

Dentistry used to save tusks

Dentists in northern Thailand have adapted human root canal techniques to treat elephants suffering from potentially fatal tusk infections.

According to a report in Thailand's *The Nation* newspaper, dentists at Chiang Mai University developed the technique.

They mend the infected stumps of tusks sawn off and sold for their ivory by unscrupulous elephant handlers.

Handlers often fill the severed tusks with soil and bark, which can cause tetanus and lead to death.

Veterinarian surgeons will now be trained by dentists to care for elephants using the new technique, which uses the same material which is used to fill human cavities. ■