



# African Pangolins

A presentation by  
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# ABOUT US

Established in 1994 as a non-profit organisation.

The Tikki Hywood Trust is known as a global authority in the Rescue, Rehabilitation, Release and Research on Ground Pangolin.

We are founding members of The African Pangolin Working Group.

# PANGOLIN RETRIEVALS BY TIKKI HYWOOD TRUST

45 %

32 %

17 %

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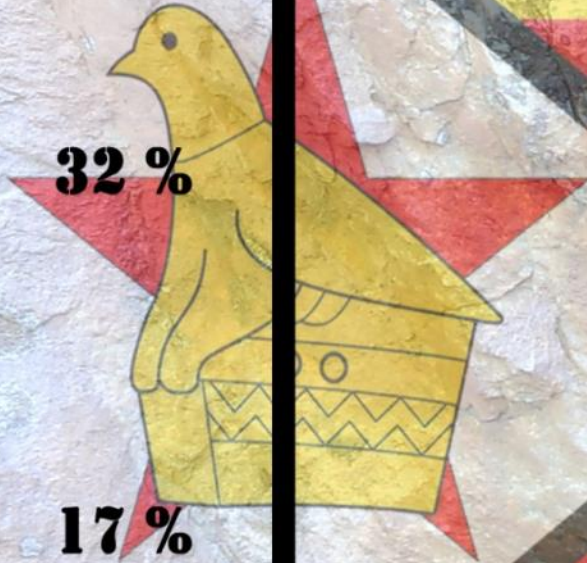
2000 - 2010

2011

2012

2013

2014



The most common method of restraint is to keep the animal bound up in a grain sack or container. Pangolins will often be kept like this for days and even weeks before they are sold or confiscated.



On average, the poacher is not aware of the animals specialized diet.



In rare cases, the animal is offered raw maize meal and sometimes vegetable matter.



They are **NEVER** offered water.....

# ASSESS

**HEALTHY  
PANGOLIN**

Rolls into a  
defensive ball

Walks with tail off  
the ground

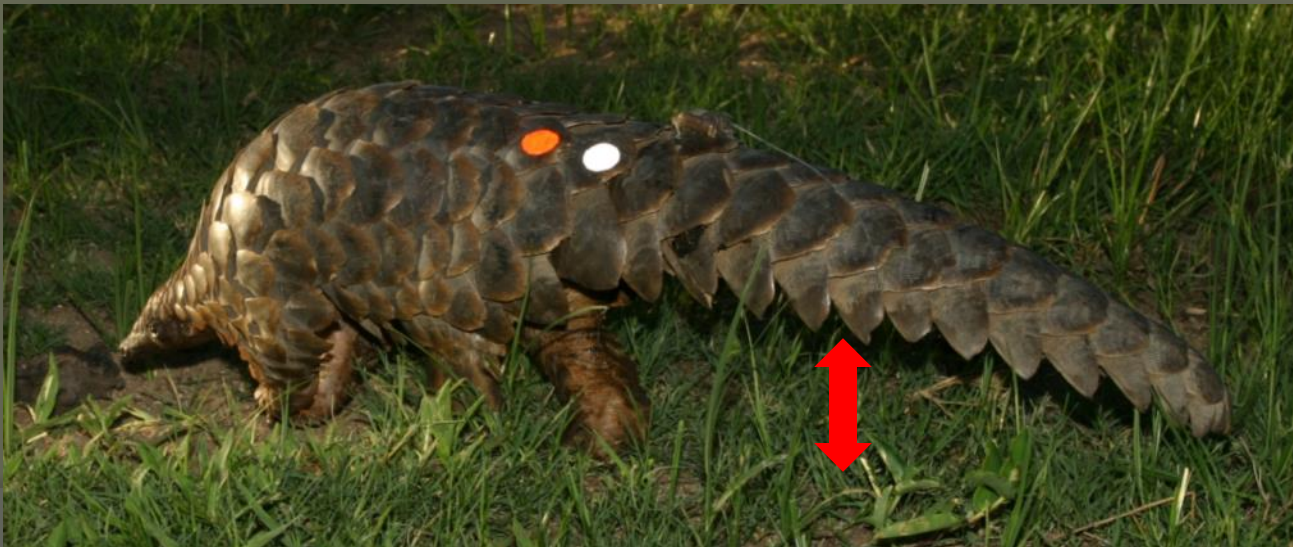
**COMPROMISED  
PANGOLIN**

Wounded or  
necrotic smell

Not walking or  
having difficulty  
walking

# Healthy

A pangolin's tail is an indicator of health. When the animal is walking, if the front limbs are tucked up and held to the chest and the tail is clear of the ground – the animal can be considered healthy for release.



