septic wound on his right heel. The wound being attributed to abrasion of the fibroma.

The wound was cleaned with copious amount of water and all maggots removed manually, debrided with the help of hydrogen peroxide and disinfected with tincture of iodine after rinsing with clean water. This was then packed with green clay. Additional treatments include parenteral administration of amoxicillin antibiotic, flunixin meglumine anti-inflammatory and ivermectin parasiticide to deter maggot re-infestation. Reversal was done by use of 42mgs diprenorphine hydrochloride delivered intravenously through a prominent ear vein. He rose up within three minutes of reversal and walked away.

PROGNOSIS

This being a benign tumour, metastasis is not expected, but complete recovery is not possible. With treatments, the wound heals but recurs after some period especially following abrasion and maggot infestation. This is to afford this bull quality life given that his body condition has remained good and the fibroma doesn't bother him unless abraded.



CASE 2: 17th October 2017**TSAVO WEST****SNARED RHINO****INTRODUCTION**

This snared rhino was first caught on camera trap at the end of September. A Sky Vet search was undertaken with the DSWT helicopters and fixed wings after the next live sighting. Sadly, these searches in October were unsuccessful and the rhino disappeared without a trace for several weeks. The de-snaring exercise had been attempted more than twice all in vain. A KWS rhino ear notching exercise with a KWS helicopter at the end of November then served as a chance to help find and de-snare this male adult in which was still hiding in the IPZ in Tsavo West.

CHEMICAL IMMOBILIZATION & TREATMENT

Finally, the rhino was sighted and tracked with the Amboseli Vet Unit. It had winch snare wire around the neck which had caused a traumatic wound around with the other end of the snare dangling downwards. It was stepping on the hanging end on ambulation making it reluctant to move due to resultant pain on the neck. Upon immobilization, the snare wire was severed with wire cutters and quickly the wound was cleaned using Hydrogen Peroxide and Iodine. Wet green clay was smeared carefully and generously on the wound starting with the right side and then left side after turning the animal onto sternum. Topically the wound was sprayed with Tetracycline wound spray liberally. It was covered systematically with antibiotics at different muscle sites.

PROGNOSIS

Its prognosis was rated as favorable because it had not lost its body condition noticeably and that it went through the anesthesia smoothly.



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CASE 3: 1st November 2017**GALANA RIVER, TSAVO EAST****HELICOPTER ELEPHANT RESCUE****INTRODUCTION**

A report was made about a lone elephant calf while flying along the Galana River in Tsavo East. They had spotted a small elephant calf that was strangely in the company of three big bulls without a female or potential mother anywhere in the area. The vet was airlifted by the DSWT fixed wing aircraft from Voi to the area to assess the situation and coordinate a rescue.

THE RESCUE

The DSWT Helicopter was on standby to assist with the rescue. The helicopter was used to separate the calf from the bulls and a team on the ground captured the calf and restrained it. The male orphan was administered with long acting antibiotics, Vitamin B12 complex and Dexamethasone Hcl. The calf was loaded onto the waiting helicopter and airlifted direct to the DSWT orphanage in Nairobi for care and eventual release back to the wild. This orphan was named Kiasa.



CASE 4: 2nd November 2017

LUGGARDS, TSAVO EAST

HELICOPTER ELEPHANT RESCUE

INTRODUCTION

A report was made by one of the DSWT pilots whilst flying along the Galana River in Tsavo East, where they spotted yet another small elephant calf that was all alone. The vet team together with Voi stockade staff rushed to the area to find the calf.

THE RESCUE

The DSWT helicopter was on standby to assist with the rescue. The team captured the calf and restrained it. He was administered long acting antibiotics, Vitamin B12 complex and Dexamethasone Hcl. The calf was then loaded onto the waiting helicopter and airlifted directly to the DSWT orphanage in Nairobi for care. This orphan was named Mapia and without immediate rescue and helicopter transfer to Nairobi could not have survived much longer on its own.



CASE 5: 14th November 2017**ITHUMBA, TSAVO EAST****INJURED ELEPHANT****INTRODUCTION**

A report was received from the DSWT Ithumba de-snaring team about an injured elephant bull that was badly lame near the Ithumba Elephant stockades with a suspected gunshot wound. The Vet who was in Nairobi was airlifted to Ithumba and found the bull nearby in a bush.

