



VETSCAN VS2

Saving Lives at Limbe Wildlife Centre

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Limbe Wildlife Centre, a collaborative effort between the Government of Cameroon, Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) and Pandrillus Foundation, a conservation NGO, is located in the Southwest Region of Cameroon. Over the past 20 years, the project has been dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of the unique wildlife of Cameroon. The project currently cares for more than 360 orphans of the bushmeat trade, including 16 species of primates, such as critically endangered Western Lowland Gorillas, Nigeria-Cameroon Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*, the most endangered subspecies of chimpanzee), and the endangered Drill Monkey (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), as well as birds, reptiles, and small carnivores. The project provides a long-term solution for confiscated wildlife and aims to secure the ultimate survival of the endemic species of Cameroon while providing the best veterinary care possible.

THE LIMBE WILD LAB

Over the years working in close collaboration with other conservation institutions a need for an upgrade in conservation medicine was identified, not only for the resident animals but for the ones in the wild. So, under these circumstances, LWC has started a new project, the LIMBE WILDlab. This is a multi-disciplinary veterinary diagnostic facility dedicated exclusively to improving the healthcare and survivorship of wildlife native to Africa. The laboratory is a collaborative effort of the Zoological Society of San Diego's Central Africa Program with the Pandrillus Foundation and Government of Cameroon. It will provide a veterinary resource to assist Governments and Conservation NGOs in decision-making on veterinary matters within wildlife rehabilitation centers and reintroduction programs, wildlife research, habitat protection and wildlife law enforcement. The increased local capacity will accelerate the response rate and

diagnostic accuracy of wildlife diseases, issues which will help national and regional conservation efforts by mitigating the effects of disease on wildlife rehabilitation, reintroduction programs, wilderness management and ecotourism scenarios.

During the month of February, LWC hosted the 2013 PASA veterinary workshop during which Abaxis donated the Vetscan VS2. Thanks to Abaxis, at LWC we are able to improve the medical care, and therefore the quality of life of our animals, by expanding our clinical examination to now include full biochemistry analysis. Our exclusive location in the Cross Sanaga area gives us the opportunity to provide help to a number of sanctuaries not only in Cameroon but in Nigeria as well.

The following pages are some of the examples where the Vetscan VS2 has played a crucial role for us in the past:

LIMBE WILDLIFE CENTRE

Right after the conference and the Abaxis donation, we used the Vetscan VS2 in several cases, including great apes during our biennial General Health Checks and in the other cases to rule out clinical concerns we had with our animals. Below, there are some of the most interesting findings we had during the process.

Spp.	Gorillas	Chimps	Baboons	Drills	Mandrills	Preuss	Red Ear Guenon	AGP
Number	16	27	1	2	3	2	1	1



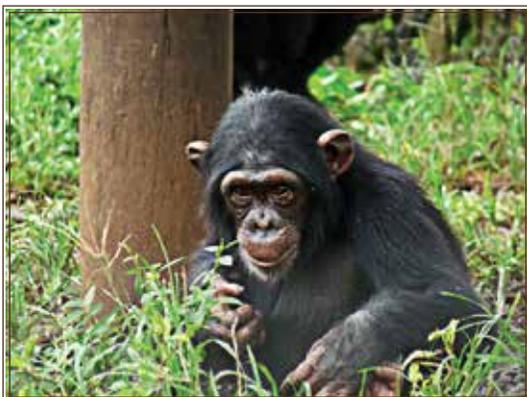
MARGARET | Diagnosis: A Diabetic

As the dominant female in her group, Margaret is a completely happy and healthy looking chimpanzee. While performing the biennial General Health Check, blood was pulled, and thanks to the comprehensive rotor, we were able to diagnose high blood glucose despite she had been fasting for the anesthesia. Thanks to this hint, a series of urine analyses were performed to find out that Margaret happened to be a diabetic. Now she is on treatment and luckily enough the fast diagnosis has helped her not to have internal damage caused by this disease.



SUZANNE | Diagnosis: Gall Bladder Stasis

Founder chimpanzee at LWC, Suzanne has never been in good health. As she is largely overweight despite diets and not in good health, we performed a full Check-Up expecting she was having a heart condition. Echo-cardiology showed a healthy heart with no concerns but biochemistry helped us to diagnose a gall bladder stasis. Nowadays she is in treatment and doing much better.



NTUI | Diagnosis: Liver Damage

Having recovered from a long term respiratory condition, we were able to assess Ntui's liver function after having been treated with antifungal drugs for more than a month. The biochemistry showed he had a silent liver damage that had been unknown to us. Chimpanzees are extremely strong animals who don't tend to show clinical symptoms until the diseases are already affecting them. Thanks to a proper biochemistry analysis, we have been able to diagnose and treat this condition.



NYANGO | Diagnosis: Liver Damage

For more than four years, Nyango's health has not been good. An increased and extended abdomen together with a series of crises had placed her on a chronic palliative treatment. The need for a proper diagnosis was urgent but her condition places her in anesthesia risk. Thanks to the extremely low volume required to perform a comprehensive analysis with the Vetscan VS2, we were able to extract some blood without need for anesthesia and have a complete understanding of the physiological functionality of her body. Nowadays, we have been able to rule out a cardiac problem as well as a thyroid problem, and are now focusing on her liver, where actually the damage is.



CYCLOP | Diagnosis: Malnourished & Lacking Proteins

In the past 7 years, LWC has rescued more than 3.150 African grey parrots. These animals are facing an immediate regional extinction due to over hunting to be sold as pets in western countries. Cyclop is one of them. Taken from Korup National Park, he was rescued and brought to the Centre. During rehabilitation he was not doing well so we performed a full Check-Up, including a biochemistry analysis. It showed he was malnourished and lacking proteins, but had no sign of infection. We found out he was blind in one eye (likely due to trauma) and he could not see from that side, disabling him of getting enough food. Now he has been taken from the rehabilitation group and given extra care in hospitalization. Cyclop will stay with us and he will be the ambassador of his species in our conservation education program.



Drill Ranch (Drill Rehabilitation and Breeding Center)

Another Pandrillus project, also a member of the PASA sanctuaries network, based in Nigeria sent the blood of two of their drills to LWC for a full biochemistry analysis. Both drills have had chronic respiratory infections for the past 2 months and were in urgent need of assessment. Unlikely to have reliable values from the local laboratories, we were able to analyze their blood and to give advice on treatment options.

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