Linking Lynx Health Checklist for EEP Lynx bred for Release:

Dear holders,

Please use this checklist as a guide of the medical checks and treatments necessary to prepare a captive bred lynx for release.

All relevant protocols can be found on the Linking Lynx website (see protocols 3.1 and 3.7; https://www.linking-lynx.org/en/publications/linking-lynx-protocols).
This form can be filled in on paper or virtually.

This form should be filled out for each potentially released lynx offspring.
If you are using ZIMS Medical please attach a copy of the ZIMS record to this checklist (virtually or a paper copy).

Please send the form to Dina Gebhardt (dina.gebhardt@bern.ch) and Li Buckley-Catzel (li.catzel@hotmail.com) (for lynx that remain in the EEP) or to the coordination enclosure managers (for lynx that will be released) upon transfer. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The document consists of three sections:

1) Medical treatment and health checklist for juvenile animals

2) Medical treatment and health checklist prior to transport to the coordination enclosure

3) Medical treatment and health checklist prior to release

Basic Information of individual intended for release:

Lynx EEP number:	
Name:	
Birth date:	
Birth location (collection and country):	
Transponder Number:	
Sex:	

Parents:	
Sire:	
Dam:	

FIV/FeLV Testing of breeding pair:

Lynx active in the breeding programme are tested for FIV and FeLV.
Required methods are Western-Blot (FIV), Ag-ELISA (FeLV) and provirus PCR (FeLV).

Relation	**FIV/FeLV Test Type**	**Date**
Sire	FeLV Provirus PCR	
	FeLV Ag-ELISA	
	FIV Western-Blot	
Dam	FeLV Provirus PCR	
	FeLV Ag-ELISA	
	FIV Western-Blot	

1) Medical treatment and health checklist for juvenile animals:

1.1 Vaccinations:

These vaccinations are **MANDATORY** for each animal pre-release.
Rabies vaccination is **MANDATORY** for lynx that will cross borders.

Given the limited species-specific safety data for lynx, an inactivated vaccine is recommended where available; where access is limited, a modified-live vaccine (MLV) may be considered following an individual risk assessment.

Vaccination	Date (~8 weeks)	Date (~12 weeks)	Veterinarian	Stamp/Sticker
FHV (R)				
FCV (C)				
FPV (P)				
FeLV*				
Rabies				

* Purevax FeLV is recommend. Leucogen and Versifel FeLV would be alternative options, and are likely to be safe, if the recommended vaccine is not available.

1.2 Additional medical treatments or comments (e.g. congenital abnormalities):

_____
_____
_____
_____
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_____

For documentation of any injuries/abnormalities observed in the lynx individual please provide pictures or videos (if available).

2) Medical treatment and health checklist prior to transport to the coordination enclosure:

2.1 Clinical examination:

A comprehensive clinical examination according to the **Linking Lynx protocol 3.7** is **MANDATORY** before transport to the coordination enclosures. It can be conducted upon anaesthesia for transport.

2.2 Parasitological examination and treatment:

Lynx should be tested **MANDATORY** approx. two weeks before the planned transport to coordination enclosure and treated according to coprology results.

Coprology	**Results**	**Treatment (agents & dosages)**	**Date**
Sedimentation/ floatation			
Baermann's funnel technique			
Specific Ag testing for Giardia spp.			

2.3 Disease screening:

Testing for the following pathogens is **MANDATORY** for each animal pre-release:
FIV, FeLV, FCV, FHV, FPV, Chlamydia Felis, Canine Distemper.

Test results need to be sent to the coordination enclosure managers. Please enter information on testing in the table below:

Pathogen	**Sample Type**	**Test Type**	**Date**
FIV	Serum	Western-Blot	
FeLV	Serum, EDTA	Ag-ELISA	
FeLV	EDTA	Provirus PCR	
FCV	Swab*	PCR	
FHV	Swab*	PCR	
Chlamydia Felis	Swab*	PCR	
FPV	Feces	PCR	
Canine Distemper	Swab*	PCR	

* combined conjunctival, deep nasal and oropharyngeal swab

2.4 Complete blood count and biochemistry

A complete blood count and blood chemistry is **MANDATORY** before transport to the coordination enclosures. It can be conducted upon anaesthesia for transport.

2.5 Genetic Screening:

Genetic samples are **MANDATORY** for each animal pre-release. Samples should be taken during the final health check before transport (see sample collection protocol: https://www.linking-lynx.org/?action=get_file&id=24&resource_link_id=149).

Collect EDTA blood, hair, and saliva (if sampling kits available).
Label samples with EAZA No., microchip No., date and institution.
Blood samples should be cooled during transport
Please send the genetic samples along with the lynx to the coordination enclosures.

Sample Type	**Date of Collection**
EDTA Blood	
Hair	
Saliva	

2.6 Cardiac auscultation:

During **MANDATORY** cardiac auscultation, it is relevant to evaluate both the heart rate and rhythm. Echocardiography is highly recommended as part of the health check prior to transfer to the coordination enclosures. Any irregularities should be carefully noted and documented. Additionally, any abnormal heart sounds (murmurs), should be described in terms of their intensity on a scale ranging from 1 to 6, the timing of occurrence and their location Any abnormality may indicate the use of further electrocardiographic and/or echocardiographic examination.

Method	**Diagnosis**	**Veterinarian**	**Date**	**Recordings available y/n**

2.7 Weight:

Measured during the health check for transport when the lynx is under anaesthesia.

Weight (kg)	**Weighed by**	**Date**

2.8 Photographs of lynx for individual ID:

Photographs are required to positively ID different lynx without needing to anaesthetize and read the microchip (particularly for siblings held together in the same enclosures). Pictures are best taken when lynx are > 5 months old or at the last health check before transfer to coordination enclosures. In very small cubs, the fur patterns are not yet very clear. Please attach pictures to this checklist and also list any physical identifiers for this individual:

_____

_____

- Picture of left flank
- Picture of right flank
- Picture of teeth (canines)

NOTE: Additional health investigations tailored to the recipient population may be indicated to mitigate documented population-specific health risks. Such investigations should be based on well-documented diseases in the recipient population and a veterinary risk analysis

3) Medical treatment and health checklist prior to release:

3.1 Clinical examination:

A final comprehensive clinical examination according to the **Linking Lynx protocol 3.7** is **MANDATORY** before release.

3.2 Parasitological examination and treatment:

Lynx should be tested **MANDATORY** approx. two weeks before release and treated according to coprology results.

Coprology	**Results**	**Treatment (agents & dosages)**	**Date**
Sedimentation/ floatation			

3.3 Vaccinations:

Booster shot approximately 1 year after the initial vaccination series.

Vaccination	**Date (~15 months)**	**Veterinarian**	**Stamp/Sticker**
FHV (R)			
FCV (C)			
FPV (P)			
FeLV*			
Rabies			

* Purevax FeLV is recommend. Leucogen and Versifel FeLV would be alternative options, and are likely to be safe, if the recommended vaccine is not available.

3.4 Weight:

Measured during the health check before release when the lynx is under anaesthesia.

Weight (kg)	**Weighed by**	**Date**

3.5 Catch-up on (missing) tests and medical treatments:

Test/treatment	Date

FIV and FeLV: In inconspicuous cases an IDEXX SNAP® FIV/FeLV Combo test is highly recommended prior to release.

3.6 Additional medical treatments or comments: