

Appendix IV

Author: Dina Gebhardt

Reviewers: Linking Lynx Sourcing Working Group

Breeding lynx for reintroduction purposes – Short protocol for keepers

This protocol is meant as a guidance to holders and keepers on how to act around the lynx when offspring is detected. For more details on enclosure requirements, handling and veterinary procedures see protocols *3.1 Breeding lynx for reintroduction* and *3.7 Clinical examination*.

As soon as offspring is present, the contact between human and lynx should be reduced to an absolute minimum. The young lynx are supposed to be reintroduced into the wild and, therefore, should not be habituated to humans. To achieve this, keepers must follow a few guidelines to minimize the risk of getting them imprinted to humans.

1. Inform the EEP coordinator (Dina Gebhardt, Dina.Gebhardt@BERN.CH) or studbook keeper right away when you have discovered a litter.
2. As soon as offspring is present, the diet of the lynx should consist of wild game meat such as roe deer, other deer species (preferably naturally coloured), boar, hare, wild-coloured rabbit, etc. If this is not exclusively possible, please reach out to the studbook coordinator to discuss your options.
3. Keeper-food association must be avoided. To avoid that the young lynx directly associate humans with food, the keepers should not address and lure any lynx with food. If lynx with kittens are approaching, keepers should ignore the animals and must not speak to them or address them in any way.
4. It is suggested to install cameras in the litterbox to be able to observe the offspring without entering.

Veterinary procedure – vaccination, genetic samples and sexing

1. Suggested vaccines: vaccination against infectious diseases at the age of 8 and 12 weeks (feline leukemia (FeLV), panleukopenia (FPV), rhinotracheitis (FHV), and calicivirus (FCV)). Rabies vaccination for lynx who will be transported across national borders. Also, the offspring should be dewormed at this moment to limit the hands-on experience for the animals.
2. When taking genetic samples, two kinds of samples should be taken: hair (pull out a good amount of hair) and saliva swabs (see *Appendix III Genetic sampling protocol*). Genetic samples must be taken of the following individuals:
 - a. All juveniles, where the parents have not yet been confirmed as belonging to the Carpathian lineage. Confirm the necessity of samples with the EEP coordinator, Dina Gebhardt. Take the samples during the vaccination procedure. Please send both samples to this address:

Senckenberg Gesellschaft
Zentrum für Wildtiergenetik
Probenannahme
Clamecystrasse 12
D-63571 Gelnhausen

- b. All juveniles selected for release. Take the samples during the final health check before the transport to the coordination enclosure. Send the genetic samples along with the lynx to the coordination enclosure (see also *Appendix XIII*).
3. The offspring should be sexed and reported directly to the studbook coordinator and entered into ZIMS or other animal records software immediately.