



Department of Zoology & Entomology

2 October 2013

Mr W Jacobs  
Ukutula Lion Park and Lodge  
The Farm Klipkop  
411 JQ District Brits  
North West Province

Dear Willi

As previously discussed with Prof. Millar, I am a PhD student at the MRI (Mammal Research Institute, Tukkies) currently working on a project looking at the possible influences Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) might have on the reproduction of lions. As part of the study we need to get baseline values from healthy, bTB free lions as controls to compare the infected lions to.

We were hoping that it would be possible to make use of the lions on your property to serve as control animals. In order to obtain the samples we would need to sedate the lions for a considerable period (approximately an hour). After sedation has started we will need to take blood samples at two time points 10 minutes apart. After the second sample I need to inject the lions with kisspeptin and then take blood samples at 10 minute intervals up to 40 minutes but no less than 30 minutes after kisspeptin administration. Kisspeptin is a peptide that forms part of the regulatory processes of the reproductive endocrine system.

The blood will then be analysed to see how the animal responded to the administered dose of kisspeptin which would then give us an idea of the normal functioning of the reproductive endocrine system. The effects of the kisspeptin on the body is not dangerous to the animal and similar studies have been conducted on humans. We have also not seen any negative effects on other lions that we have worked with at the National Zoological Gardens in Pretoria. If you have any questions please feel free to ask. Your help and assistance with this will be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

Ig Viljoen

Endorsed by Prof RP Millar

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