

## Summary

### **Inspections performed by veterinary border posts at German airports after the implementation of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) – Frankfurt/Main airport serving as a representative example – between the years of 1975 and 2002**

#### **An examination of the implementation of CITES in Germany and the related tasks assigned to veterinarians and customs officials at Frankfurt/Main airport**

The main topic of this thesis involves the execution and implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) treaty on Wild Fauna and Flora at German border posts. The aim of the dissertation is to delineate the legal separation between the duties of veterinarians and the duties of customs officials at these border posts (using Frankfurt/Main airport as representative sample). Also included is a chronological account of the historic evolution of CITES and its affect on international trade. The juridical background of CITES as well as its practical implementation are critically scrutinized in this paper. In addition, the development of German aviation in connection with today's globalisation is examined in context with the increasing threat to endangered species world-wide contrasting the role of the veterinarians in helping to preserve these endangered species.

This aim is achieved by describing the historic evolution of CITES as well as its juridical implementation in European and German law. The multiple organizations of CITES are introduced along with the criteria necessary for acceptance into the appendices of the CITES treaty. A brief outline of the German history of aviation is given with emphasis on passenger numbers and their destinations. The border posts of the veterinary and customs authorities at Frankfurt/Main airport are visited. During the course of the visits the veterinary and customs clearance of live animals in the varying means of air travel have been observed. A number of violations against CITES including the corresponding sentences are documented in this thesis.

Another crucial part of this study is the collection of currently unpublished data on legal and illegal imports of endangered animal species from the BfN archives in Bonn-Bad Godesberg. This information is completed by additional data from the Zollkriminalamt.

The result shows a more or less satisfactory situation at the Frankfurt/Main airport border post. It can be proven that the workload at this German border post has increased dramatically because of the augmentation in air- and cargo traffic. Furthermore, it has been verified that the amplification of infringements of CITES corresponds to the choice of destination and to the increase in passenger numbers.

For that reason, there has been a steady increase in CITES offences that have been reported up until the year 2001. Selected cases are documented in this thesis in tabular form. The current CITES appendices I, II and III are found in addendum I of this dissertation and the affected animal species are indicated.

As expected, most of the invoked court cases were turned down or only a fine was imposed. The relevant BfN-data for all proceedings between 1975-2002 are gathered in a detailed table.

The current legal position in Germany requires two separate clearances when importing live animals. The clearance involving animal health (disease prevention) and prevention of cruelty against animals (during transportation) through customs is conducted by veterinary

authorities; whereas, CITES clearance is conducted through the customs authorities. This prolongs the travel time of living animals and increases stress levels of living animals as well as inducing higher mortality rates. All appropriate CITES-documents needed for the transportation of endangered species are found in appendix II of this dissertation along with the necessary aviation documents in appendix III.

Part of this thesis dedicates itself to a search for alternative solutions to this problem. For example in Switzerland, CITES is enforced as an integral part of the custom animal clearance at the border posts conducted by veterinary authorities. In addition, the Swiss office for protection of plants conducts the clearance for CITES plants. This necessitates only one clearance procedure for live animals at the Swiss border. The duration of travelling time is thus shortened for live animals, benefiting their health as well as their welfare.

In this instance, the education of veterinarians working at German border posts and the education of customs officials trained for CITES are introduced and compared. The findings showed, that the scientific/medical education of veterinarians already offers several connecting point with the skills needed to perform CITES inspections. The overall topic of this thesis offers therefore interesting possibilities for further discussions about potential reforms of the German Implementation of CITES.