CHEMICAL IMMOBILIZATION & TREATMENT

Helicopter darting was carried out and the elephant was successfully darted and pushed by the helicopter to an open area and went down on lateral recumbency after 8 minutes. There was a deep penetrating wound on the left forelimb near the elbow joint with pus oozing out and swelling of the joint. The wound was washed clean with water mixed with hydrogen peroxide, and necrotic tissues and pus was removed, and the wound doused with tincture of iodine. Green clay was then used to cover the wound. Long acting antibiotics were administered IM and intravenous administration of dexamethasone Hcl given through the ear vein after which the anaesthesia was reversed by administration of diprenorphine. Anaesthesia was reversed using Diprenorphine at 3 times the etorphine dose and the elephant stood up and walked away.

PROGNOSIS

Prognosis was guarded due to the severity of bullet wounds and the ground and air teams continued to monitor the bulls condition for any follow-up veterinary intervention needed.



CASE 6: 19th November 2017

OLKEJU RONGAI, MASAI MARA

EMERGENCY ELEPHANT RESCUE**INTRODUCTION**

This baby elephant was spotted by a team of tourists who included members of 'Friends of Masai Mara Association', lying down, whilst the mother was frantically trying to pull the calf up. After attempting for several hours in vain, the mother gave up and left her calf alone. The team called the Mobile Veterinary Unit and the Mara Reserve Management for help.

THE RESCUE

When the vet team arrived, the baby was found lying alone prostrate. The mother was spotted about a kilometer from this baby having given up on her and moving away. On examination, this baby appeared dehydrated, hungry with moderate fever. The umbilical stump appeared swollen and septic. There were signs of acute omphalitis with systemic involvement. There was also partial right hip subluxation thought to have been caused by her mother trying to pull her up. She was doused with water to cool her, given anti-inflammatories intravenously and antibiotics intramuscularly. She was also given Hartman's (polyionic ringer's lactate) solution drip to rehydrate her. When she gained strength, she was made to stand and more water was given orally. She was able to move on her own and a decision had to be made on the next course of action.

With the chances of survival in the wild at this state being considered slim, the team decided she be sent to the DSWT elephant orphanage in Nairobi for further care. Since it was getting late, she had an overnight stay at the KWS Mara research station before being flown to Nairobi by Sky Vet helicopter chartered by the Mara Elephant Project (MEP) first thing in the morning. Sadly, this little baby did not survive due to her poor condition.



CASE 7: 21ST November 2017**OLARRO, MASAI MARA****SPEARED ELEPHANT BULL****INTRODUCTION**

Olarro conservancy management called the vet unit to report an elephant moving with difficulty with a wound on his right hind leg. It became difficult to assess this elephant on the ground because he was in a bushy area inaccessible by vehicle and difficult on foot. After waiting, hoping that he would come down for assessment, he did not and the management sought the services of the MEP helicopter to drive him down to the open scrubland. From the air, a wound could be seen on his right hip and another one on the right elbow, all as a result of spearing. He was moving along with another young bull of the same age.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

After pushing him for some distance down the hill into a relatively open area, he was darted with 13mgs etorphine in a 1.5ml daninject dart from the air. It took seven minutes for the drugs to take full effect with this young bull assuming right lateral recumbency. He had to be flipped over for better examination of the injuries. Both injuries were thought to have been caused by spearing carried out at the same time. The wounds were less than a week old and were relatively clean.

Hydrogen peroxide was used for debridement, clean water for rinsing and tincture of iodine as a disinfectant. Both wounds were then packed with green clay for toxin absorption and quick healing. Additional treatments include parenteral administration of amoxicillin antibiotics and flunixin meglumine anti-inflammatory

PROGNOSIS

Good



CASE 8: 16th December 2017**OL KIOMBO, MASAI MARA****SPEARED LION CUB****INTRODUCTION**

This was a report about a 2-month-old lion cub in a pride of about 13 lions; it was spotted in near Governors camp, area of Maasai Mara NR near Ol kiombo Airstrip. The cub was unable to walk and remained lying down all the time due to a thoracic region injury. The injury had been sustained from a spear early in the morning. A veterinary team was airlifted with the assistance of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust sponsored Sky Vet program to the reserve immediately hence the wound was fresh by the time of arrival. A team from the Maasai Mara County (Tourism and wildlife management personnel) was on the ground to readily assist during the operation.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

