

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>

ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: A how-to guide

A TOOLBOX TALK is a short informal discussion on a particular issue (e.g. safety), often given at the start of a shift.

- This set contains four talks, designed to be given separately (e.g. one per month/quarter).
- Each session should only last a few minutes.
- An attendance form has been included for each talk.

TOPICS

Wildlife hidden under passenger clothing

(1/4)

Wildlife hidden in carry-on baggage

(2/4)

What to look for

(3/4)

Safe handling of escaped animals in the cabin

(4/4)

BEFORE YOU START:



FIND OUT (and share)

- Your company's protocol on the reporting of wildlife trafficking.
- Individuals/agencies to contact (*email, name, phone number etc.*).



CHECK the **ROUTES Partnership website** (<https://routespartnership.org/>)

for more wildlife trafficking examples to include in your talk (e.g. from your airline/airport/region).



CHECK for comments in the notes section of this presentation for more information.



PRINT the eight images provided at the end for 'show and tell' to assist you.

Make it interesting

Make it relevant

Encourage discussion and ask if anyone has experience to share

Listen to what everyone says; and

Keep it positive!

ROUTES role-specific toolbox talks are also available for passenger check-in, passenger screening, cabin crew, cargo acceptance and cargo/baggage screening staff (<https://routespartnership.org/contact>)



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ROLE: Ground Handlers
TOPIC: A how-to guide NOTES

- For information on IATA and combating wildlife trafficking:
<https://www.iata.org/policy/environment/Pages/wildlife-trafficking.aspx>
- For information on ACI and combating wildlife trafficking:
<https://aci.aero/services/member-tools-to-combat-human-and-wildlife-trafficking/wildlife-trafficking/>
- You can find more information on CITES on www.cites.org; and your country's CITES authority <https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp>



For regional and role-specific training materials on combating wildlife trafficking in air transport, visit the ROUTES training resources:
<https://routespartnership.org/training-modules>



To assist staff to recognise and report wildlife trafficking, Quick Reference Cards are available:
<https://routespartnership.org/contact-card>

The ROUTES website contains additional materials you can use, including:

- ROUTES publications on wildlife trafficking in air transport:
<https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/publications>
- ROUTES industry guidance resources: <https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/guidance-documents>
- ROUTES factsheets : <https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/factsheets>
- ROUTES awareness posters: <https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/posters>
- ROUTES Infographics <https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/infographics>



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ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in cargo (1/4)

Wildlife trafficking poses potential risks to the aviation industry



REPUTATION



LEGAL



ECONOMIC



SAFETY

Smugglers often try to hide prohibited items such as drugs etc. in cargo. Traffickers are also known to use cargo shipments to hide wildlife. Ground handlers can play an important role in the detection and reporting of smuggled wildlife.

CHECK if the cargo:

- Makes a noise
- Smells unusual
- Moves
- Has an unexpected weight
- Has air holes where none should be needed

Make a

REPORT

if you think cargo may contain smuggled wildlife

Wildlife hidden in cargo tends to be:

- ❖ *Large in size*
- ❖ *Heavy*
- ❖ *Sometimes living (e.g. turtles and tortoises)*
- ❖ *Sometimes dead (as parts and products) (e.g. ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales)*

(300 live turtles and tortoises smuggled in air cargo)



Panjit Tansom/TRAFFIC



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<https://routespartnership.org>

ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in baggage (2/4)

Wildlife trafficking poses potential risks to the aviation industry



REPUTATION



LEGAL



ECONOMIC



SAFETY

Smugglers often try to hide prohibited items such as drugs etc. in baggage. Traffickers are also known to use passenger baggage to hide wildlife. **Ground handlers can play an important role in the detection and reporting of smuggled wildlife.**

CHECK if baggage:

- Makes a noise
- Smells unusual
- Moves
- Has an unexpected weight
- Has air holes

Make a

REPORT

if you think a bag may contain smuggled wildlife

Wildlife hidden in passenger baggage tends to be:

- 👜 *High value*
- 👜 *Low weight*
- 👜 *Sometimes living (e.g. turtles, tortoises, snakes)*
- 👜 *Sometimes dead (as parts and products) (e.g. ivory, rhino horn)*

(470 live turtles hidden in passenger baggage)



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ROLE: Ground Handlers
TOPIC: Use your senses (3/4)

Wildlife trafficking poses potential risks to the aviation industry



REPUTATION



LEGAL



ECONOMIC



SAFETY

Smugglers often try to hide prohibited items such as drugs etc. in cargo and baggage. Traffickers are also known to use passenger baggage and cargo shipments to hide wildlife. **Ground handlers can play an important role in the detection and reporting of smuggled wildlife.**

