Case Study: Managing E. Coli and Anemia in Giant Anteater (Myrmecophaga tridactyla)

By Grace Martins, Senior Keeper Jaguar Jungle/Lousiana Swamp, Audubon Zoo

This presentation focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of E. Coli and Anemia in Audubon Zoo's male giant anteater "Anton", and the challenges both vet and husbandry staff faced. To our knowledge, "Anton" is one of the first giant anteaters (within AZA/US facilities) to not only be diagnosed and treated for E. Coli, but also to receive an inter-species blood transfusion and placement of NG feeding tube. In this presentation, Anton's medical journey from the first signs of illness and the ground breaking treatments to where his health is today will be shown from his keeper's point of view. Not only was Anton's medical journey extremely important to future veterinary care of giant anteaters, but Anton is continuing to receive new treatment methods such as acupuncture and laser therapy never used (to our knowledge) in Xenarthra.