



# REPORT FROM THE DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST

## NAIROBI NURSERY VETERINARY PROGRAM

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### NAIROBI ORPHANS' NURSERY

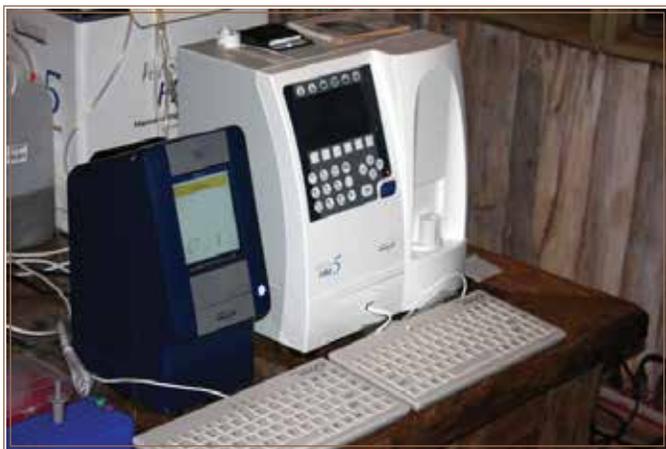
Over the past three decades the Nairobi Nursery has successfully hand-raised over 150 orphaned elephant calves. These innocent baby elephants have been orphaned due to numerous reasons including poaching, human-wildlife conflict and natural disasters.

Although having designed, trialed and tested a winning milk formula and hand-rearing method essential for every calf's survival, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust still has to bear the burden of losing a number of elephant orphans who have arrived at the Nursery either too late, in too poor a condition or merely too grief-stricken from losing their elephant family.



When a calf is not improving in condition and is showing any weakness, ill health or lack of appetite, immediate attention must be given to assess what the symptoms mean and what steps need to be taken. In most cases any symptoms must be quickly followed up with a blood test and immediate treatment. In past years a significant amount of blood had to be taken from a calf and delivered to various laboratories in Kenya for analysis, which proved unreliable and more often than not, inconclusive. This process was long and costly, wasting resources and precious, possibly lifesaving time.

Yet with modern veterinary knowledge and processes, alongside holistic healing techniques, the DSWT is striving to improve and develop its veterinary care to ensure the chances of survival for each and every orphan are as high as possible, and that the very best of care and attention is given efficiently and effectively.

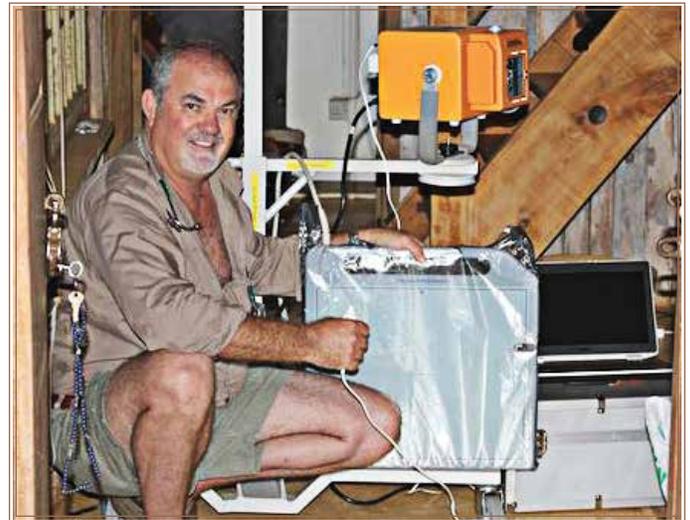


## VETERINARY EQUIPMENT

With an extremely generous Abaxis donation the DSWT has now strengthened its veterinary care beyond measure with a VS2 and HM5 providing extensive blood diagnostics, as well as a powerful and adaptable new x-ray machine and computer alongside a range of diagnostic tools and tests. This equipment has hugely improved the DSWT's effectiveness in rapidly ascertaining each orphan's medical issues, providing quick treatment whilst monitoring ongoing conditions.

The VS2 and HM5 units both have the facility to diagnose a host of issues. The VetScan VS2 can analyze internal organ function, including the condition of the liver, kidney and heart. The VetScan HM5 incorporates

comprehensive CBC testing, analyzing white and red blood cell counts and diagnosing bacterial, viral or parasitic infections. These portable units are now available around the clock at the Nairobi Nursery producing results within minutes, allowing for rapid treatment, whilst saving a significant amount of funds. The x-ray unit with an adaptable stand is an invaluable tool in diagnosing internal injuries and deep wounds. The x-ray component can be easily adjusted to all angles allowing for effective analysis of any awkward areas whilst also reducing the need for the calf to be immobilized whilst the examination is taking place.



## EQUIPMENT TRAINING

The Trust was also able to secure experienced veterinary training from Dr. Clay Wilson, who also sourced the equipment in the United States and brought it safely out to Kenya. Dr. Wilson spent three weeks divided between the Nairobi Nursery as well as the DSWT's two mobile veterinary units in the Masai Mara and Tsavo East, training all the DSWT team members in how to use the equipment, as well as various other skills needed in order to give the best of care to all of the orphans including the wild animals the vet units treat. Orphaned baby elephants are our mission.

