

**Protocol for**  
**Importing Condors<sup>1</sup> from Mexico to the San Diego Zoo Safari Park**  
**2019**

**1. General requirements- Planned (non-emergency) Imports :**

*Note: An import permit will not be issued until quarantine arrangements have been approve.*

- 1.1 The San Diego Zoo Safari Park—hereafter referred to as “The Zoo” must obtain an import permit for each importation of condors under this protocol. Restrictions will be specified on the permit.

Note: Restrictions will differ for imports that are planned versus those that are imports of medical emergencies (unplanned).

1.1.1 The Zoo can obtain an import permit as follows:

- a. A VS Form 17-129, “Application for Import or in Transit Permit,” along with the instructions, can be obtained by writing to or calling the National Import and Export Services at:

National Import Export Services Unit 39  
4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231  
301-851-3300, Menu Option 2

Or by downloading the form from the APHIS Web site at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/live-animal-imports/import-live-animals>

Completed applications may be faxed to 301-734-4704, or may be emailed to [VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov)

- 1.1.2 The applicable processing fee must accompany the permit application, and may be submitted by check, money order, credit card or by providing a USDA user fee account. Current fees can be found at the following web link: [User fees](#)

- 1.1.3 Submissions may be made by mail or fax to the Riverdale office above. 7-10 business days should be allowed for processing applications for importations that are being planned in advance

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<sup>1</sup> 1Condors- any species

under this protocol. Special processing considerations will be made to the extent possible for medical emergencies.

- 1.1.4 If changes need to be made for a permit after it has been issued, there is an additional fee (See above web link for fees).
- 1.1.5 Permits are valid for 30 days from the stated date of arrival to the U.S.
- 1.2 After receiving an import permit, the zoo should contact the VS office listed on the permit at least 3 business days in advance of arrival of the condors to coordinate the import process.
- 1.3 A current veterinary health certificate, issued within 30 days of importation and endorsed by a full-time salaried veterinarian of Mexico must accompany each shipment. The health certificate must be translated into English.
- 1.4 Other VS forms (such as a Customs Declaration- VS 17-29) may be completed at the port of entry at arrival. The Zoo should make arrangements to meet with the VS port veterinarian upon arrival of the shipment at the first U. S. port of entry.
- 1.5 The Zoo should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding any applicable permits or other importation requirements that agency may have in addition to APHIS' requirements.

## **2. Obtaining Approval and Re-approval for the San Diego Zoo Safari Park for Entry Quarantine**

The VS contact person for approvals of the condor quarantine facility is:

Director of the Los Angeles port operations  
222 Kansas St., El Segundo, CA  
310-955-3311

- 2.1 The Zoo should provide the following information when seeking VS approval for any space or facility under the Zoo's jurisdiction that will be used to quarantine the condors:
  - i. Facility operator's name and address, if different from the San Diego Zoo' point of contact information.
  - ii. Condor Program veterinary coordinator, or other veterinary point of contact
  - iii. Facility's street address (or other information that provides for the identification of the physical location of the facility).
  - iv. Blueprints or detailed drawings of the facility.
  - v. The average and maximum number of condors to be quarantined.
  - vi. Approximate date(s) the Zoo expects shipment for any planned importations

- vii. Procedures that are in place for:
  - 1. The handling and care of the condors from the port-of-entry to the quarantine facility.
  - 2. The typical expected transportation route(s) and type (s). Transport of the shipment from the port of entry must be done under VS supervision and in a manner that mitigates the risk of disseminating disease to domestic poultry.
  - 3. Isolating the condor(s) from direct or indirect contact with all other avians at the Zoo.
  - 4. Preventing the entry of any unauthorized personnel, or other avians, to any quarantine holding or other treatment areas.
  - 5. The necropsy and disposal of any condors held in the facility that may die during quarantine.

## 2.2 Review of application

- a. The Supervisor of the LA port will review the application to determine the completeness and adequacy of the information.

## 2.3 Approval or Rejection of application:

- a. The Supervisor of the LA port will inform The Zoo in writing of the result of the application review. The Zoo will be given an estimate of user fees that may be incurred in the subsequent phases of the VS approval process.
- b. If the application is in order, the Supervisor of the LA port will contact The Zoo to schedule a VS inspection of the condor quarantine facility.
- c. If the facility is not approved, deficiencies will be presented in writing to the applicant. The Zoo may re-apply after corrective actions have been made.
- d. If the facility is approved, the Supervisor of the LA port will provide The Zoo with a Cooperative Agreement stipulating the conditions of approval and use of the facility; and the types of VS oversight and other services that will apply. User fees will apply. All fees must be paid before the end of a specific quarantine period.
- e. The Supervisor of the LA port will communicate to Riverdale when the facility has signed the Cooperative Agreement so that an import permit can be issued.

## 2.3 Re-approval of quarantine facility for subsequent Imports

- a. Approvals are granted on a per-shipment basis. The importer should contact the Supervisor of the LA port at least 3 weeks prior to the ship date for planned importations under this protocol, and request a re-inspection of the facility. User fees will apply.

