

Transporting Animals— Welcome to my Nightmare

How the Calgary Zoo transported 26 animals and a keeper from Calgary, Alberta, CANADA to Daejeon Zoo in Daejeon, KOREA and still lived to tell the tale.

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Our story begins

The Calgary Zoo was approached by City of Calgary as the City shared a sister-city relationship with Daejeon in Korea.

Since Daejeon was opening a new zoo, the Calgary Zoo was asked if we could help provide some animals for Daejeon Zoo's collection.

We said yes. That was our first mistake . . .

It felt a lot like Noah's Ark lining the animals up two by two . . .

First there were the very
LARGE mammals:

- 4 adult Przewalski horses
- 2 Dall's sheep
- 2 Rocky Mountain goats



And then our fine-feathered friends . . .

- 2 snowy owls
- 3 great horned owls
- 1 rough-legged hawk
- 6 Swainson's hawks
- 3 barn owls,
- 3 red-tailed hawks, and
- a partridge in a pear tree.

Just kidding (about the
partridge) . . .



For a grand total of 26 animals and a keeper Korea bound.

Where oh where was the voice of reason at this point?

Hurdle #1 Crates

Przewalski horses are true wild horses and MUST be crated for shipment. The crate dimensions were 5.5'H x 7.5'L x 3'W and weighed ~ 400 kg each with horse requiring an aircraft at least the size of a 747 to transport them. All this translates into four very large crates that must cross the Pacific Ocean.



Hurdle #2 CFIA Requirements



Goats, sheep and horses must be tested for various diseases before shipment. So we had to coordinate with CFIA (Agriculture Canada) to draw blood, get the samples to the lab, get the negative results back, and have the animals out of the country within 30 days of blood being drawn. Which really translates into a two week window because the 30-days includes waiting for results.

Hurdle #3 Birds

We didn't have some of the birds Daejeon Zoo wanted in our collection so we had to find surplus birds from other institutions, get them to Calgary and quarantine them all within a strict timeline. The only person we could find with the birds we required was a breeder in Ontario who was quite "character" who didn't seem to understand our urgency.



A-A-A-A-G-G-G-H-H-H

Hurdle #4 Airplanes

Previously I mentioned very large crates requiring an aircraft at least the size of a 747. Calgary, only had one carrier that had an aircraft of this size; unfortunately, they flew to Europe (CITES issues).



Who are you gonna call . . .

Hurdle #5 Yep, we called the army



With shipments, the term "thinking outside the box" has a whole new meaning. No idea is too strange, too out there, too unusual if there is a remote possibility it may work. That's why we called the army hoping they would donate the use of the Hercules to ship the horses, sheep, and goats. They said NO!

Fork poking into eyes . . . Make the pain go away . . .

Hurdle #6 Vancouver?

Korean Airlines has a 747 that flies direct from Seoul to Vancouver. We can truck the horses, sheep, and goats to Vancouver International and fly the birds from Calgary to meet them there and off to Korea they go.

Alas, our dream was shattered. Korean Airlines has a rule that no live animals can be on their passenger flights. You guessed it, it was only passenger flights that flew into Vancouver.

Go to my happy place, go to my happy place . . .

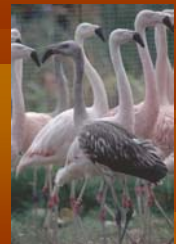


We're Heading East to go West

Shipping animals does not always follow the rules of logic. The nearest 747 that flies to Korea, which is a cargo flight, and doesn't stop in a kazillion other countries (CITES is touchy about that) before getting to Korea is out of Toronto.

I guess we're heading east to go west . . .

Still looking for my happy place . . .



Hurdle #7 Time

As mentioned before, the P. horses required very large crates so we had to get the crates and the horses from Calgary to Toronto. We then had to find some place to hold the crates, who would also allow us to unload the horses for a couple days in a place where the horses would have no contact with other animals and yet space large and strong enough to hold this species. No simple fencing for these guys.

No happy place to be found.

Tick tock
Tick tock



Hurdle #8 Quarantine Space

Who did we know as an organization that has all those requirements that was out east . . .

Toronto Zoo but they were unable to help us. We're getting desperate. On the horizon we see a light (hoping it's not a train coming towards us) and African Lion Safari comes through.

I think I can see my happy place . . .

So this is what we have so far

- 26 animals to go to Korea.
- 4 P. horses to arrive in Toronto, stay at African Lion Safari for a rest (without contact with any other animals) before continuing their journey.
- One keeper to arrive at African Lion Safari to accompany the shipment to Korea.
- 2 goats and 2 sheep fly to Hamilton, trucked to Toronto Pearson and connect with the Korea flight.
- Fly out 18 birds from Calgary to Toronto and connect to Korea flight

It all seemed so simple . . .

Hurdle #9 Enter permit hell

The shipment was already logistically "challenging"; but to keep us on our toes, most animals on this shipment were listed by CITES (Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species). The Przewalski horses are CITES I and also require a Veterinary Health Certificate for Export of Horses to Korea and all the birds are CITES II.



We have re-entered hell and the flames are licking our heels.

Permit Requirements

Right, so we need CITES I permits for the horses, no problem.

Oh wait, with CITES I permits, Korea has to issue a CITES I import permit before we can get our CITES I export permit. Plus we have to coordinate with CFIA for testing the horses, sheep, and goats. Once the results come back, complete the Veterinary Health Certificate Export Horses to the Republic of Korea and then get the horses, goats, and sheep out of the country of origin within 30 days of blood being drawn. Essentially a two-week window.

Dang the birds need permits too

All the birds require CITES II export permits from Canada plus federalized health certificate.

I love my job, I love my job, I love my job



The stars align

So after filling out CITES applications (both I and II export), receiving the CITES I import permit (in Korean I might add), completing the CFIA permits, receiving completed vet certificates (stamped, and signed), completing Alberta export permits, and all the birds finishing quarantine we are ready to roll . . .

Yes, Virginia there is a Santa Claus

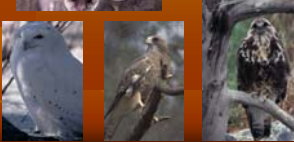
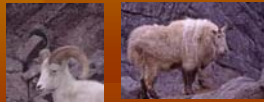
The shipment (Part A)

1. We first trucked 4 crates to African Lion Safari so we could load the horses in Ontario;
2. We then trucked the 4 horses to African Lion Safari; and
3. Flew Rick , the keeper, to Toronto who then went to African Lion Safari a few days previous to flight date.



The Shipment (Part B)

1. Flew the Rocky Mountain Goats and Dall's sheep to Hamilton and then transported them to Pearson.
2. Flew the birds to Pearson to meet the connecting flight.
3. Rick helped load the horses into the crates and then trucked them to Pearson.
4. Met up with the Korean freight forwarder who ensured all our paperwork was in order.



And now our story ends

After the paperwork was in order, all the animals were loaded, the flight to Korea went without a hitch and I was on my 25th bottle of wine.

The End

. . . Deanna, we need to ship 3 Przewalski horses to Munich . . .

