

the truck itself. The birds were watched by the keepers for any weird reactions throughout night. On the next day (18.6.2009), the journey began at 3 pm. During transit a halt was provided every 3 to 4 hours for allowing rest, so that the ostriches could take their food and water with ease. Drinking-water was provided to them mixed with glucon-D, Electral powder and herbal anti-stress formula, RESTOBAL. Sprinkling of water was done on the birds at frequent intervals. On the second day it was observed that the birds had become nicely accustomed to journey. They were taking food and water normally and even allowing the keepers to move freely on to the truck bed. While on the journey, the female ostrich laid an egg, which was removed to avoid any attacks, which the birds generally show during brooding. During the process of transportation animals were also medically examined for fatigue etc. at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Vishakapatnam. On the fourth day of journey the birds reached TSZP, Jamshedpur without any transit injury and heat shock. They were slowly released from the truck to a quarantine enclosure and kept under observation till 29.6.2009. Finally the ostriches were released to open enclosure on 30.6.2009 for the visitors to view the charismatic species.

Our experience

The experience gained through this long and arduous journey proved many a myth wrong, those being:

1. While transporting the ostriches by road, it is not all required to confine them in small transport crates. Instead they can easily be transported in well-padded, small, holding pens.
2. Ostriches can be transported over long distances without any problem.
3. Indian zoos that are in the process of acquiring ostrich from Kattupakkam or elsewhere can take a cue from our experience and plan transportation of adult ostriches and emus in this manner, thus reducing the journey stress on animals to minimum.

Acknowledgement:

The Authors thank the team comprising of S/Shri Dilip Dey and R.Srinivas, Keeper and Field assistant of the Tata Steel Zoological Park, Jamshedpur without whose wholehearted 24 hours commitment, the birds would not have reached safely. Thanks are also due to Dr. Siva Selvam and his entire staff at Livestock Research Centre, Kattupakkam for taking care of the zoo staff and training them in husbandry management of ostriches. Special thanks are due to Dr. Srinivas, Veterinary Officer of Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Vishakapatnam for taking time out in the middle of the night for medically examining the ostriches.

Our thanks are also due to the entire management of Tata Steel Zoological Society for providing the necessary encouragement in accomplishing this mission.

Announcement

1st Southeast Asian Animal Enrichment and Training Workshop 2010, 04-07 October 2010, Singapore



Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) is pleased to announce the 1st Southeast Asian Animal Enrichment & Training Workshop. This unique four-day workshop will present an array of topics relating to animal behavioural management with particular emphasis on environmental enrichment, positive reinforcement training techniques and problem-solving processes. The workshop is open to zookeepers, aquarists, managers, supervisors, curators, and veterinarians from the Southeast Asian and Australasian region.

We are pleased to inform that Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) will subsidise 50% of the registration fee for participants who require sponsorship. This is limited to 15 participants and will only be offered on a case by case basis after careful assessment by the organising committee.

Registration form can be found at http://www.zoo.com.sg/images/innova_images/registration%20form%20final%20with%20questionnaire.pdf

For further information contact:

Diana Marlena, Singapore Zoo, Tel: +65-6360 8601, Fax: +65-6365 2331,
Email: diana@zoo.com.sg