

TEMPORARY HOLDING OF WILDLIFE BEFORE AND/OR AFTER TRANSPORT

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INTRODUCTION

- Air transport is the preferred method for transporting many live animals and plants and there are special requirements necessitated by air transport
- In Ghana, the Wild Animals Preservation Act 43 (1961) and Wildlife Conservation Regulations, 1971 L.I. 685 are laws that regulate the capture, possession, transport, and export of wildlife .
- The Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission which is also the CITES Management Authority is responsible for enforcing these laws and ensuring humane treatment of animals before and after transport.

GOOD PRACTICES BEFORE TRANSPORT

- Prior to transporting of any wildlife through KIA, Wildlife Officers at the KIA in collaboration with the Veterinary Services Directorate ensures a lab test has been conducted by Veterinary Services Directorate to assess whether a wildlife is in a good condition to be transported according to the standard operating procedures (SOP).
- This leads to the issuance of veterinary health certificate after the wildlife is declared fit and this will allow for transport by wildlife officers to avoid the introduction and transfer of any bacteria and other zoonotic diseases for bio-security purposes.

PRIOR TO SHIPMENT

- Wildlife officers receive import information via Email on the daily basis from cargo operators regarding any product coming into Ghana for action to be taken where necessary. Officers work with cargo operators to also ensure that transportation of wildlife by air is done in accordance with International Air Transportation Association (IATA).
- In situations where wildlife has been transported into Ghana, Wildlife Officers work with exporters, customs Officers and other law enforcement agencies to ensure all SOPs, health and safety measures, information recording have dully been followed before wildlife is allowed into the country.

PRIOR TO SHIPMENT

- Animals due for shipment are held in facilities that provide sufficient space, proper ventilation, adequate food and water, and protection from extremes weather.
- Cages, crates, or enclosures used for transport have been designed to avoid injury and allow the animals to stand and lie down comfortably. Officers work with exporters so that animals are separated, and fixed in partitions considered for use between individuals so that when travelling in hilly, bumpy or high-traffic areas, it will prevent animals from being thrown around or injured.
- Consignments are also labelled accordingly before shipments.

HOLDING PERIODS

- Animals are not held longer than needed for transfer between facilities, transport loading/unloading, or for required rest periods during transport
- Animals are protected from harsh weather conditions, direct sun, excess noise, and unnecessary disturbance while being held.
- Officers also ensure that food and water/moisture is provided when necessary to reduce physiological stress and dehydration associated with transport and holding.
- Sick, diseased, or injured animals requiring veterinary care are not transported.

CHALLENGES

- Delay in flights occasionally prolongs holding periods causing stress to animals
- Temporary holding containers must be cleaned and disinfected after each use but due to time factor this is not always the case.
- Inadequate inspection equipment.
- Inadequate space to hold large quantities of live animals at a time.

SOLUTIONS

- Adequate food and water/moisture must be provided when necessary to reduce physiological stress and dehydration associated with transport and holding.
- Temporary holding containers must be adequately cleaned and disinfected.

PICTURES OF SOME WILDLIFE SHIPMENTS AND CONSIGNMENTS READY FOR SHIPMENT



Telodeinopus aoutii (Millipede)



Lygodactylus conraui (Dwarf Gecko)



Consignments being ready for shipment



PICTURES OF SOME WILDLIFE SHIPMENTS AND CONSIGNMENTS READY FOR SHIPMENT



Consignments being labelled prior to shipment

REFERENCES

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