



CITES Cheetah Trade Resource Kit

Disposal of Dead Cheetahs and Cheetah Products

This section provides guidance on how to dispose of dead cheetahs and seized cheetah products

1. Why is Correct Disposal Important?

Cheetahs are listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) with following annotation: “Annual export quotas for live specimens and hunting trophies are granted as follows: Botswana: 5; Namibia: 150; Zimbabwe: 50. The trade in such specimens is subject to the provisions of Article III of the Convention”. Under the terms of this listing there is no legal commercial international trade. Specimens confiscated from the illegal trade should be disposed of in accordance with Article VIII of the Convention and the recommendations contained in CITES Resolution Conf. 17.8.

Options for disposal include destruction, but not sale.

In addition, cheetah parts may be used for the following purposes:

- Scientific research
- Education
- Enforcement
- Identification

All of these uses should be non-commercial and the specimens should, at all times, be securely handled and stored to prevent any possibility of the products entering illegal trade.

Before determining what should be done with confiscated dead cheetahs and specimens, it is important to check national legislation. As described above, CITES is a Convention which regulates international trade, and different countries may have additional national laws and regulations governing the management of confiscated dead cheetahs and specimens.

2. Necessary Precautions for Long-Term Secure Storage

Specimens that are retained in long-term storage should be kept in a secure facility where there is no risk that they may go missing or be stolen. If the specimens are to be removed from this area a record of:

- When the specimen(s) were taken
- Why the specimen(s) were taken
- Who the specimen(s) were taken by
- Who authorised the removal
- When the specimen(s) will be returned.

3. Suggested Method of Destruction

Where the decision is made to destroy specimens, the most effective method of permanent destruction is incineration (burning). This method is preferred to ensure that the specimen is entirely destroyed, and there is no risk that parts of, for example, skin or bones etc may find their way back into the illegal trade.

Once a carcass has been burnt, the remains should be checked to ensure that it has definitely been completely destroyed.

4. Further Reading

CITES Resolution Conf. 17.8: Disposal of illegally traded and confiscated specimens of CITES-listed species

CITES. Disposal of Confiscated Specimens. URL:

https://www.cites.org/eng/imp/Disposal_of_confiscated_specimen