

Logistics and varying techniques for intra-facility moves of captive rhinoceros at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay (BGT).

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Topic: 2.0 black rhinoceros and 1.2 white rhinoceros were moved over several weeks at BGT. Varying levels of sedation and anesthesia were utilized in conjunction with operant conditioning to facilitate such moves.

Objective: Demonstrate and describe planning, techniques, and logistical details for moving captive rhinoceros.

Methods: 2.0 sub-adult black rhinos were anesthetized and moved to a new holding facility in conjunction with standing sedation of the dams. A combination of sedation and crate training was utilized to move 1.2 white rhinos to a new display.

Results: All 5 animals were safely moved without incident.

Conclusion: Various techniques are available to move large mammals including rhinoceros. Combinations of sedatives/anesthetics with operant conditioning provide excellent and safe methods for such transports. Heavy equipment is a must in all operations but is utilized differently depending on the technique.

Media: This will be a Power Point presentation.