CHECK if cargo/baggage:

- Makes a noise
- Smells unusual
- Moves
- Has an unexpected weight
- Has air holes where none should be needed

Make a

REPORT

if you think baggage or cargo may contain smuggled wildlife

See

32 falcons in baggage
 No bag tags
 Note airholes
 ([Agencia EFE](#))



Hear

Hissing from cargo of "fruit"
 Smuggled reptiles found
 ([The Star](#))



Smell

Foul smell
 Shipment was delayed
 Dead reptiles found inside
 ([BBC News](#))



Feel

Heavy shipment of chocolate
 Contained smuggled ivory
 ([Macau News](#))



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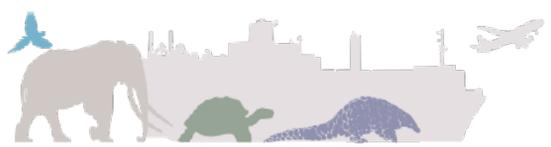
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ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Staying safe (4/4)

Animals can cause injury and spread disease.



Disease transmission applies to living animals and meat and other products.

E.g. Rabies, Ebola, SARS, MERs, Tuberculosis, Anthrax, Bird Flu etc.

Smugglers often try to hide prohibited items such as drugs etc. in baggage and cargo. Traffickers are also known to use passenger baggage and cargo shipments to hide wildlife. **Ground handlers can play an important role in the detection and reporting of smuggled wildlife.**

Smuggled wildlife can be dangerous to airport operations and to staff and passengers. Animals can cause injury and spread disease.

CHECK if cargo/baggage:

- Makes a noise
- Smells unusual
- Moves
- Has an unexpected weight
- Has air holes where none should be needed

If you suspect a live animal is loose:

- **STAY CALM**
- *Seek assistance from an expert*
- *Do not handle the animal unless absolutely necessary*
- *Use protective clothing*
- Make a **REPORT**

(Monitor lizard found in the baggage sorting area at Heathrow)



Border Force, UK



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ROLE: Ground Handlers
TOPIC: Staying safe (4/4) NOTES

Ask the audience if they know any examples of diseases than can pass from animals to people.

1. ALL animals have the potential to spread disease to humans.
 - a) Examples include: Rabies, Ebola, SARS, MERs, Tuberculosis, Anthrax, Bird Flu etc.
2. Disease transmission does not just apply to living animals – meat and other products can also spread disease.

If you are in a situation where you must handle an animal, make sure that you protect yourself and those around you.

1. Always wear personal protective equipment when handling animals including gloves and a mask.
2. Be sure that you thoroughly clean your hands and any surfaces which the animal(s) may have come into contact with. **It is important to follow hygiene protocols.**
3. **Anyone who is bitten/scratched etc. should see medical attention as soon as possible.**

Image:

Monitor Lizard found in the baggage sorting area at Heathrow

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/border-force-seizes-rare-live-lizard-at-heathrow>



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ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in cargo

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 1/6*



(TRAFFIC)

300 live turtles and tortoises found in air cargo in Thailand

- 4 December 2012 - Based on a tip-off, 343 tortoises and freshwater turtles were seized at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Thailand
- The animals, found at the Cargo Complex, were packed into bags and stuffed into polystyrene boxes
- Two men delivering the consignment were arrested
- The consignment was headed to Hong Kong



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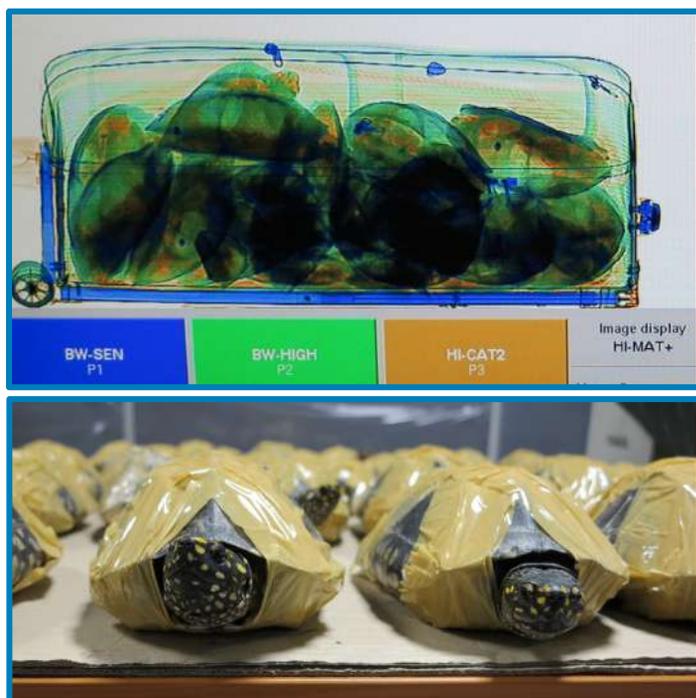
<https://routespartnership.org>



ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in baggage

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 2/6*



(TRAFFIC)

Hundreds of turtles and tortoises smuggled in baggage

- 8 November 2013 - Authorities seized 80 live turtles and tortoises from two bags from a flight from Bangladesh
- A few days later, Thai Royal Customs seized 470 live Black Pond Turtles found in four suitcases arriving from Lahore, Pakistan
- This was followed by another seizure of 475 live turtles and tortoises found in baggage from a flight arriving from Dhaka
- All the seizures were made at Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Thailand



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ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Use your senses

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 3/6*

See



Screenshot from youtube (courtesy of the Border Service of Kazakhstan's National Security Committee)

([Agencia EFE](#))

- **No bag tags**
- **Note airholes**
- **32 falcons found in baggage**



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Print

ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Use your senses

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 4/6*

Hear



© The Star, Malaysia

(The Star)

- Hissing from cargo declared as fruit
- Smuggled turtles and cobras found



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ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Use your senses

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 5/6*

Smell



© Miona Janeke

[\(BBC News\)](#)

- **Foul smell**
- **Delayed shipment**
- **Dead reptiles found inside**



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ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Use your senses

Image resource – *print for 'show & tell' – pg. 6/6*

Feel



© TRAFFIC

([Macau News](#))

- **Heavy shipment of chocolate**
- **Contained smuggled ivory**



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ROLE: Ground Handlers

TOPIC: Image resource NOTES – pg. 1/2

Wildlife hidden in cargo

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2012/12/4/thai-airport-authorities-seize-hundreds-of-animals-in-two-se.html>

December 2012

- Based on a tip-off, authorities in Thailand Suvarnabhumi International Airport rescued 343 tortoises and freshwater turtles
- The animals were packed into bags and stuffed into polystyrene boxes
- The haul was found at the Cargo Complex of the airport
- The two men delivering the consignment for shipping were arrested
- The animals, traded as food and for use in traditional medicine, were believed to be destined for markets in Hong Kong

Wildlife hidden in baggage

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2013/11/12/royal-thai-customs-intercept-three-attempts-to-smuggle-torto.html>

November 2013

- Thai Royal Customs arrested a Pakistani national on a flight from Lahore, with four suitcases containing 470 live Black Pond Turtles
- The species is listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which therefore makes any international commercial trade illegal.
- 5 days earlier, authorities also seized 80 live turtles and tortoises from two bags that had just arrived on a flight from Bangladesh.
- At the end of this week of two seizures, authorities again seized live turtles and tortoises from baggage.
- A total of 475 live turtles and tortoises were discovered in baggage that arrived from Dhaka.



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ROLE: Ground Handlers
TOPIC: Image resource NOTES – pg. 2/2

Wildlife hidden in carry-on baggage

<http://www.traffic.org/home/2010/8/26/live-tiger-found-in-check-in-baggage.html>

August 2010

- A two-month old tiger cub was found sedated and hidden among stuffed-tiger toys in the baggage of a woman at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport
- She was scheduled to board a Mahan Air flight destined for Iran
- Airports of Thailand (AOT) staff suspected something amiss when they scanned the bag and x-ray images showed an item resembling a real cat

Use your senses - SEE

<https://www.efc.com/efe/english/life/kazakhstan-thwarts-smuggling-of-endangered-falcons/50000263-3098719#>

November 2016

- Authorities at Astana International Airport intercepted baggage with air holes containing 32 live falcons bound for the United Arab Emirates.
- Image taken from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4t9gNQY6G4> with footage courtesy of the Border Service of Kazakhstan's National Security Committee.

Use your senses - HEAR

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2012/05/05/reptiles-in-papayas/>

May 2012

- Authorities discovered illegal shipment of 555 cobras and 171 freshwater turtles in shipment of papayas.

Use your senses - SMELL

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-25877368>

January 2014

- Officials were alerted to OR Tambo International Airport cargo holding facilities because of a bad smell coming from the sealed shipment. The consignment (bound for the U.S.A. from Madagascar), had been in the holding facility for five days because of cancelled flights.

Use your senses - FEEL

<https://macaunews.mo/customs-seize-34-kg-ivory-disguised-chocolate-bars/>

July 2013

- Officers who were suspicious with the weight of boxes of chocolates discovered that the 'chocolates' were actually 90 ivory seals.

