

ARTIFICIAL REARING OF THREE TAMANDUA (*TAMANDUA MEXICANA*), PRELIMINARY DATA REPORT IN GUAYAS, ECUADOR

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RESUMO

The tamanduas are extraordinary mammals, they inhabit forests and landscapes of Central and South America. The objective of the study was to describe the development of the neonatal and pediatric stages, physiological parameters, weight gain and morphometry. Three orphan males were received, in neonatal and pediatric stages, in different months, they presented apparent good health, dehydration and hypothermia. They were hydrated with oral solutions and placed in environments with controlled temperature and disposition of a stuffed animal. They received clinical care and after normalizing hydration, temperature and stabilization in general, they were fed with a decreased dilution of the milk replacer until full dilution was completed for the second day. Mammalian neonates must present normal volemic, normal temperature, normal blood pressure, and normal peristaltic movements, before being fed, to avoid clinical complications. They were fed with milk replacer every 4 hours the first month, from 05:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., specimen 1 was fed overnight for the first months, then the adult formula was gradually increased. They were weighed before the first feeding of the day, morphometry was performed monthly. The initial weight of specimen 1 was 252gr. its final weight was 399gr. a total weight gain of 147 gr. was evidenced in 102 days, with an average of 1,44 gr. per day. The initial weight of specimen 2 was 270gr. its final weight was 450gr. a total weight gain of 180gr was evidenced. in 110 days with an average of 1,63 gr. per day. The initial weight of specimen 3 was 804 grams, its final weight was 1100 gr. a total weight gain of 296gr. was evidenced in 45 days with an average of 6,57 gr. per day. Variations in daily weight gain were evidenced, lack of appetite is detailed, days were observed in which the specimens did not show interest in food, increased activity because initially specimens 1 and 2 showed long periods of sleep and as their activity increased, the weight gain was sometimes diminished, additionally, a weight loss was evidenced when presenting urination and defecation. Specimens 1 and 2 presented prolonged sleep periods, a pattern of increasing exploratory activity, since their arrival they presented open eyes, the presence of a sucking reflex, the presence of little hair on the abdomen, as well as a newborn umbilical scar and positive thermotropism. Specimen 3 presented periods of prolonged daytime sleep, his pattern of nocturnal activity was also prolonged, mostly exploratory, since his arrival he presented open eyes, presence of sucking reflex, presence of abundant hair on abdomen, little umbilical scar

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evident. The results obtained do not differ from those found for the species. It appears that weight gain may be influenced by the stage of development in which the specimen is. It is extremely complex to carry out artificial breeding of Tamanduas, since they are individuals with a highly specialized natural diet.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Artificial rearing, Ecuador, Tamandua