QUARANTINE GUIDELINES FOR ELEPHANTS
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Due to the size, strength, and social nature of elephants, it may be logistically difficult to maintain isolation from other animals during arrival and quarantine. The Recommended Preshipment Protocol for Elephants lists a comprehensive battery of tests to detect disease prior to shipment. Since most zoological institutions will not have facilities available to safely house and manage a newly arriving elephant, it is important that the receiving institution work closely with the sending institution to ensure that all (or as many as possible) of the listed tests are conducted and results reviewed. Following the preshipment protocol may help compensate for some of the quarantine compromises that may be required. Regardless of preshipment test results, every attempt should be made to maintain some degree of physical separation from the resident elephants after arrival.

Current quarantine practices recommend a minimum 30-90 day quarantine period for most species found in zoos and aquaria. Social concerns, physical facility design, and availability of trained elephant staff may dictate a modified quarantine protocol. The final decision for specific quarantine protocols at each institution should be made by the veterinary staff in consultation with the elephant management staff. For additional information, refer to the Elephant Husbandry Manual, AZA Quarantine Guidelines, and the AAZV Preventive Medicine Recommendations.

The following guidelines provide recommendations for minimum standards for elephant quarantine.

1. Whenever possible, the newly arrived elephant should be maintained with physical separation from all other resident elephants. This should include provisions to prevent contact with feed, bedding, or feces/urine between animals. One option to allow social interaction is to provide a "companion" and treat both animals as "quarantined".

2. Initial visual assessment of the elephant, along with review of the medical records, to determine health status should be used to develop an individual quarantine plan.
    - Ideally, the recommended length of quarantine is a minimum of 30 days. However, this may be changed in light of social concerns or detection of abnormal health status.
    - Risk of disease transmission between animals should be balanced with the concern for well being (physical, psychological, and social) of the elephant.

3. Quarantine procedures should be planned as soon as the elephant can be safely managed and appears to be settling in the facility. They should include the following:
    - Thorough physical examination including a review of all systems.
    - Blood collection for CBC, serum chemistry panel, fibrinogen, serum protein electrophoresis, and serum bank.
    - Fecal collection for parasite screening should be done weekly for the first 3 weeks.
    - Fecal cultures for *Salmonella* should be conducted at least weekly for the first 3 weeks.

See GUIDELINES FOR COMPREHENSIVE ELEPHANT HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM 2012 for complete list of procedures (www.aazv.org)

- Any procedures that were not completed prior to transport or may have come due; such as vaccination, serologic screening, or TB testing (see "Recommended Elephant Preshipment Guidelines").

4. Release from quarantine should be the decision of the veterinary staff (after completion and review of results from any quarantine procedures), in conjunction with the assessment of the elephant management staff.

It should be emphasized that the quarantine test requirements should be conducted regardless of the preshipment testing. The stress of transport and quarantine may result in changes (for example, *Salmonella* shedding) that were inapparent during testing at the sending institution.

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