When Your Collection is Alive and Crosses Borders

Yuna, our 3 year old Malayan Tapir, born in Puebla, Mexico
Shipping a Malayan Tapir from Mexico to Washington State—Where do you start?
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium made the decision to participate in the Malayan Tapir breeding program

From the time the decision was made to participate (April 2015), to the time the tapir actually arrived at our zoo, (August 2016), there were many steps to take to get her here. Had this been US zoo to US zoo, it would have taken no time at all. But because we crossed an international border, this wasn’t the case.

Here is what we had to do:
Contact the Species Survival Plan (SSP) Coordinator for Malayan Tapirs to see if we can participate in the program.

In our case, we were approved to bring in a young female in from Africam Safari in Puebla, Mexico.
What’s the Budget?

$12,990

So what did all this money pay for?

- Permits
- Flight costs from Mexico
- Inspections (LA and Tacoma)
- Overtime for Inspectors (and lots of it)
- Broker fees
- Transport by trailer to Tacoma
- Miscellaneous transport items
Begin

• Pre-Acquisition Form
• Vet test requests
• Check on Permits needed
CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Submitting the Application - What Info do they want?

- The Application
- Proof of where the animal was born
- Staff Resumes - animal care and managers
- Proof of Educational info about Tapirs
- Dimensions/Photos of exhibits and holding areas

It took Mexico 2 weeks to get their CITES permit, it took us 13 months...

The application was 85 pages long!
While you wait…

Crate requirements and Shipping Options

• Check IATA (International Air Transport Association)/LAR (Live Animals Regulations) for crate dimensions and regulations

• Is the crate too big for standard aircrafts-Yes

• FedEx an option?-Yes in the US, no for the international flight-Now what?

• Start contacting ground animal shippers-went through 3 before someone was able to work with us

• Flying vs driving, or both! She could fly out of Mexico, but we could not coordinate flights from LA to Seattle.

• Have to consider length of time the animal is in the crate too, from the start in Mexico to arrival in Tacoma. She would have been crated almost as long waiting for the next flight to Seattle as she was being driven up to Tacoma.
Global Animal Transport to the rescue!

Not only could they drive her to the zoo, but they handled all of the following:

- Inspections at Los Angeles Airport
  - USDA
  - Customs
  - USFWS

- Final permits from USDA for entry into the United States

- Transfer of crated tapir from air cargo to transport trailer

- Feeding and watering of the tapir along the way
Documents That Needed to Accompany the Shipment

Originals needed to accompany the Tapir from start to finish included:

- CITES Permits
- USDA
  - Declaration to Import
  - Permit to move restricted animals
- Mexican Health Certificate
- Statement from Shipper that the animal is not:
  - Corrosive
  - Explosive
  - Flammable
  - Toxic
  - Dangerous for the Environment
  - Magnetic
- ?????? Something to do with the airport??
Are we finally ready to do this?

Last minute stuff:

• Verify Flight information
  • Flight leaves Mexico at 7pm
  • Arrives at LAX at 11:20pm

• Coordinate inspections at LA airport
  • Customs
  • USDA
  • USFWS

• Coordinate inspection at the zoo
  • USDA
On Her Way to the Zoo

The Long Haul:
• GAT left LAX about 1am, and headed up I-5 to Tacoma
• Periodic phone calls were made on the progress of the transport and condition of Yuna
• Updates on time arrival were done so we could notify the USDA inspector and the Operations staff
• 20 hours later (9pm) Yuna arrives! But there was still more to do before she could be unloaded…
To prevent the possible entry of foreign ectoparasites (a parasite that lives on or in the skin), the ground that the crate would pass over was sprayed, Yuna was sprayed while in the crate and then any bedding and feces were sprayed. As per the USDA:

1.8 All animals must be treated for ectoparasites prior to export, and again at the time of entry to the United States.

A forklift was prepped to remove the crate from the truck and position at the holding entrance.
The Final Few Minutes

- USDA Inspector breaks the seal that was put on the crate at the airport in Mexico
- Moving the crate into position
- Backing the tapir out the door to prevent running head on into a wall
- Cleaning the crate-USDA monitors the entire process
  - 3.2.3 If no ectoparasites are detected, the animals should be sprayed or dipped with a permitted dip. All wastes, straw, bedding or other materials accompanying the animals should be disposed of.
- Bedding, feces, food - sprayed, put in plastic bags, and then the bags are sprayed again on the outside
- Midnight-Drive (with all the windows open) two well sprayed plastic bags to a crematorium for immediate incineration
- Husband calls to find out where the heck I am!!
And this is what we hope will come of Yuna and Baku’s time together!