

RECOMMENDED QUARANTINE PROCEDURE INCLUDING PROTOCOL

Rev 25 April 2019: includes section specifically for Lesser Flamingo



QUARANTINE FACILITY:

A separate quarantine facility, with the ability to accommodate mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish should exist. If a specific quarantine facility is not present, then newly acquired animals should be isolated from the established collection in such a manner as to prohibit physical contact, to prevent disease transmission, and to avoid aerosol and drainage contamination. Such separation should be obligatory for primates, small mammals, birds, and reptiles, and attempted wherever possible with larger mammals such as large ungulates and carnivores, marine mammals, and cetaceans. If the receiving institution lacks appropriate facilities for isolation from resident collection, use of another accredited facility may be considered in compliance with all regional and provincial legislation.

QUARANTINE LENGTH:

Quarantine for all species should be under the supervision of a veterinarian and consist of a minimum of 30 days (unless otherwise directed by the staff veterinarian). Mammals: If during the 30-day quarantine period, additional mammals of the same order are introduced into a designated quarantine area, the 30-day period must begin over again. However, the addition of mammals of a different order to those already in quarantine will not have an adverse impact on the originally quarantined mammals. Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, or Fish: The 30-day quarantine period must be closed for each of the above Classes. Therefore, the addition of any new birds into a bird quarantine area requires that the 30-day quarantine period begin again on the date of the addition of the new birds. The same applies for reptiles, amphibians, or fish.

QUARANTINE PERSONNEL:

A keeper should be designated to care only for quarantined animals or a keeper should attend quarantined animals only after fulfilling responsibilities for resident species. Equipment used to feed and clean animals in quarantine should be used only with these animals. If this is not possible, then equipment must be cleaned with an appropriate disinfectant (as designated by the veterinarian supervising quarantine) before use with post-quarantine animals.

Institutions must take precautions to minimize the risk of exposure of animal care personnel to zoonotic diseases that may be present in newly acquired animals. These precautions should include the use of disinfectant foot baths, wearing of appropriate protective clothing and masks in some cases, and minimizing physical exposure in some species; e.g., primates, by the use of chemical rather than physical restraint. A tuberculin testing/surveillance program must be established for zoo/aquarium employees in order to ensure the health of both the employees and the animal collection.

QUARANTINE PROTOCOL:

During this period, certain prophylactic measures should be instituted. Individual fecal samples or representative samples from large numbers of individuals housed in a limited area (e.g., birds of the same species in an aviary or frogs in a terrarium) should be collected at least twice and examined for gastrointestinal parasites. Treatment should be prescribed by the attending veterinarian. Ideally, release from quarantine should be dependent on obtaining two negative faecal results spaced a minimum of two weeks apart either initially or after parasitic treatment. In addition, all animals should be evaluated for ectoparasites and treated accordingly.

Vaccinations should be updated as appropriate for each species. If the animal arrives without a vaccination history, it should be treated as an immunologically naive animal and given an appropriate series of vaccinations. Whenever possible, blood should be collected and sera banked. Either a -70°C freezer or a -20°C freezer that is not frost-free should be available to save sera. Such sera could provide an important resource for retrospective disease and DNA evaluation.

The quarantine period also represents an opportunity to, where possible, permanently identify all unmarked animals when anesthetized or restrained (e.g., tattoo, ear notch, ear tag, etc.). Also, whenever animals are restrained or immobilized, a complete physical, including a dental examination, should be performed.

Complete medical records should be maintained and available for all animals during the quarantine period. Animals that die during quarantine should have a necropsy performed under the supervision of a veterinarian and representative tissues submitted for histopathologic examination.

Adopted from: AZA, (2007), Recommended Quarantine Procedures, IN: 2007 Guide to Accreditation of Zoological Parks and Aquariums

Reference: Quarantine and Health Screening Protocols for Wildlife prior to Translocation and Release into the Wild – IUCN Veterinary SSC

SPECIFIC to LESSER FLAMINGO QUARANTINE FACILITY:

Background: There are two quarantine pens, 1 of 100sqM (small) and 1 of 1088sqM (large) Because these will be used for different quarantine processes, special precautions need to be exercised to prevent possible cross-contamination.

Each pen requires its own feed bowls/trays which are to be washed and stored separately

Because there is black water systems within the pens, persons entering the pens need to wear protective clothing. Gum boots and overalls are provided and are allocated to each pen. These must not be interchanged at any stage or for any reason.

All protective gear needs to be washed and disinfected at the end of each day.

Footbath need to be used when entering and exiting pens. F10 made up to correct concentration should be made up daily and placed into footbath. A dry footbath gives no protection – ensure it is full at all times

Hands need to be thoroughly washed in clean F10 solution after handling food trays or birds and on entry and exit of the quarantine pens

As animals have been screened for diseases prior to entering quarantine facility a two week quarantine period is acceptable as opposed to regulation 30 days