

**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

(Approving Publication of the RMSF Manuscript and Endorsing RMSF Intervention)

WHEREAS, Article IV, section 1(a) of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe authorizes the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council (Tribal Council) to act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council supports programs in preventive health; and

WHEREAS, during the past 2 years, an unusually high rate of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) has been reported on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. Since 2002, there have been 15 cases of RMSF, primarily among children less than 12 years of age, and 2 deaths in children; and

WHEREAS, the average annual incidence of pediatric RMSF in this region is over 500 times higher than the average annual incidence of this disease in children in the United States; and

WHEREAS, an investigation by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Indian Health Service (IHS), and the Arizona Dept. of Health Services (AZDHS), in cooperation with the White Mountain Apache Tribe, found heavy tick infestations on stray and owned dogs in the area, and exceptionally heavy infestations on household exterior environment; and

WHEREAS, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (the brown dog tick) has been determined as the tick responsible for disease transmission in this region, a vector not previously recognized to transmit RMSF in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the investigation concluded that the epidemic was due to

- Very large numbers of ticks around homes;
- Very large numbers of ticks on dogs;
- Large numbers of stray dogs;
- Lots of places for ticks to hide and survive (especially in trash, outdoor upholstery, & under homes); and
- Lots of contact between children, ticks and dogs; and

WHEREAS, Doctors Linda Demma, Marc Traeger and colleagues have written a manuscript documenting these findings entitled: "Emergence of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in Rural Eastern Arizona: Association with an Unexpected Tick Vector, *Rhipicephalus Sanguineus*" that describes and documents the emergence of RMSF as part of an unusual ecologic situation in eastern Arizona, in which *Rh. sanguineus* ticks are implicated as efficient natural vectors of *R. rickettsii*, a finding that has not previously been described in the United States, and they are requesting that the Tribal Council approve the publication of the manuscript (that does not identify the White

Mountain Apache Tribe) so that it may serve the purpose of alerting public health workers and clinicians; and

WHEREAS, planning meetings during January 2005 took place with multiple tribal departments including but not limited to WMAT Health Programs, Health Advisory Board, Housing Authority, Environmental Planning, and the CDC, IHS, USDA, AZDHS to develop an intervention plan and strategy to prevent RMSF; and

WHEREAS, an intervention proposal for immediate integrated intervention has been developed, including:

- Animal control program to reduce tick population; and
- Treatment of dogs with effective tick-preventives; and
- Treatment of infested home environments with effective pesticides; and
- Coordinated environmental clean-up campaign; and
- Community education to reduce tick bites; and

WHEREAS, it is very likely that additional RMSF illness and death, especially among children, will continue unless the above mentioned community-based intervention is employed in a organized and timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the proposed intervention was endorsed by the WMAT Health Advisory Board at their meeting on January 25, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the intervention is based on the cooperation and collaboration of tribal departments and programs including but not limited to Health programs, Environmental planning and Housing authority and outside agencies including but not limited to IHS, CDC, ADHS, and USDA; and


WHEREAS, it is recognized that the intervention may be limited by available resources and the Tribal Council therefore acknowledges that certain aspects of the intervention may not be fully implemented if funding is inadequate.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby:

1. Approves the manuscript entitled, "Emergence of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in Rural Eastern Arizona: Association with an Unexpected Tick Vector, *Rhipicephalus Sanguineus*" to be submitted for publication with the condition that the White Mountain Apache Tribe not be identified therein; and
2. Endorses the proposed RMSF intervention, subject to available resources, and designates the administration of this intervention to be coordinated through the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) program, recognizing that multiple tribal departments will be involved in collaboration with NARCH, IHS, CDC, ADHS, USDA, and other cooperating outside agencies, programs, organizations and businesses; and
3. Authorizes the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, and any other authorized representative appointed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, to request funding from any available outside source to assist with the proposed RMSF intervention.

Resolution No. 02-2005-33

The foregoing resolution was on FEBRUARY 2, 2005 duly adopted by a vote of SEVEN for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (i), (s), (t), and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).


Chairman of the Tribal Council


Secretary of the Tribal Council

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WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE