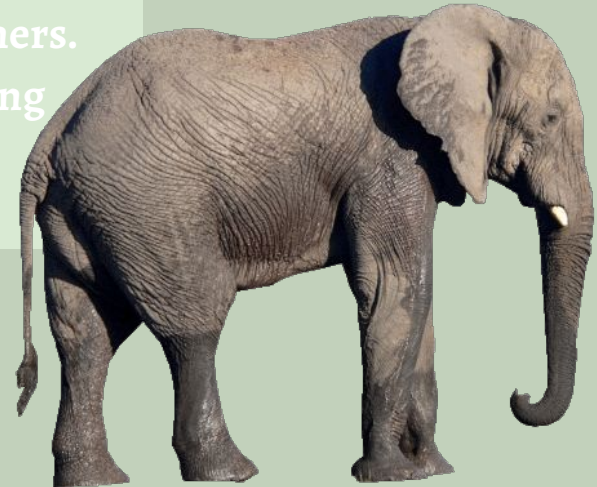




Elephant Endocrine Lab

Why are elephants vital to the ecosystem?

There are many unknown benefits that elephants bring to our ecosystem. They help with the maintenance in the savanna by breaking down trees and bushes. This causes new plants or specific plant species to grow in these savanna's to feed the herbivores of the savanna. They also dig up water holes, helping them hydrate themselves and others. They are huge providers for the ecosystems helping species varying from buffalo and zebras up to predators such as leopards and cheetahs.





<https://www.saveelephant.org/sponsor-an-elephant/baby-elephant-wan-mai/>

I love animals but baby elephants are one of the most cutest things in the world. Elephants in general are really smart animals but they are also very loving, they care for one another and they show each other in their own way how much they do and I find that very wholesome and amazing. This picture and the reason why I chose it is because it genuinely made me smile and brought more joy to my morning.



Would I recommend our elephant Umngani for the breeding program? The answer to this is no I would not recommend her for the breeding program at the time for she is expecting her FOURTH CHILD!! She is expecting calf number four and as one would imagine it wouldn't be a good thing to put an already pregnant female in a breeding program since she is luckily already expecting to bring a new baby calf into the world. The soon to be mother already has three other calves 1 girl two boys that she looks after happily.

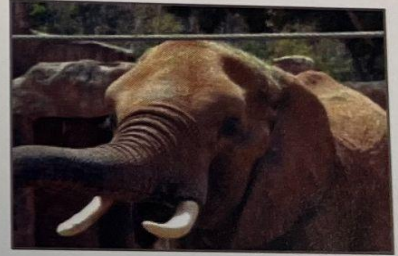
Question: Is Umngani recommended for the breeding program?



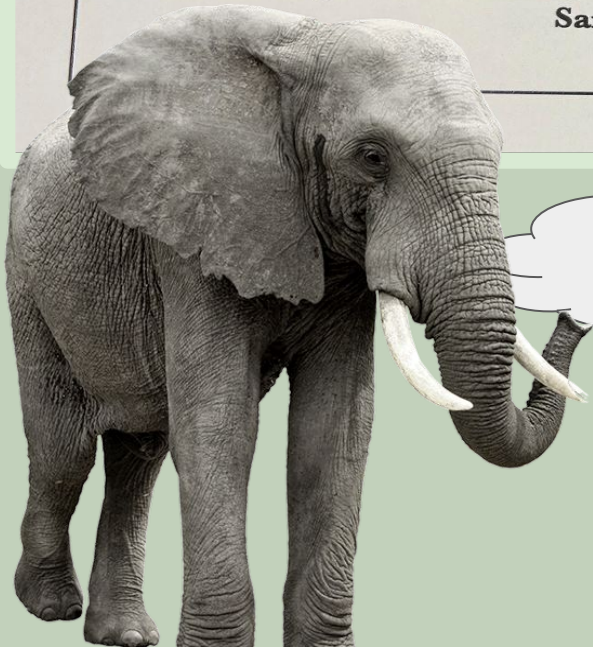
Umngani tests started in December 2009 during this time she was 6490 lbs and she was around 19 years old. The samples were taken in different months ranging from 1-8 months testing the amount of Progesterone (progesterone is a hormone which supports the reproductive system regulates the menstrual cycle as well as supporting pregnancy) she produced during that said month. This helps researchers know whether the elephant is ready to enter a breeding program and to see when the elephant is most fertile for more chances of a positive.

