



# Hippo Transport: Overview of moving an adult male river hippo

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CINCINNATI ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

# Overview

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- Background
- Find your partners
- Crate
- Coordination
- Transfer
  - Training & loading
  - Transfer and shipping
  - Unload
  - Timing
- Quarantine
- Introductions

# Background

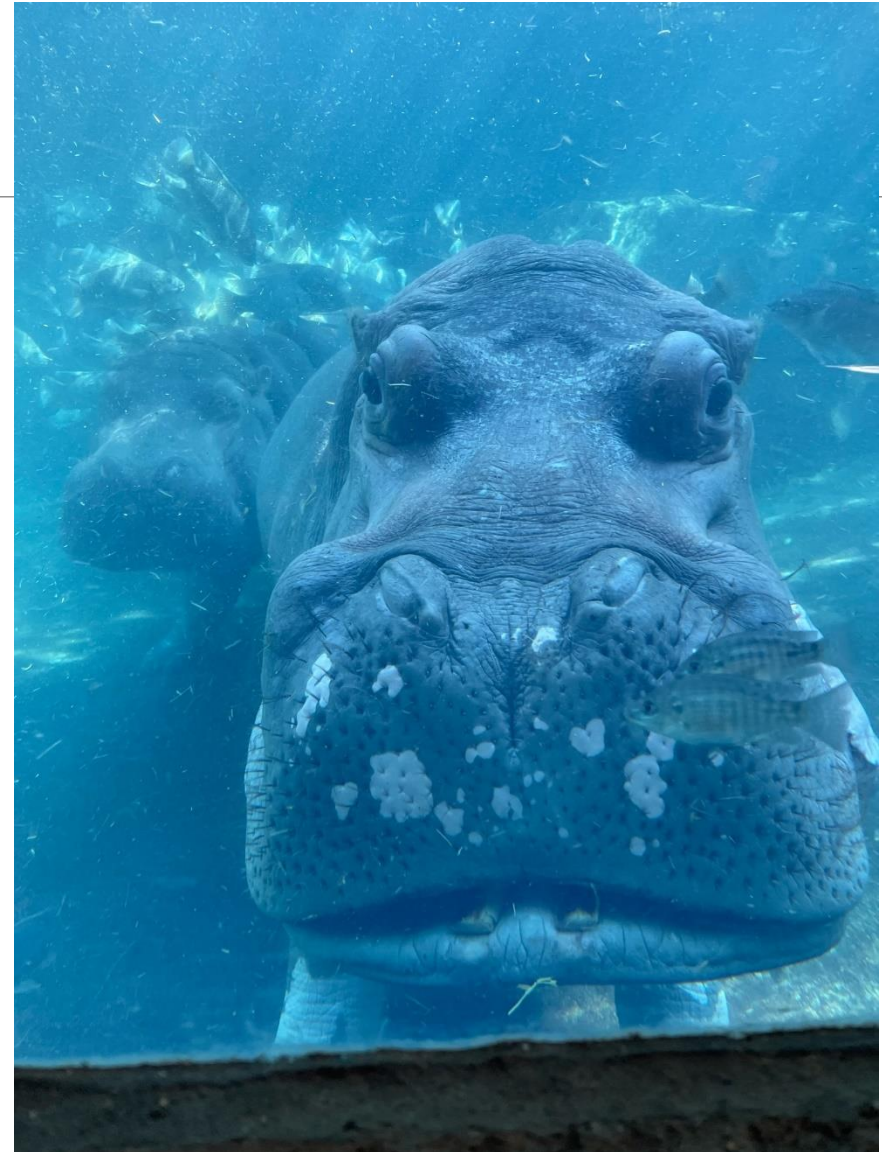
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18-year old male

Living on his own for roughly 10 years

SF Zoo team requested transfer to improve welfare

SSP Breeding Rec for 0.1 adult hippo at CZBG



# First Step

## Find your partners

- Crate owner
  - Sedgwick County Zoo – Mike Q.
- Hauling company
  - [taken out of shared pres] (team of >25 people)
  - [taken out of shared pres]
- Shipping zoo
  - San Francisco Zoo – Sandy F.
- Receiving zoo
  - Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens





# Training and Loading

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SF Zoo Team did training 2x/day

- Habituated animal to entering crate and bar being inserted behind him
- Mixed timing up to accommodate early morning or afternoon loading time



# Coordination

## Based in Cincinnati area

- Local partner with manatee rehabilitation moves
- Began coordinating flight availability in early July
  - Confirmed flight from SFO to CVG
- Notes:
  - Flights from SFO to CVG were no longer routinely direct
  - Re-routed freight
  - Scheduled two extra pilots due to flight time
  - Verified the plane cargo hold had clearance for the crate
  - Prepared lifts/skids/pallets/operators present at freight facilities with capacity for 10,000-lbs





































# Timing

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Started crating in San Francisco Sep 6th at  
7:00am (10am EST)

- Secured by 7:05am
- Hippo loaded and plane doors closed at SFO at  
12:11pm (3pm EST)

Plane landed in CVG at 7:45 EST

Hippo arrived to CZBG at 9:30pm EST

Hippo unloaded out of crate at 10:12pm EST

Total time spent in crate for hippo: **12hr 12min**

# Quarantine

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## Standard 30-day quarantine

- Abbreviated once two routine fecal samples were tested
- Same barn as other hippos
- Only thing we thought odd in this time period
  - He was not defecating reliably outside of the pool which gave us issues with collecting fecal samples





# Introductions

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In general, our understanding was that male/female hippo intros were fairly amicable

- Our experience was less amicable
  - Male was very subdued, incredibly tolerant of both females
  - Adult female was first and was pushy but nothing seemed dangerous
    - Moved forward with subadult hippo the same day
  - Male was being regularly scraped up via tussling by adult female so we began blunting her tusks
  - Began seeing 1.2 sleeping together in a pile (in water) by end of two weeks on habitat together



# And then

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Dec 15, 2021



April 5, 2022