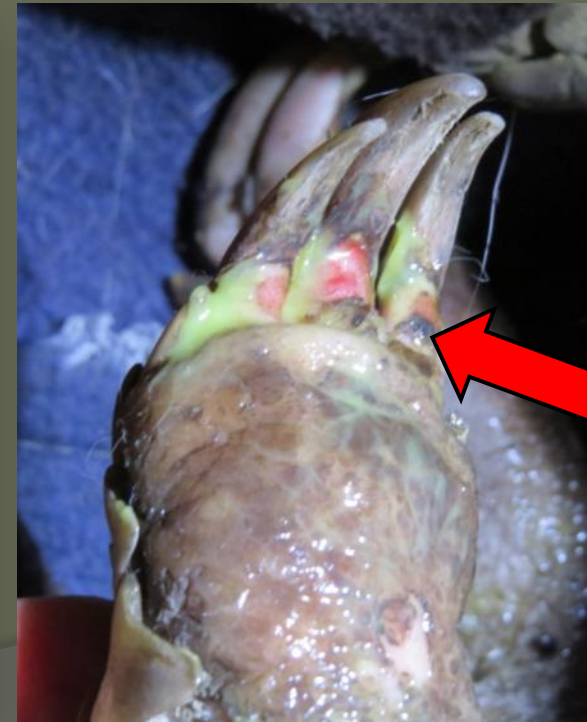
It has been our experience that large adult Pangolins are almost impossible to adapt to captivity.



Quick release to a safe environment is the best policy for these animals.



Even with minor wounds, we have found that releasing a pangolin is a better option when compared to the stress of captivity.



# Compromised



**INJURED**



**STARVED**



**ORPHANED**



**DEHYDRATED**

# Injury – Wounds

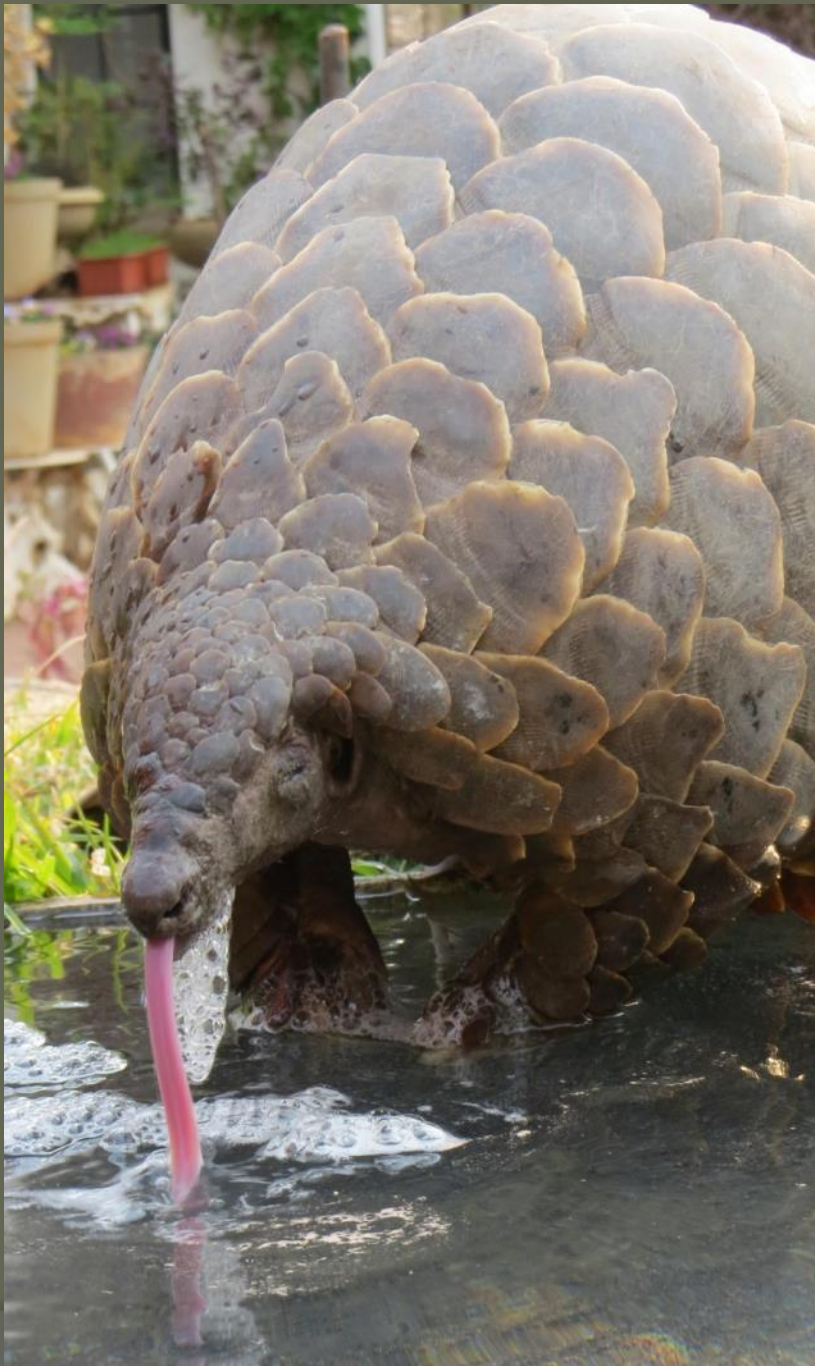
Injured as a  
result of capture  
– this is a  
festering snare  
wound on a large  
adult



