

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TOOLBOX TALK

ROUTES

Reducing Opportunities for Unlawful Transport of Endangered Species



<https://routespartnership.org>

ROLE: Passenger Check-in

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 screening, cabin crew, cargo acceptance, cargo/baggage screening and ground handler staff (<https://routespartnership.org/contact>)



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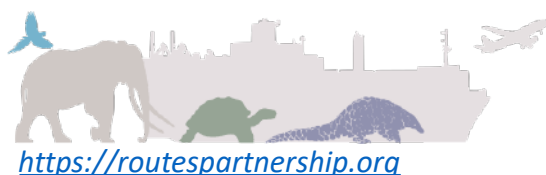
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ROLE: Passenger Check-in
TOPIC: A how-to guide NOTES

- 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: Passenger Check-in

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden under passenger clothing (1/4)

Wildlife trafficking poses potential risks to the aviation industry



REPUTATION



LEGAL



ECONOMIC



SAFETY

Passengers may try to smuggle illegal items including drugs and wildlife etc. under their clothing. **Passenger check-in staff can play an important role in the detection and reporting of smuggled wildlife.**

LOOK for passengers who:

- Wear clothing which is loose/baggy/wrong for the climate
- Have baggage or clothing that moves or makes a noise
- Smell unusual
- Are very nervous
- Have unusual routes/multiple connections

Make a

REPORT

if you think a passenger may be smuggling wildlife

Wildlife smuggled on passengers tends to be:

- 👆 *High value*
- 👆 *Low weight*
- 👆 *Sometimes living (e.g. birds' eggs, live birds, snakes, fish, insects etc.)*
- 👆 *Sometimes dead (as parts and products) (e.g. ivory or rhino horn)*



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<https://routespartnership.org>

ROLE: Passenger Check-in
TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in baggage (2/4)

Wildlife trafficking poses potential risks to the aviation industry



REPUTATION



LEGAL



ECONOMIC



SAFETY

Passengers may try to smuggle illegal items including drugs and wildlife etc. under their clothing. **Passenger check-in staff can play an important role in the detection and reporting of smuggled wildlife.**

LOOK for baggage which:

- Makes a noise
- Smells unusual
- Moves
- Has air holes

Make a

REPORT

if you think a passenger may be smuggling wildlife

Wildlife smuggled by passengers tends to be:

- ❑ *High value*
- ❑ *Low weight*
- ❑ *Sometimes living (e.g. birds' eggs, live birds, snakes, fish, insects etc.)*
- ❑ *Sometimes dead (as parts and products) (e.g. ivory or rhino horn)*

(Smuggled tiger cub discovered in carry-on baggage)



Wildlife Checkpoint Suvarnabhumi Airport



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ROLE: Passenger Check-in
TOPIC: What to look for (3/4)

Wildlife trafficking poses potential risks to the aviation industry



REPUTATION



LEGAL



ECONOMIC



SAFETY

Passengers may try to smuggle illegal items including drugs and wildlife etc. under their clothing. **Passenger check-in staff can play an important role in the detection and reporting of smuggled wildlife.**

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

(passengers who may have something to hide)

Involuntary Responses



- Sweating, dilated pupils
- Avoids eye contact



- Nervousness
- Shaking & twitching

Nervous Body Movements/Speech



- Adjusts clothing/jewelry
- Talks fast



- Delayed responses
- Repeats questions

Other Signs



- Wearing clothing which is too big or baggy
- Wearing the wrong clothes for the climate
- Odd smell/sounds/movement in baggage/under clothing
- Baggage which has air holes
- Unusual route and multiple connections



Make a

REPORT

if you think a passenger may be smuggling wildlife



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ROLE: Passenger Check-in

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 to hide wildlife. **Passenger Check-in staff 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.

LOOK for:

- Very nervous passengers
- Passenger clothing that is baggy/loose/wrong for the climate
- Unusual routes/multiple connections
- Baggage which makes a noise/smells unusual/moves
- Baggage which has air holes

If you suspect a live animal is loose:

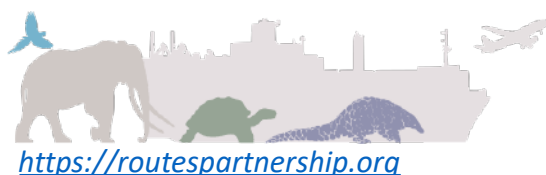
- **STAY CALM**
- *Seek assistance from an expert*
- *Do not handle the animal unless absolutely necessary*
- *Use protective clothing*
- *Make a **REPORT***

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



Border Force, UK





ROLE: Passenger Check-in
TOPIC: Staying safe (4/4) NOTES



See below for more guidance on staying safe :

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>





ROLE: Passenger Check-in

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden under passenger clothing

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

- ✦ Passenger taped birds' eggs to his chest under a loose shirt
- ✦ The eggs are hidden in small tubes to stop them knocking together and breaking



© UK Border Agency CITES team

Other examples include:

- Live hummingbirds hidden in underwear
- Live fish hidden under skirt
- Baby gibbon strapped to passenger's legs under a long gown
- Birds hidden in tubes up shirt sleeves
- Baby monkey strapped to belly (passenger pretended to be pregnant)
- Ivory hidden in tailor-made vest under other clothing
- Rhino horn strapped to the body



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Print

ROLE: Passenger Check-in

TOPIC: Wildlife hidden in carry-on baggage

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

- ❏ Smuggled tiger cub discovered in carry-on baggage
- ❏ The animal was sedated
- ❏ Scheduled to board flight to Iran from Bangkok, Thailand



[\(TRAFFIC\)](#)



Other examples include:

- Ivory tusks hidden in carry-on baggage
- Rhino horn hidden in carry-on baggage
- Live owls hidden in tubes in carry-on baggage



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ROLE: Passenger Check-in

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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ROLE: Passenger Check-in

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: Passenger Check-in

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: Passenger Check-in

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: Passenger Check-in
TOPIC: Image resource NOTES

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.efe.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.



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