The cub was captured physically by chasing away the 2 female lionesses keeping vigilance on the cub using a land cruiser. The young cub was later sedated using 50mgs of ketamine Hcl combined with 1mg of medetomidine Hcl. It took about 3 minutes for the drug to take effect and the cub was fully anaesthetized. The female cub was put on lateral recumbency and the wound was examined. The wound was extensive and involved the soft tissues and the skin and muscles around the thoracic region. The vital internal organs were not injured. The wound was cleaned using normal saline. The wound was then sutured using 2.0 cat-gut by simple interrupted pattern for the soft muscle tissue. A simple interrupted pattern using vicryl no 2.0 was used for the skin tissue. Oxytetracycline spray and ointment was applied on the wound. Green clay was also applied on the wound to hasten healing and prevent infection. Further treatment involved intramuscular injection of Norclav and Dexamethasone. The operation took about 1 hour.

PROGNOSIS

The lioness was revived from anaesthesia using 12 mgs of atipamezole Hcl administered intramuscularly taking effect after 45 minutes. Soon after revival it was able to join (by being taken to the mother on the Land cruiser) the rest of the pride which were waiting near-by. The lioness was in a stable health soon after treatment and has good chances of healing and full recovery.



CASE 9: 24th December 2017**TAITA RANCH, TAITA HILLS****SNARED ELEPHANT****INTRODUCTION**

This snared young elephant was reported to the Amboseli Vet by the DSWT helicopter pilot on the evening of 23/12/2017. Arrangement was made to remove the snare on the following morning due to the time of day and failing light.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

The following morning this calf was easily found and darted. Quickly in order to ensure a clear air way the winch wire was severed using wire cutters easing the strangulation enabling the calf to be stabilized easily. The snare had not yet caused a traumatic wound and the snare pressure line was cleaned with Hydrogen Peroxide and Tincture of Iodine first on left side and then right side. It was covered systemically with 75000mgs Amoxicillin, 20ml Multivitamin and 50mgs Flunixin Meglumine at different muscle sites.

After being revived the calf staggered once and gained its feet thereafter and walked away. It was forced to face the direction where the mother was about four hundred meters away on an open plain. It picked the mothers scent as it followed the trail. Efforts to bring the mother towards where the calf were futile even with the ground vehicle and DSWT helicopter. She was adamant and turned aggressive smashing the DSWT vehicle as she tried to injure the driver resulting in breaking her right ivory tip. The driver's door was left severely dented with a broken side mirror. It was hoped that they would rejoin at some point because the calf was on the trail of its mother. Meanwhile the security team of Taita Ranch was deployed to keep watch and raise alarm in case they fail to join in twenty-four hours or if calf is spotted alone so that a rescue can be organized.

PROGNOSIS

Good. Mother and calf were shortly after reunited.



CASE 10: 28th December 2018

KIMANA SANCTUARY, AMBOSELI

HELICOPTER ELEPHANT RESCUE

INTRODUCTION

A young elephant baby was reported by the residential rangers while on late afternoon patrol to have been found lying on left lateral recumbence with no elephants within the area. They searched the area for any elephant presence but all in vain. They informed the Vet Unit which quickly moved to rescue the abandoned little young one before the night fell.

THE RESCUE

It took twenty minutes of rough road driving to get to where the baby was. It was found under rangers' guard. It was 6.30pm in the evening and a quick rescue plan had to be made. It was wrapped with a towel to keep it warm. The DSWT CEO was reached out to for possible aerial support and necessary advice. Meanwhile the baby was disturbed by what appeared to be hunger and or dehydration. Two litres of bottled drinking water was supplied and filled into a suckling bottle from which the calf suckled. The DSWT instructed that the calf would be picked up the following morning by DSWT Helicopter because it was already at night fall. Meanwhile the baby was carried to Amboseli Park Headquarters where the vet hosted it overnight under monitoring. All communications were made between the chopper pilot and the Vet to see to it that the baby is picked safely and early enough the following morning so that the most needed care is given in the nursery in the company of other orphans. The chopper landed at the Amboseli Headquarter football field. The calf had been driven to the field which was a hundred meters away at 6.30am. Everyone got to a safe distance from the chopper following the pilots' instructions and off it went up with estimated time for DSWT Nursery at Nairobi of one hour. The calf was strong all through the rescue with no noticeable complications and it was hoped that it could adapt successfully at the orphanage. The pilot called after fifty-seven minutes post take off from Amboseli to inform that the baby was safe at the nursery. All from Amboseli wished it good luck in life ahead.

