

EMERGENCY MEASURES ADOPTED FOR THE IN-SITU CONSERVATION OF COLLARED ANTEATERS (TAMANDUA TETRADACTYLA) AND GIANT ANTEATER (MYRMECOPHAGA TRIDACTYLA), APPLIED BY THE CENTER FOR THE REHABILITATION OF SILVEREST ANIMALS, IN THE STATE OF MATO GROSSO DO SUL – BRAZIL.

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RESUMO

The uncontrolled fires in the Pantanal biomes mainly affect mammals, such as those belonging to the family Myrmecophagidae, including the Giant Anteaters (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) and the Lesser or Collared Anteaters (*Tamandua tetradactyla*). The fire's cause serious injuries including 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree burns, severe dehydration, respiratory pathologies such as aspiration pneumonia due to smoke inhalation and death. In addition, the damage caused to the biome by fire creates a huge challenge to the survival of the remaining anteaters. The purpose of this summary is to explain the emergency measures adopted at critical points by the Wild Animal Rehabilitation Center, of the Environment Institute of Mato Grosso do Sul - IMASUL /MS, through on- site service with a mobile unit. First aid materials were taken to the field, containing: saline, analgesics and injectable anti-inflammatories, healing ointments, bandages and a wide variety of foods composed of fruits, vegetables, honey, and water. In addition, trap cameras for photographic recording for a period of five consecutive days. From the first day of the availability of the inputs, the gradual decrease in food was observed visually over time. Every day, a wide variety of insects like ants of different species were observed, attracted by food. With the use of trap cameras, the nocturnal presence of some mammals was recorded, mainly the young anteater and the daytime anteater, feeding secondarily on the insects present in the soil, attracted by food. Emergency measures against large-scale fires have been adopted by groups other than NGOs, the National Federal Force, neighboring states and by the Mato Grosso do Sul Environment Institute - IMASUL, in the interest of cooperation, recovery and rescue of these animals. The creation of a mobile unit on site at the Wild Animal Rehabilitation Center - CRAS, was essential for the maintenance of the species and the rescue of some individuals of the genus *Xenarthra*, as some animals were found in a critical state of dehydration and with burns. In this case, fluid therapy, analgesics with anti-inflammatories and healing ointments on burns were used, relocating the individuals to safe areas. Others, with respiratory symptoms, treated with bronchodilators, anti-inflammatories, and antibiotics. Some anteaters in more serious condition, with loss of limbs, lacerations, and 3rd degree burns, were referred to CRAS, for hospitalization to aid recovery and enable release, when recovered. Conclusion: Developing an emergency, food / water protocol to support anteaters in areas at risk from fire, and applying it on the spot, proved to be effective and satisfactory from a clinical point of view. However, it is necessary to create more effective protocols to maximize the recovery of animals with more severe burn injuries.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: BURNS, FIRE, PROTOCOLS, REHABILITATION.

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