



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

**(Approval for Indian Health Service to the Conduct a Study of the Rocky Mountain Spotted
Fever on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation)**

- WHEREAS,** pursuant to Article IV, Section 1(a) and 1(s) of the Constitution of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, *inter alia*, the Tribal Council has the authority to represent the Tribe and act in all matters that concern the welfare of the Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** during the past 8 years, an unusually high rate of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) has been reported on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR) with 69 local cases of RMSF in 2002, primarily among children less than 12 years of age; 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, 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,** RMSF has unique elements locally not reported in other locations throughout the United States, such as transmission by the brown dog tick, the central role that dogs play in the transmission, the unique DNA genotype of the *rickettsia* bacteria found in ticks here, the high infection rate in children compared to the rest of the nation, and the apparent higher severity of the disease locally; and
- WHEREAS,** despite intense efforts in the past several years to decrease tick populations, raise awareness and knowledge of this illness in the community and among health workers, improvements in prevention, detection, and treatment of those at risk for and afflicted with RMSF, severe disease and fatalities continue to occur, and
- WHEREAS,** the IHS, in collaboration with the CDC has proposed a study to evaluate cases occurring locally using medical record review to determine other differences locally that might further improve prevention, detection, and treatment of those afflicted with RMSF; and
- WHEREAS,** the San Carlos Tribe will also be invited to participate in this study; and
- WHEREAS,** this study poses no adverse outcome risk for individuals whose records will be reviewed since individuals will not undergo any additional treatment or testing of any kind; and

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- WHEREAS,** to protect individual privacy, no unique patient identifiers will be used in the study and information from medical record reviews will be collected and documented using individual assigned codes that will be held in a secure, locked and/or password-protected location; and
- WHEREAS,** the study will be performed with the intention of improving prevention, detection and treatment of those at risk for and afflicted with RMSF and to alert public health workers and clinicians of newly discovered information that may improve prevention, detection, and treatment of RMSF in other communities, states or countries; and
- WHEREAS,** publication and presentation of such information will be important and any manuscripts produced from the information discovered through this study will be presented at public forums for the purpose of increasing knowledge, prevention, detection and treatment of RMSF, so long as publications or presentations do not result in harm to individuals or the WMAT; and
- WHEREAS,** the WMAT Health Advisory Board has reviewed this proposal at a WMAT Health Board meeting earlier this year; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council finds it in the best interest of the White Mountain Apache Tribe to approved the study of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever as proposed by Indian Health Service.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves this study as proposed, and subsequent publication of manuscripts and public presentations of information resulting from the study, so long as individuals' privacy is protected.

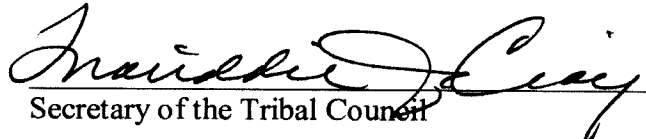
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that in the event that this Resolution conflicts with a prior Resolution or Policy, this Resolution shall govern.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairman, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

The foregoing resolution was on NOVEMBER 3, 2010 duly adopted by a vote of EIGHT for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (j), (k), (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