



RESCUING CONFISCATED PANGOLINS – A LONG WAY TO HOME

Thai Van Nguyen

Executive director- Save Vietnam's Wildlife



www.savevietnamswildlife.org

Carnivore and Pangolin Conservation Program

SAVE VIETNAM'S WILDLIFE

- Started rescuing pangolins in 2006
- Success rate of 84% after years of trial and error
- Most recent release: 35 pangolins back to the forest on 15th June 2015.
- Only 2 rescue centres in VN can rescue pangolins.



Confiscated Asian pangolins from illegal wildlife trade

- A long time in trade (>1 week)
- Force-fed inappropriate substance and injected water subcutaneously to increase weights
- Dehydrated
- Wounds from snare & snap traps, dog bites, transport injuries.
- Lengthy permission procedure to rescue pangolins (5-7days).
- Lack of handling and care skills at ranger stations



For confiscated pangolins, you need to have natural food

For a normal rescued pangolin

- Need to have living ants for the first 3 days (2 ant collectors/day to feed 6 pangolins)
- Two weeks to get pangolin to accept mixture of frozen ingredients: 50% silkworm pupae, 30% cooked soy-bean and 20% ants (\$US2/pangolin/day)



Why pangolin are the most difficult species to keep in captivity? – Quarantine Facilities



Long-term housing requirement



Confiscated pangolins in Vietnam should be transferred to rescue centre!



Commercial Asian pangolin farms are not an option

- Increase illegally caught animals for farms
- Increase demand for pangolins by creating legal market
- High mortality--lack understanding of wild ecology
- Low fecundity: 1 baby/litter, gestation > 1 years
- No identification
- Wild products become 'premium' and in demand



Vetnerinaty for Leanne



**Cảm ơn!
Thank you!**