Pangolins will often inflict serious damage to themselves in an effort to escape confinement, even rip off their claws.



# Dehydration



# Starvation



# Orphans

The Tikki Hywood Trust has had great success in raising orphans, from as young as birth.



# The Rehabilitation Process



Our greatest success has come with allowing compromised pangolins to establish a natural routine as soon as they come to the centre.



A number of hours of natural foraging daily.



Supplementation and veterinary treatment where required.



Stress is an element which we cannot highlight enough. Possibly one of the most sensitive species we have ever worked with, makes keeping pangolin in captivity extremely difficult





If there is no immediate problem that requires attention, the most beneficial practice is to put the animal in a secure, warm and dark place to sleep naturally.

Pangolins are weighed daily to gauge their progress

The pangolin scales makes it difficult to assess their body condition



# Feeding and Therapeutic Handling

After a good sleep (10 hours) a pangolin will attempt to re-establish their natural biorhythm. They will revert to their habit of nocturnal activity.

They will also wake up hungry.



Ant or termite eggs are highly nutritious for a recovering pangolin

In our experience, a wild ground pangolin will not readily take an artificial diet.

For this reason, we provide the rescued animals the opportunity to walk and forage naturally if they are able.





Walking approximately 1 to 2 meters away from the pangolin – we allow them to walk as naturally as possible, only guiding them where necessary. It may take some time just walking for the animal to feel calm enough to forage.

Each pangolin has a minder who walks daily with them for a number of hours.



There is a delicate balance in allowing a pangolin to walk and forage naturally and not allowing them to expend too much energy.



Energy in  
- food

Energy out  
- walking

# LAST RESORT

If it is apparent that the animal is not going to forage then we introduce food artificially.





# Pangolin Housing

Compromised and juvenile pangolins require suitable housing whilst in rehabilitation.



The enclosures are densely planted to provide cover. They are also fully enclosed for 100% security.



Although the enclosures are designed to house the pangolins, they cannot be maintained in these permanently due to their dietary requirements.



Ground Pangolins prefer to eat live ants and termites, there is currently no artificial substitute that they will readily accept.



The ant and termite species of Zimbabwe are difficult to harvest or cultivate artificially.

Milk dependent juveniles are different, in the sense that they can be introduced to other food through the bottle.



As they mature however, the liquid diet is rejected in favour of natural prey.



It is the stand point of the Tikki Hywood Trust that captive breeding of Ground Pangolin is not a sound conservation approach at this time.



Although we have had success in hand rearing orphans, the program that takes them to the next level in preparation for release, is highly intensive and costly.

We cannot afford to lose animals in order for people to gain experience



We also cannot afford to ship wild caught animals to zoo's and they die shortly after arrival

Resources / funding used to for captive breeding is better spent on **protecting habitat.**



This has the added benefit of protecting non-target species as well.



We do not know how many Ground Pangolins are left.



**Every single one counts**