Umngani

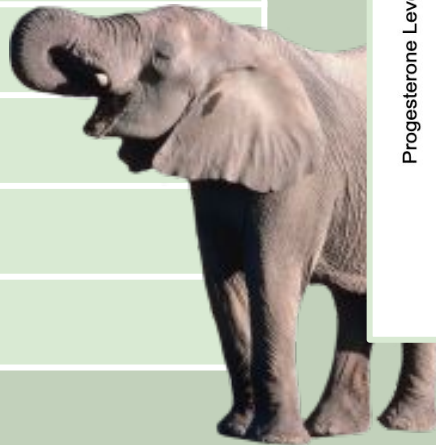
Umngani's name means "friend" in Siswati, an African dialect. Born in 1990, Umngani is a busy mom with three calves to look after, one daughter and two sons. She is very tractable for the keepers and knows many behaviors. She also has the longest tusks of all the females. (As of 8/14 Umngani weighed 6490 lbs.) Samples began Dec. 2009.



More information on
Miss Umngani

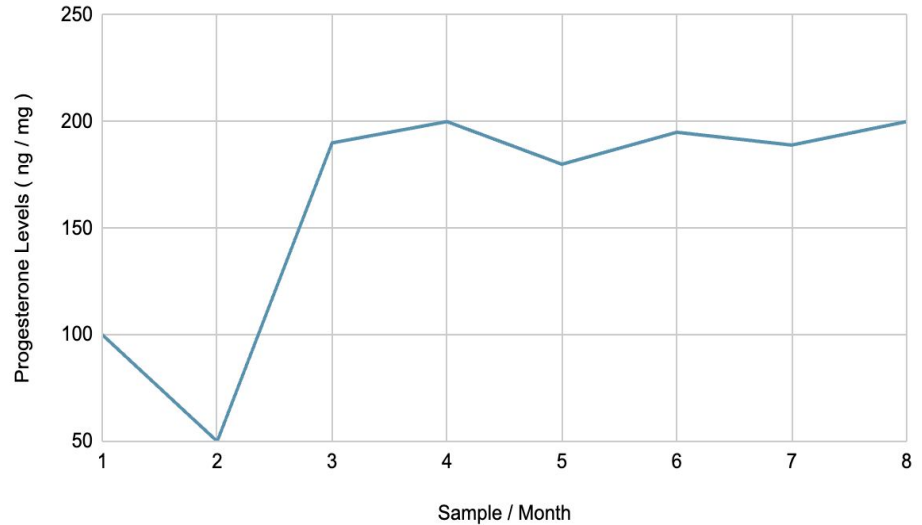


Sample (Month)	Progesterone Level (ng / mg)
1	100
2	70
3	190
4	200
5	180
6	195
7	189
8	200



Lab results and Graph / Chart

Lab Results

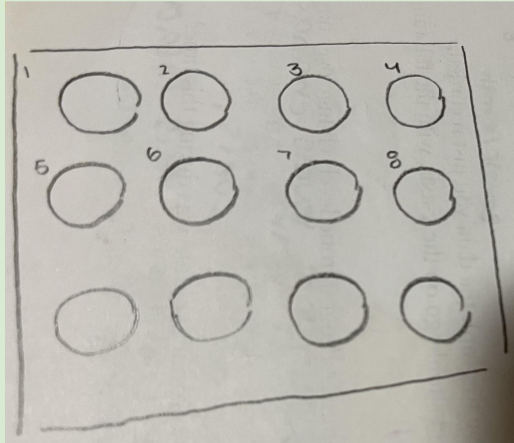




African Elephant Endocrinology Standards

Color	Progesterone Amount ng/mg
Yellow	50
Green	100
Orange	150
Purple	200
Pink	250

