

Guidelines for transport of captive wild animals

1. Animals in good health only should be transported. Sub-adult animals should be preferred for transportation.
2. Pregnant or females which have recently given birth should be avoided for transport.
3. Infants and too young, incapable of feeding themselves should also not be transported unless prior arrangements have been made for taking all due care for the same.
4. The antlered animals in velvet should not be transported.
5. The animal should be separated from the herd, if needed, sufficiently in advance before transport and complete health check up should be done before transport for assessing its health conditions.
6. The related papers like animal history cards, treatment cards, health certificate should accompany animal while transportation.
7. Necessary arrangements for quarantine at the recipient station should be arranged in advance.
8. The dimensions of the transportation containers for mammalian species should be such that the animal is not be able to turn around or to summer sault.
9. The transport container should preferably be of suitable local material. For many animals, the preferred material will be timber but such materials as bamboo, hardboard and metal may often be suitable for the construction of transportation cage. For transport by air, fiber glass transportation cages can also be preferred as these are light in weight.
10. The floor of the container should be made removable with liquid proof trays under the slatted floor. The slatted construction should be so designed and constructed that the spacing between the slates in such that there is no danger of the animals feet becoming trapped.

11. It is important that all transportation containers should have inner surfaces which are completely free of any projecting nails, screws, ends of mesh or any other sharp material, which could cause injury to the animal. There should not be any sharp edges. Moreover, if any wood preservative or paint is used on the container, it should not be toxic or a skin irritant. It should also be padded with rubber pads to save the animals from injury.
12. The transportation container should have adequate air circulation at all times. There should be additional ventilation by means of holes of suitable size in all walls of the container.
13. Suitable lifting handles or grippers bars should be provided and when the containers will be heavily loaded, the hooks for crane slings and facilities for handling by fork-lift should also be fitted.
14. On long journeys, the animals should be provided suitable bedding materials such as straw or hessian pad.
15. Arrangements for feeding and watering as per the requirement of the species and duration of the journey should be provided.
16. The animals which might have been sedated before their transportation should be transported only under the supervision of a qualified veterinarian only and details of sedation should accompany the animal. Partial sedation in some of the species and individuals when recommended may also be resorted to during transportation.
17. The handling of animals during the transportation should be avoided to the possible extent. The animals should be disturbed as little as possible during the transportation.
18. The transportation of animals should be avoided during extreme weather conditions like dry hot summer and very cold winter.
19. The journey should preferably be performed during day time. The time between 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. may be avoided during hot summers and nights during winter.
20. While transportation from one climatic zone to another, it is important that the animals are not suddenly moved to contrasting climate to which

- they are not accustomed. If this is not avoidable, the desired controlled environment should be made available, so that they are exposed to change climatic conditions slowly.
21. The transportation cage should be secured fully to avoid any possible movement or sliding during transport. It is very important to ensure that the transportation cages are kept horizontal throughout the journey.
 22. The animal should be accompanied by a qualified Veterinarian and required number of keepers having experience and training in handling individual animals.
 23. Every care should be taken to avoid unnecessary discomfort, behavioural stress or physical harm to the animals while crating and transporting.
 24. While transporting the animals, due screening of the staff involved in transportation of animal should be made and it must be ensured that they do not infected of any such diseases that can infect the animal.
 25. The accompanying Veterinarian should carry all necessary drugs, medicines, first aid kit, restraining equipments and drugs, which may be required during emergency. In the unlikely event of animal sustaining injury during transportation or falling sick, there should be arrangement in the cage for handling the animal for treatment.
 26. Arrangement for carrying water sprayers, buckets, additional ropes etc. should also be made and tools for temporary repair of the cages may also be carried during transportation.
 27. It is preferred to cage only one animal in a single container, except in birds or mother with babies.
 28. For longer distances, the possibility of air lifting should be explored. Lighter transport cages like fiber glass should be preferred for air journeys. The transportation cages should not be placed in closed wagon during transportation by rail.
 29. The animals avoid feeding while transportation. It is advisable to properly feed the animals along with required supplement before crating and transportation.

30. There are various guidelines by IATA or CITES for transportation of animals by air. These should be kept in mind while transporting animals by air.
31. The senior most personnel accompanying the animal should carry sufficient money and should have authority to spend the same to meet any unforeseen emergency during transportation.
32. Certificate from the concerned zoo consigning the transportation should accompany the animal and it should be mentioned that no taxes etc. should be paid and vehicle should not be detained. This will ensure smooth transportation without any hindrance, particularly in inter state check gates.
33. During transportation, if there is any emergent need for any assistance from any nearby zoo, the concerned zoo should provide all possible assistance. In case of transportation, it will be ideal to keep the way hide zoo informed in advance about such movement.

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