Wild Tiger Health Centre Information Sheet

Guidelines for Tiger Rehabilitation: General Equipment List

ITEM	PRIORITY	COMMENTS
Anaesthetic emergency box	**Essential**	A box containing anaesthetic emergency drugs and equipment is invaluable.
Autoclave	**Desirable**	For sterilising instruments
Centrifuge	**Desirable**	Suitable for microhaematocrit determination as well as for standard blood tubes
Claw cutters	**Desirable**	Domestic animal nail cutters are not suitable. Hoof cutters from a farrier are more effective.
Clippers	**Essential**	Preferably operated by rechargeable batteries
Darting equipment	**Essential**	A dart rifle +/or pistol. Many types are available
Dental instruments – basic	**Desirable**	To remove irreparably damaged teeth
Digital camera	**Essential**	For recording and sharing observations
Digital thermometers	**Essential**	
Drug cabinet – lockable	**Essential**	A robust, lockable drug cabinet is essential for safety and security reasons.
Drug dosing chart	**Essential**	A chart showing drug doses of emergency and commonly used drugs for different weights of tigers can be of immense value for inexperienced staff. The chart can be laminated for its protection.
Endotracheal tubes (= ET tubes)	**Essential**	Straight ET tubes of varying internal diameters from 12 – 24mm
"Equine demand valve"	**Desirable**	This simple device attached to an oxygen cylinder pressure reducing valve allows the effective ventilation of a collapsed animal
Fridge / Freezer	**Essential**	For storage of medicines and biological samples

ITEM	PRIORITY	COMMENTS
Continued:		
Gas anaesthetic equipment	**Desirable**	Including anaesthetic machine, vaporiser, anaesthetic circuits (circle and co-axial) & large face masks. Isoflurane is the standard anaesthetic gas.
Hand rearing equipment	**Desirable**	Although it is not generally advisable to hand rear neonatal tigers, if this practice is part of a rehabilitation centre's workload appropriate bottles, nipples and small-bore stomach tubes will be required.
Hobbles	**Essential**	Can be made from rope or commercially available type
Laryngoscope	**Essential**	Long, straight blades are appropriate < 360mm
Microscope with 10x, 20x & 40x objective lenses	**Desirable**	Basic – especially for parasitology
Mouth props	**Essential**	The simplest mouth props (or gags) are made from section of plastic tubing such as water pipe.
Necropsy kit	**Essential**	As a minimum it should include knives & sharpeners, forceps, scissors, and a hacksaw
Ophthalmoscope	**Desirable**	
Oxygen cylinder	**Essential**	It is important that a severely ill tiger can be given oxygen when necessary. The cylinder will need a pressure reducing valve leading onto a delivery tube at the least.
Pole syringe	**Desirable**	Useful to inject medicines, but darting can be less stressful
Pulse oximeter	**Essential**	
Refractometer	**Desirable**	
Resuscitation bag (AMBU bag)	**Essential**	To artificially ventilate a non-breathing tiger
Space blankets	**Essential**	Electric ones are available for use in low temperatures
Sponge-holding forceps – long	**Essential**	To safely remove foreign objects and material from the back of a tiger's mouth during anaesthesia. Any long forceps will do, but "sponge-holding forceps" have ends which can hold swabs easily.
Stethoscope	**Essential**	Good quality (cheap ones are of little use!)

ITEM	PRIORITY	COMMENTS
Continued:		
Stomach tube	**Essential**	For decompressing gastric bloat and delivering medicines into the stomach
Stretcher or carry-mat	**Essential**	
Suction device – simple	**Desirable**	The "VVAC" portable suction unit is relatively cheap & does not rely on battery or mains power.
Surgery kits – basic	**Essential**	A basic kit includes needle holders, rat-toothed forceps, plain forceps, artery forceps (or "haemostats"),scissors and a scalpel handle
Table for procedures	**Desirable**	Large enough for adult tigers
Tape measure	**Desirable**	
Tick removers	**Desirable**	Simple plastic tick removers enable a tick to be removed from the skin without damaging its mouth parts.
Ultrasound machine – portable	**Desirable**	Extremely useful diagnostically, but expensive
X-ray machine	**Desirable**	A portable, digital, DR x-ray system is most practical and diagnostically invaluable, but is extremely expensive.