### 3. Health Certifications for Planned Imports

Health Certificates must contain statements attesting to the health status of the condors in the shipment. Statements are summarized here:

*The condors for export:*

- 3.1 have been inspected within 24 hrs. of shipment to the U.S. by the veterinarian issuing the certificate.
- 3.2 showed no evidence of Newcastle disease, Avian Influenza within the previous 90 days
- 3.3 showed no evidence of Chlamydiosis, or other communicable disease of avian during the 90 days immediately preceding their exportation.
- 3.4 either: **have been** vaccinated against Newcastle disease (avian paramyxovirus) at least 21 days prior to export, using vaccines that do not contain any velogenic strains of Newcastle disease virus; OR:  
  
**have not been** vaccinated against Newcastle disease. (The health certificate must specify which applies).
- 3.5 Were isolated for a minimum of 21 days immediately prior to export; the isolation was supervised by an official government veterinarian, or by a veterinarian in Mexico who issued the export health certificate and who has been authorized by the government to supervise the isolation period.
- 3.6 were moved directly from the pre-export isolation location to the port of embarkation to the United States in containers sealed with official seals placed by the issuing veterinarian (Note: seal numbers must be provided).
- 3.7 are identified by permanent identification- leg bands, tattoos, or microchips.
- 3.8 were shipped in new or appropriately sanitized packaging materials.

Note: The health certificate should reflect if the import is occurring due to medical reasons.

### 4. U.S. Port Procedures

At the first port of arrival into the United States, a VS port veterinarian will review all documentation.

- 4.1 All condors included in the shipment must be visually inspected by VS at the first port of arrival to the United States to determine fitness for further travel. Condors that appear ill will not be refused entry, but apparent ill health should be noted on VS 1-27 by the port veterinarian. The accompanying health certificate should reflect if the importation is occurring due to medical reasons or as a planned import. Carriers will be re-sealed by a VS port veterinarian for movement to the quarantine site. A VS form 1-27 will be issued, with seal numbers attached if there will not be a VS escort of the shipment. If an escort is available, VS 1-27 is not necessary.
- 4.2 The Zoo is responsible for providing transportation from the port of arrival to the site of quarantine.

## **5. Quarantine Procedures**

- 5.1 All condors must be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days, or longer, if required by APHIS
- 5.2 During the quarantine period, condors will be tested by APHIS for avian influenza and Newcastle disease. Condors may be held for an additional length of time if any communicable disease becomes evident during the quarantine period; and will not be released until negative test results have been received and the animals are judged by APHIS to be clinically healthy.
  - a. VS testing of condors will be performed or directly overseen by VS personnel. Testing will commence with cloacal swabbing on day 1 (or as near to day 1 as feasible) of the quarantine; a second swabbing will occur on or around day 14. VS personnel will submit samples to NVSL per current test sample submission protocols. Any non-negative results for AI or ND will result in additional testing and/or other actions that will be stipulated by APHIS.
- 5.3 If condors become ill for any reason other than from AI or ND, the Zoo may institute any treatment options while maintaining the condors in the quarantine. The Supervisor of the LA port must be kept apprised of all health related issues while the condor(s) is (are) in quarantine.
- 5.4 Any condors that die while in quarantine may be required to be necropsied under APHIS supervision (in addition to any procedures elected by the Zoo). All carcasses must be incinerated or otherwise disposed of in a fashion directed by APHIS, and under APHIS supervision (as coordinated by the Supervisor of the LA port).
- 5.5 At the time of release by APHIS from quarantine, a VS form 17-30 release form will be generated in VSPS to close the Import Request.

## **6. Unplanned importations/emergencies**

6.1 Condors from Mexico may be imported for **medical emergencies** under the following criteria:

- a. The Zoo must notify Supervisor of the LA port as soon as possible to explain the circumstances of the emergency and when the condor(s) is (are) due to be presented at the port of entry.
- b. The Zoo must contact the NIES Riverdale office to request an expedited import permit. Prior notification to the Supervisor of the LA port is essential to clearing import related procedures timely and with minimal fees assessed.
- c. The condor(s) will be temporarily housed (isolated apart from contact with avian or non-authorized humans) in facilities at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park that have been approved for previous condor quarantines. As soon as possible, the Zoo will work with VS to ensure the facility is re-approved as quarantine; the quarantine period does not officially begin until APHIS has reapproved the quarantine. A new Cooperative Agreement must be signed; User Fees apply.
- d. The shipment must be accompanied by an official health certificate, endorsed by the Mexico national competent authority for avian health. The health certificate must contain the following information:
  - i. The condor(s) requires emergency medical examination or treatment in the United States at the San Diego Zoo, under the provisions of the Condor Conservation Program.
  - ii. The condor(s) were moved directly from a veterinary or other holding facility in Mexico to the U.S. port of entry.
  - iii. The condor(s) was (were) shipped in containers sealed with official seals placed by the issuing veterinarian (Note: seal numbers must be provided).
  - iv. The condor(s) is (are) identified by permanent identification (leg bands, tattoos, or microchips).
  - v. The condor(s) was (were) shipped in new or appropriately sanitized packaging materials.

Questions about this document can be directed to:

Avian Import Specialist  
Strategy & Policy, Unit 39  
4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231  
Telephone: (301) 851-3300 option 2  
Fax: (301) 734-4704

By email: [VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov)

**Commitment date:** June 2014

Note: Please contact the Supervisor of the LA port or the Riverdale office listed above approximately every 6 months from the creation date to ensure the health restrictions for the health certificate remain current.

Contacts for this document:

Dr. Ted Williams VS., Supervisor of the LA port, VS,

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email: [JZuba@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:JZuba@sandiegozoo.org)