PROGNOSIS

It was given fair prognosis considering the smooth rescue and good health observed. The calf was named Turkai.



CASE 11: 3rd January 2018

MASAI MARA

MANGE IN LIONS AND CHEETAH

INTRODUCTION

A report of a pride of lions and a cheetah that were severely infected by mange was received from Maasai Mara conservancy management on Tuesday 2nd January. Arrangements were then made for a Sky Vet to be flown to attend to the cases on Wednesday 3rd January. On arrival at around 11.15am, the vet was received by the team from Maasai Mara National Reserve, KWS Mara Research and Mara Intrepid Camp.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

The adult female cheetah was attended to at around 14.18hrs as the search for the affected pride of lions continued. She was located at Ol Kiombo and a visual observation revealed mange infestation affecting both ears and the neck region. The infected areas were attracting biting flies, and this compounded with the mange infestation was causing irritation leading to discomfort and weight loss. She was darted from a vehicle using and was administered intramuscularly with 3cc Ivermectin, 450mg Betamox and 5cc Multivitamin. Skin scrapings were collected from the affected ears and neck region for further analysis. Whole blood was also collected and transferred to FTA cards and cryovials containing RNA later. Opticlox antibiotic was topically applied to both eyes and an antibiotic spray was applied to the affected parts. Reversal of the anaesthetic was by administering 18mg Yohimbine intravenously. The Cheetah was alert after 2 min of reversal administration and ran off after about 10 minutes.

The pride of 11 lions; 4 adult females, 2 sub adult males, 3 sub adult females and 2 cubs were located at Freemans Bush camp, on the morning of 4th Jan. One of the sub adult females was severely emaciated and unable to move had been isolated from the rest of the pride and was found to be lying motionless. General observation revealed severe mange infestation covering the whole body, muscular dystrophy of hind limbs, dehydration and anemia. Heavy load of ectoparasites consisting mainly of ticks and fleas was observed to have covered most of the body parts. The lion was hand injected with 80mg Ketamine and 4mg medetomidine. It was then administered intramuscularly with the necessary drugs. Skin scrapings and ectoparasites were collected for further analysis. The 10 lions of different ages were present in the group. There were 4 adult females that showed no signs of infection while the other 6 had different degrees on mange infestation. The affected lions were darted from a vehicle using drop off darts.

PROGNOSIS

The cheetah has a good prognosis for recovery as the mange infestation was not very severe. The pride of lions has a good prognosis of recovery as they are still strong enough to hunt for food except the sub adult female that was found immobile.



CASE 12: 14th January 2018

TRIANGLE, MASAI MARA

ELEPHANT WITH AN ARROW WOUND

INTRODUCTION

This elephant was spotted by rangers at Little Governors lodge within the park with an injury and puss oozing from the right hind limb. The vet was airlifted from KWS veterinary headquarters via the Sky Vet program sponsored by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

On physical examination the elephant had a wound on the right hind limb and plenty of puss oozing. A healing wound adjacent to the septic one was also visible. The injury was as a result of an arrow. The arrow head was removed, necrotic tissue in the infected wound debrided and pus was also drained. The wound was thoroughly cleaned using water and Hydrogen Peroxide. It was then lavaged using tincture of Iodine. Topical antibiotic cream and green clay was then applied into the wound to facilitate healing and prevent further infection. The elephant was then injected with 200 ml Betamox L.A and 100 ml Dexamethasone HCL at different sites intramuscularly. The entire operation lasted about 20 minutes. Diprenorphine Hydrochloride (54mgs) into the ear vein was used. It took about 5 minutes to fully recover from anaesthesia.

PROGNOSIS

Good



CASE 13: 14th January 2018**TRIANGLE, MASAI MARA****INJURED BABY ELEPHANT****INTRODUCTION**

This baby elephant was spotted by the Mara conservancy security personnel while on routine patrol. The DSWT made plans made to airlift the vet from Nairobi to Maasai Mara immediately. The veterinary team attended to the case for assessment and treatment. The elephant was darted from a vehicle.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