Evidence / Results

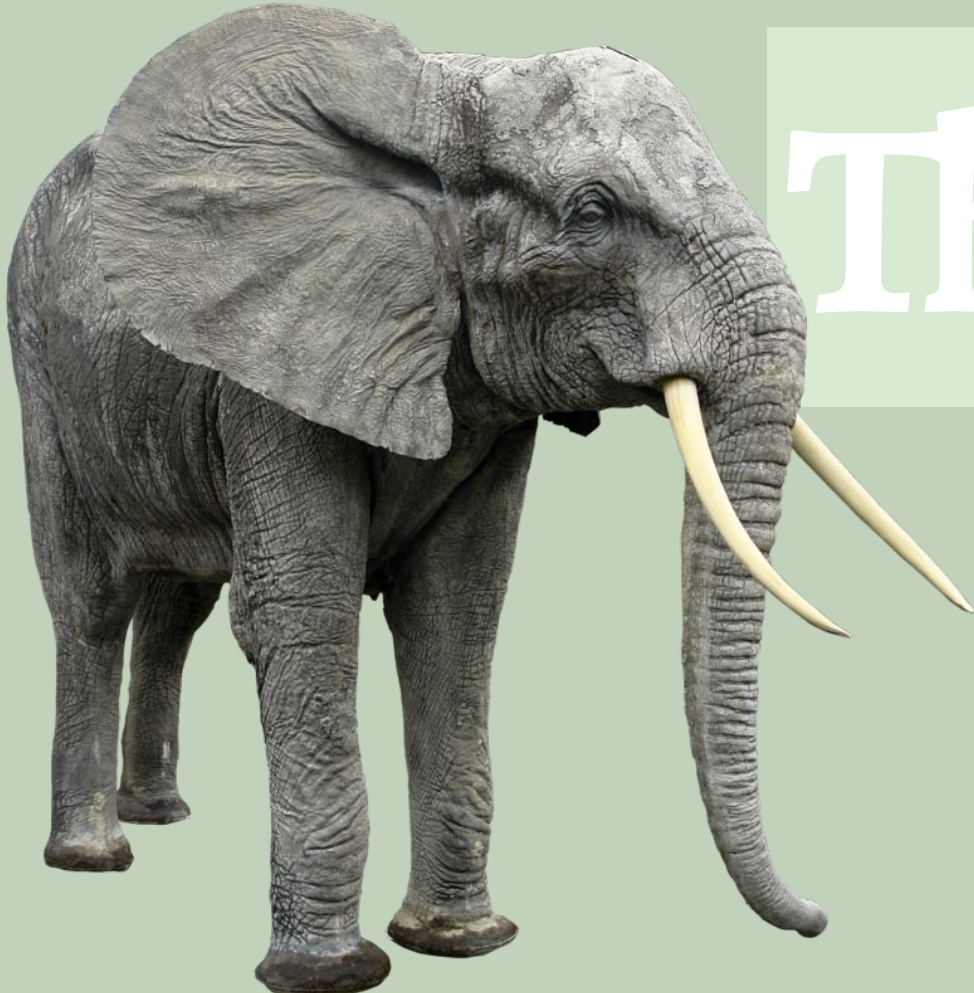


The Evidence / Results show the elephants progesterone levels and how they grow and lower throughout the months. On the Line it shows how her levels start out normal and lower this could be she was not on her menstrual cycle/ not ovulating then it continues to spike up and stays around the say range (showing consistency). This consistently insist the female is pregnant during the duration of the tests being done. Each color is a different amount of the hormone.

Final Claim



I believe Umngani should not be put through the breeding program anytime soon. The elephant will be expecting a new baby calf, Breeding programs such as this one have the goal of figuring out when the elephant is fertile further introducing her to a male and letting nature take its course. In this case that will not be possible since as mentioned she is already carrying so there is no need for her to be apart of the program during this time.



The End