



Using Science to Understand Zoo Elephant Welfare – Fact Sheet

By the Numbers:

- 3-year scientific research study to better understand zoo elephant welfare
- \$800,000 leadership grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services
- 70 North American, AZA-accredited zoos volunteered to collect data throughout 2012
- 255 elephants in the study, both African and Asian
- 2,500 hours of videotape of elephants assessed
- 7.8 million GPS data points collected
- 6,135 serum samples collected and analyzed
- 1,350 surveys conducted
- 6,571 fecal samples collected from 40,000 pounds of elephant dung
- 12,655 samples tested and are now in a managed database
- 110,000 pages of elephant medical records assessed
- 3 universities represented with faculty involved in the study
- 27 researchers, including 19 PhDs, and zoo managers on the study team
- 5 graduate students and dozens of undergraduate students and volunteers contributed to the study