The elephant was in the company of the mother and a herd of 25 elephants. The herd was driven out of the bush via the use of a drone. Separation of the calf and mother was by use of a motor vehicle. The mother was immobilized using 16 mgs Etorphine Hydrochloride in a 3cc dart topped up using water for injection. Darting was done using the Dan Inject system and was done from a vehicle. The elephant went down on dog sitting position after 6 minutes and therefore had to be flipped to access the wound and for safety of the elephant. The trunk was maintained patent using a piece of stick placed across the nostril entrances. The temperature was high hence plenty of water was doused on the elephant to keep the body temperatures low. The ears were used as blindfold. The calf was then captured physically, and an examination done while under physical restraint. On physical examination the baby elephant had suffered a soft tissue injury. Treatment was by administration of Flunixin meglumine and Oxytetracycline. It took about 5 minutes to be fully awake from anaesthesia. The mother and calf were reunited after full recovery.

PROGNOSIS

Good



CASE 14: 16th January 2018

MASAI MARA

MANGE IN LION CUBS

INTRODUCTION

This was a case of four 6-month-old cubs in the double cross pride spotted with skin lesions. They were spotted near Governors camp area of Maasai Mara NR near Musiara Airstrip. A veterinary team was airlifted with the assistance of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust sponsored sky vet program to the reserve. A team from the Maasai Mara county personnel and cheetah project was on the ground to readily assist during the operation.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

The cubs were not immobilized as it was not necessary for this particular operation. The cubs were diagnosed to have had mange infestation. The lion cubs were darted with 1.5 ml ivermectin preparation in a 2.0ml dart. This was done from the dan inject system from a vehicle. The operation took about 1 hour.

PROGNOSIS

The cubs are in stable health after treatment and have good chances of healing and full recovery.

images not available for this case

CASE 15: 20th January 2018

SATAO ELERAI, AMBOSELI

SPEARED ELEPHANT

INTRODUCTION

A Report was received from the senior warden about an injured elephant bull within Amboseli National Park with a spear stuck deep into the forehead. With the Amboseli Vet Unit on annual leave, the Tsavo Vet was airlifted to Amboseli by DSWT helicopter to attend to the speared elephant cow.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

A dart was prepared. Helicopter darting was carried out. Using a Dan inject® dart rifle the Elephant was darted and immobilized after 7 minutes and fell on the flank. There was a deeply embedded spear to the cows' forehead that was hard to pull out. It took the effort of 3 men to pull the spear out. Blood gushed out and was cleaned out and tincture of iodine and green clay was applied. Intravenous administration of dexamethasone Hcl was given through the ear vein and long acting Amoxicillin by intramuscular route. Anaesthesia was reversed by administration of diprenorphine Hcl at three times the Etorphine dosage.

PROGNOSIS

Good



CASE 16: 20th January 2018

SATAO ELERAI, AMBOSELI

SPEARED ELEPHANT

INTRODUCTION

Report was received from big life rangers of another injured Elephant bull within Elerai conservancy with blood oozing from the anal opening. The Vet was already in Amboseli National Park within another case and after finishing found the other bull.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

Helicopter darting was carried out. The Elephant was darted and immobilized after 8 minutes and fell on the flank. There was a deep spear wound on the back near the vertebral column with blood oozing out. The wound was washed clean with water mixed with hydrogen peroxide, necrotic tissues and pus were removed and the wound doused with tincture of iodine. Green clay was used to cover the wound.

An intravenous administration of dexamethasone Hcl was given through the ear vein and the anesthesia reversed by administration of diprenorphine. Prognosis is guarded to poor due to blood oozing from the anal opening. Anesthesia was reversed using Diprenorphine at 3 times the etorphine dose.

PROGNOSIS

Prognosis was guarded, and continued monitoring was carried out



CASE 17: 26th January 2018

ITHUMBA, TSAVO EAST

INJURED EX-ORPHAN

INTRODUCTION

This was a case of an injured ex-orphan elephant at Ithumba area of Tsavo East National Park named 'Tomboi'. This is one of the orphans that was reared by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) and released to the wild. The elephant came close to the Ithumba Rehabilitation Unit with a deep arrow wound on the upper part of the right rump. The Tsavo mobile veterinary unit was engaged in another activity hence the veterinarian from Mt. Kenya was airlifted the same day to attend to the injured elephant. The flight was organized by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) through Sky Vets to ensure immediate response to the case to assist the elephant. The DSWT 206 was called upon to fly from Kaluku to Nanyuki to collect Dr Mijeje from the Mt Kenya Mobile Vet Unit, who was the only vet available for emergency assistance.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

