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## IMPORTATION OF TROPHY BIRDS

Bringing trophy birds into the US from your hunt of a lifetime is easily accomplished with the following guidance.

- ❖ Bring appropriately-sized Ziplocs or garbage bags. Bring a hard-sided ice chest or storage container as checked luggage, or a small soft-sided cooler if transporting small birds as carry on. Use duct tape or ratchet straps to secure lids. These supplies are unavailable or expensive at most foreign hunt locations. Fill the entire container with frozen birds. Use newspaper layers as necessary to fill voids between frozen birds to ensure they remain frozen. Insulated ice chest seals may be taped for extra precaution.
- ❖ Per USFWS regulations: All birds MUST be tagged individually to include hunter name, address, species collected, date collected, where collected. The outside of all containers must be labeled to include species, sex, and number of birds.
- ❖ Remember that your trophy birds should be transported frozen and should remain frozen as best possible. If travel logistics mandate an overnight hotel stay, inquire about storing the container in their freezer overnight (this is far more common than you think).
- ❖ On the U.S Customs Declaration Form, indicate that you are importing "meat, animal, animal/ wildlife products" by circling yes.
- ❖ At your port of entry, you will be directed to US Customs and Border Protection (USCPB) for inspection of your trophy birds and FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE DECLARATION FOR IMPORTATION OR EXPORTATION OF FISH OR WILDLIFE (USFWS 3-177).
- ❖ You may be required to also show your hunting permit to demonstrate legal take of birds.
- ❖ Allow 1.5 to 2 hours *minimum* to clear customs, have birds inspected, and make your connecting flight.
- ❖ Following inspection and completion of USCPB paperwork, your container will either be wrapped with quarantine tape or shipped directly to your USDA Certified Taxidermist for quarantine and processing. You may pay for NEXT DAY shipping with a credit card, or provide a pre-paid Fed Ex Air Bill for NEXT DAY shipping. In the event your birds continue to your domicile as checked or carry-on baggage, you must ensure that they are delivered to the USDA Certified Taxidermist referenced immediately, and with the quarantine seal intact. Place in freezer overnight and ship NEXT DAY.
- ❖ Birds arriving from international venues must be quarantined after re-entry by a USDA Certified taxidermist to ensure prevention of infectious diseases such as Newcastle disease, Avian Cholera, Hoof and Mouth. Penalties and confiscation are the result of smuggling or improperly-declared wildlife.
- ❖ Documents pertinent to your importation of trophy birds and more are available at <http://getducks.com/sporting-travel-resources.aspx> Call us for more information or to discuss further - our on-staff taxidermist is USDA Certified.