

Initial Care of Slow Loris for Law Enforcement

(Adapted from loris-conservation.org, Streicher et al., 2008, and AZA Loris Husbandry Manual)

Any slow loris confiscated from illegal trade is likely stressed and in poor health, and it is very important to care for the animal properly until it can be taken to a rescue center. Remember, never take a slow loris or other animal out of the wild, regardless of whether it appears to require help. Also, do not buy slow lorises or other animals in illegal markets, even in an attempt to help them. This will only increase the demand and result in more distress. Follow the appropriate confiscation protocols.

Listed below are some basic guidelines for the care of confiscated slow lorises:

- Make detailed notes about the location of the confiscation and situation.
- Do not release the animal into an area near the confiscation site.
 - Slow lorises are transported long distances for trade and are likely not native to the local area.
- Remember to move slowly, deliberately, and quietly around any wild or captive animal.
- Slow loris will bite with sharp teeth to defend themselves. Leather gloves are recommended.
- If the animal is injured, bring the slow loris to an experienced veterinarian or animal care worker.
- If the animal is in a secure cage that can be confiscated and moved, leave the animal in the cage rather than cause stress by capturing and moving the animal into a new cage.
 - consider draping the container on three sides with a blanket to reduce stress, as long as ventilation is not stopped
- If an animal must be captured, it is less stressful for the animal to be slowly moved into a box or cage (container) rather than handled.
- Slow lorises should be transported in non air-conditioned vehicles.
- If moving the loris in a holding container:
 - do not use chicken-wire cages; it hurts their feet and hands. If a chicken wire cage must be used, put a towel or foliage down to protect their feet and hands
 - ideally the cage should be 300mm x 300mm x 300mm
 - the container must be adequately ventilated
 - keep the slow loris in a quiet place: a towel or blanket can be kept over the box (leaving a place for air-flow) to calm the animal
 - the container should be kept at a temperature of 19°-30° C; injured and weakened animals are more susceptible to heat and cold stress
 - slow loris can escape through narrow gaps, so the container should be secured
 - adding leaves and branches (bamboo) to a container can reduce stress by giving the animal a place to hide
 - if holding the animal for an extended time in a large container, consider adding a smaller box or tube for the animal to hide and sleep in

- do not put two animals in a same small container if they were not together when confiscated
- animals that are housed together when confiscated can be kept together if the container is large
- Many confiscated slow lorises are dehydrated and malnourished, and offering food in the container can help the animal until it can be transferred to a rescue facility.
 - slow loris eat a mixture of fruit, vegetables, and insects, see table 1 below for a list of possible food items
 - fruit and vegetables should be cut into 1x1 cm³ pieces
 - do not feed the animal by hand, leave the food in the container for the animal to find

Table 1: Possible food items for confiscated slow lorises

Fruits:	Vegetables:
banana	squash
grapes	peas
apple	corn
peeled orange	beans
kiwi	spinach
mango	yam
durian	
papaya	
Other:	Insects:
boiled egg whites	crickets
	mealworms
	beetles (small)
	caterpillars