The elephant was approached and darted on foot. The elephant got adequately immobilized after about 7 minutes it was then supported and pulled down to lie on appropriate lateral recumbency to expose the wound for effective treatment. The elephant had a deep wound approximately 20cm deep piercing through the right rump deep into the thigh muscles, the nature of the wound showed that it was caused by a sharp object probably an arrow or spear cutting through the skin into the muscles. The sharp object must have fell off soon after the injury because it was not found in the wound at the time of treatment. The wound was probed using sterile gauze swabs attached to long forceps to ensure no foreign material was left inside. It was still a relatively fresh wound with no pus or exudates, there were no necrotic tissues in the wound. The affected right rump was swollen due to severe inflammatory reaction and internal hemorrhage caused by the injury. The wound was then cleaned with copious amounts of water to remove all necrotic tissues and pus. It was then debrided with dilute hydrogen peroxide then cleaned with tincture of iodine. The wound was further treated using opticlox ointment. Other treatments were intramuscular injection of Procaine penicillin and dexamethasone to support the wound healing process. The wound was finally plugged with green clay and topical application of oxytetracycline spray.

PROGNOSIS

Prognosis was good after treatment as the wound was not yet infected by the time of treatment. The vet was then flown back to Nanyuki.



CASE 18: 27th January 2018**EL SELENKEI AMBOSELI****INJURED ELEPHANT****INTRODUCTION**

Report was received from big life rangers of an injured elephant cow within Selenkei Conservancy near Amboseli National Park with a spear wound on the left thigh near the groin. The Vet was airlifted to Amboseli by DSWT helicopter to attend to the speared elephant cow and found Big Life and KWS watching over the lone sickly elephant.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

Foot darting was carried out. Using a Dan inject® dart rifle the elephant was darted and immobilized after 6 minutes and fell on its flank. The wound was cleaned with hydrogen peroxide and doused with tincture of iodine. Oxytetracycline spray was applied and a final cover of green clay administered. Intravenous administration of Dexamethasone Hcl was given through the ear vein and long acting Amoxicillin by intramuscular route. Anesthesia was reversed by administration of diprenorphine Hcl at three times the Etorphine dosage.

PROGNOSIS

Good



CASE 19: 31st January 2018**TIVA RIVER, TSAVO EAST****INJURED ELEPHANT****INTRODUCTION**

Report was received from DSWT patrol airplane of an injured elephant bull within in Tundani area of Tsavo East near Tiva River with an injury. The Vet team was airlifted by KWS helicopter that was doing collaring in the area to attend to the case. The helicopter was directed by DSWT patrol airplane to the location of the injured bull.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

Vehicle darting was carried out and the elephant was darted and immobilized after 7 minutes and went down on sterna recumbency. The elephant was pushed to lateral recumbency. There were two arrow wounds on the left side of the body, one near the inguinal area and the other on the lower chest area behind the left front limb.

The wounds were washed clean with water mixed with hydrogen peroxide, necrotic tissues and pus removed then doused with tincture of iodine. Medicinal green clay was used to cover the wound. An intravenous administration of dexamethasone Hcl was given through the ear vein and long acting antibiotics administered by intramuscular injections. Anesthesia was reversed using Diprenorphine at 3 times the etorphine dose.

PROGNOSIS

Good



CASE 20: 31st January 2018

SATAO, TSAVO EAST

SNARED ELEPHANT

INTRODUCTION

This elephant bull was first reported by Tsavo Trust team who were patrolling the area but couldn't be attended the same day as it was late in the evening. The next morning the Vet driver patrolled the area and found young bull together with six other bulls browsing near Satao camp and called the vet. We rushed to the area with the MD500 helicopter and easily found the car and the elephant.

INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

A dart was prepared and loaded with 18mgs of etorphine after which the bull was darted from a chopper. He was immobilized in 6 minutes. A tight deeply cutting wire snare which went around the neck and could have killed the elephant was cut loose. Pus, dirt debris and necrotic tissues were cleaned off, the wound cleaned by use of hydrogen peroxide mixed with water, doused with tincture of iodine and sprayed with oxytetracycline spray.

Wetted green clay applied to aid wound healing and keeps away dirt and flies. Long acting antibiotics and dexamethasone Hcl were administered parenterally. Anaesthesia was reversed using Diprenorphine at 3 times the Etorphine dose.

PROGNOSIS

Good

