

Siemens technology used to carry out cardiological tests on gorilla

A range of cardiological tests have been carried out on a silver back gorilla with the ACUSON Cypress Plus from Siemens Medical Solutions during an artificial insemination procedure.

The Cypress was loaned to Jersey Zoo to scan the male and female gorillas while they were under anaesthetic. The operation was part of a breeding programme, which was timed to extract a semen sample from the male gorilla and inseminate the female. While the animals were anaesthetised, the staff took the opportunity to examine them and take measurements as well as clay prints of hands and feet. The echocardiogram was carried out after the previous alpha male gorilla died from aortic vascular disease.

"Access to the chest of the gorilla was not easy but the Cypress Plus provided the necessary portability and accessibility and gave clear enough images to confirm all was well," said Andrew Mitchell, Consultant Cardiologist at Jersey General hospital. "We had experience working with Siemens before at the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford through the use of AcuNav and Cypress at so it was not hard to know who to go to when this came up."

The ACUSON Cypress PLUS provides the benchmark for value and performance in portable echocardiograms. The new system builds on the Cypress platform which incorporates the latest technology to provide better quality, reliability and value.

A new user interface, large tiltable monitor and ergonomic cart make the new Cypress PLUS easier to use and reduce the risk of repetitive strain injury. Improved image quality increases the speed and confidence of diagnosis.

Ian Carter, Cardiac Ultrasound Manager at Siemens, commented: "It doesn't matter whether the subject is human or gorilla, the Cypress Plus is still able to provide exceptional imaging time after time and it was an excellent indication of how good our equipment is that Siemens' was chosen for such an important procedure."

Siemens Medical Solutions is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry. The company is known for bringing together innovative medical technologies, healthcare information systems, management consulting and support services, to help customers achieve tangible, sustainable, clinical and financial outcomes. From imaging systems for diagnosis, to therapy equipment for treatment, to patient monitors to hearing instruments and beyond, Siemens innovations contribute to the health and well-being of people across the globe, while improving operational efficiencies and optimising workflow in hospitals, clinics, home health agencies and doctors' offices. Employing approximately 33.000 people worldwide and operating in more than 120 countries, Siemens Medical Solutions reported sales of 7.6 billion EUR, orders of 8.6 billion EUR and group profit of 1 billion EUR for fiscal 2005. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.siemens.co.uk/medical>

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Photo caption:

Staff at Jersey hospital perform the difficult procedure on the male gorilla

Press release – Siemens technology used to carry out cardiological tests on gorilla - Feb 07

Page 3

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