

## Progress Report:

- Use dataloggers to determine the temperatures and forces reptiles are likely to have experienced while being transported by post during illegal smuggling activities.

## Aims

- Use dataloggers to determine the temperatures and forces reptiles are likely to have experienced while being transported by post during illegal smuggling activities.

## Context

Veterinary staff at Perth Zoo are responsible for treating some of the native fauna (predominantly reptiles) recovered from wildlife seizures, including those that have been smuggled through the Australian domestic postal service. Knowledge of the forces and temperatures an animal is likely to have experienced will be beneficial in the assessment of the animals health and welfare, and contribute to the decisions that inform the treatment plan.

## Future

- Analysis of 2020 data will be progressed.

## Implications

- Gaining specific information regarding the temperature and forces applied to packages travelling along postage routes from remote Western Australian towns in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields that are known to be used by wildlife smugglers, will provide evidence as to the nature and extent of conditions animals are subjected to during transit. This knowledge

will assist in the treatment of affected animals, and may also inform decisions related to prosecutions and potentially may influence sentencing of convicted offenders.

## Progress

- Data loggers were posted to five DBCA regional offices (Kununurra, Broome, Karratha, Denham and Kalgoorlie) and returned via the same mail service during early February and early March 2020.
- Data logger performance was variable, but data were obtained from four routes.
- Preliminary analysis of temperature data indicates parcel post packages are managed within a very limited and moderate temperature range, consistent with the use of air-conditioned transport modes and mail depots.
- Analysis of the data on the forces that packages were subjected to is yet to be completed.