General Principles of Managing SIV in Old World Primates

1. African Old World Monkeys have evolved with species specific SIV viruses which do not cause pathogenic disease and do not cause immune-suppression. Infection results in life-long but unapparent infection with no clinical signs.

2. Pathogenic disease is caused by cross-infection of a different primate species with SIV virus.

3. In the wild up to 30% of primates are naturally infected with SIV, it is possible that the same proportion of captive animals are infected too.

4. Asian Old World Monkeys do not have natural SIV viruses and therefore are highly susceptible to SIV resulting in immunosuppressive and neurological disease. African and Asian primates should never be mixed.

5. African Old World primates (including apes) of unknown or positive SIV status should never be mixed.

6. It is not necessary to euthanize SIV infected primates.

7. It is not necessary to manage primates infected with their own SIV virus separately within captive collections or within EEPs.

8. The TAG has produced further risk assessments and guidance form managing SIV infected primates.

9. The TAG can arrange for SIV testing to be undertaken and veterinary advisors can interpret tests.

10. SIV poses a minimal risk of infection to humans. The TAG risk assessments define the risk of SIV from Debrazza Guenons to humans as Negligible/very low and the risk of SIV from Mandrills and Drills as low.

11. Risks to humans are reduced further by taking normal precautions that should be routinely used when working with primates of wearing latex gloves and eye protection when working with bodily fluids.

12. SIV exposure to humans does not cause HIV infection. Humans infected with SIV develop antibodies but do not show clinical signs. No zoo keepers have ever been infected with SIV to date.

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