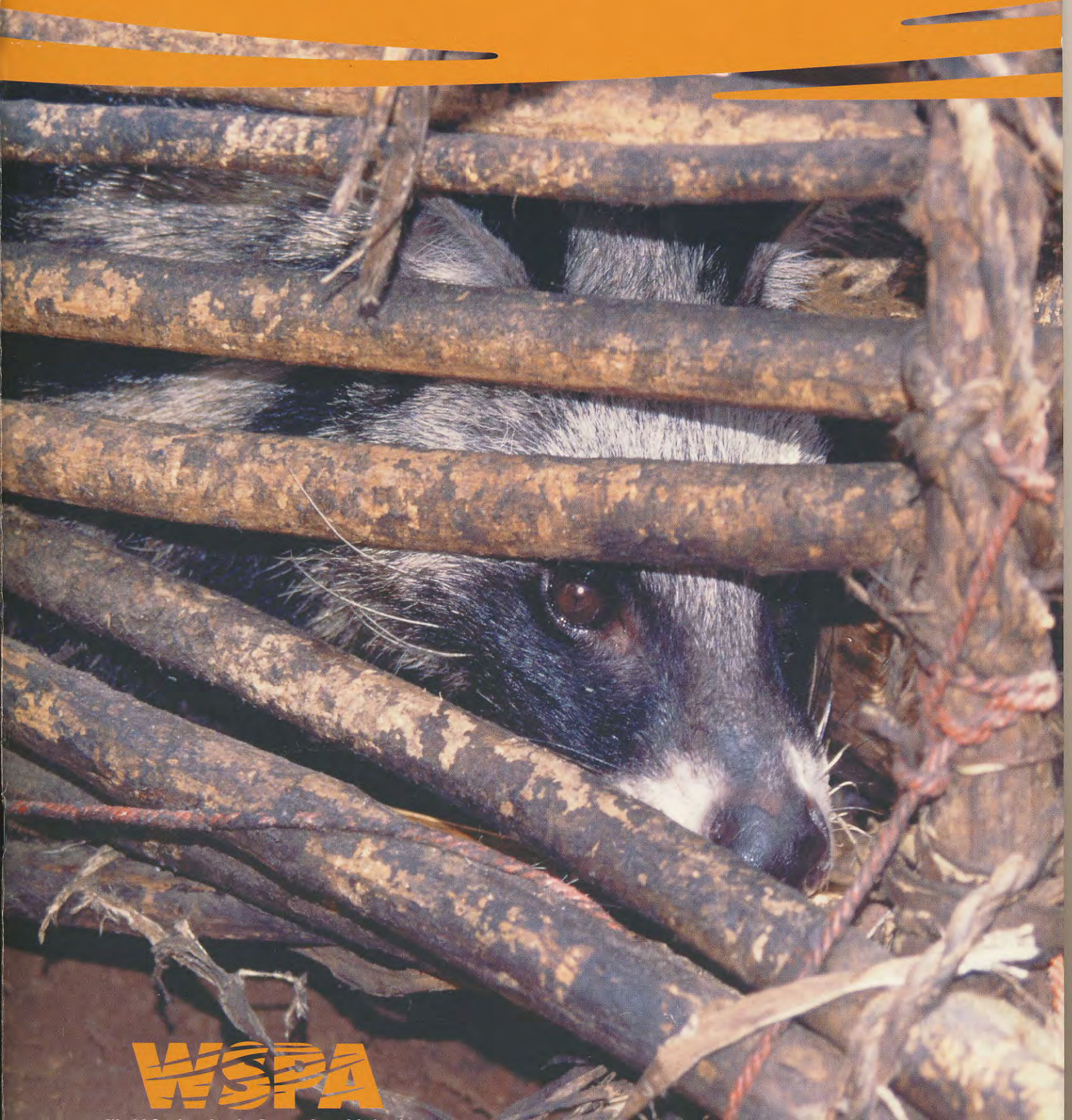


Civet farming

An Ethiopian investigation



Contents

Civet farming

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World Society for the Protection of Animals

This report presents the results of an investigation into civet farming in Ethiopia, conducted in May and June of 1998. Civets are farmed for their musk, a substance used in the production of perfume. A WSPA representative visited two farms to assess welfare conditions for these animals. Both farms supply musk to the leading exporter of civet to France.

The author of this report is Mike Pugh, WSPA's Regional Manager for Africa.

Information contained in this report was obtained from:

An RSPCA summary report on civet farming
The 1973 ISPA report
The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation (EWCO)
The Oromia Region Agricultural Bureau
Civet Farmers and Exporters
Talis, France
British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV)
The Behaviour Guide to African Animals
by Richard Despard Estes (1991, California)

WSPA (pronounced wis-pa) works in cooperation with over three hundred member organisations in 70 countries to promote animal welfare and conservation.
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Summary

Musk is used widely by the perfume industry as an ingredient that provides a distinctive and complex odour and also as one that acts as a 'fixative' to preserve and enhance the smell of other more delicate fragrances. Natural animal musk is obtained from civets in Africa and from musk deer in Asia. Although civet musk has been used for centuries, a refined compound known as civetone was first identified in the 1920s. Since that time, detailed analysis of the properties of civetone has enabled the production of synthetic versions of the product, which are now widely used in the perfume industry.

In the wild, civet musk is naturally excreted from the perineal gland at the base of the tail of the civet, and used for scent marking. A thick, yellow, greasy secretion, it has a distinctive smell that can be detected for up to four months. The majority of civet musk originates in Ethiopia, where the native civet is caught from the wild and kept in captivity so that its musk can be forcibly extracted. No captive breeding of civets takes place in Ethiopia. The vast majority of civets die within the first three weeks of captivity, after severe mental distress and physical pain during capture, transportation and quarantine.

During this investigation, WSPA visited two farms, both of which supplied musk to the leading exporter of musk from Ethiopia to France. The conditions at these farms, along with the methods used to collect their musk, were found to be intrinsically cruel and are described in this report.

Wild civets are confined to a cage 3ft x 1ft x 1ft for the rest of their lives. When they are initially caught, many are unable to turn around inside the cage until they have lost sufficient weight. Farming practices are outdated, and sick or injured civets do not receive any veterinary treatment.

WSPA could find no regulations or guidelines concerning capture, husbandry or the production of musk, and no protection for civets under Ethiopian legislation. Officially, over 1,000 kg of civet musk is exported from Ethiopia each year, 97 per cent of it going to France for the perfume and cosmetics industry.

The facts behind the production of civet musk reveal undeniable cruelty that cannot be eliminated by improvements to methods of farming. If the abuse of the civet and the common use of civet musk as an ingredient in perfume were publicised, many caring consumers would boycott offending brands of perfume. Initial inquiries have shown that several leading companies appear to be buying civet musk but they have not been willing to confirm this fact, or explain what they may use it for. It is hoped that the publication of this report will help to clarify these facts.



The African civet

(Civettictis civetta)

Family Viverridae

The civet is the largest of the African viverrid, being the size of a medium-sized dog and are considered the most primitive of living carnivorous mammals. Viverrids have been around for the last 40-50 million years.

They were once found throughout tropical Africa, wherever there was adequate cover and permanent water. As more areas are cleared for food production, civets are disappearing from large areas. Very few are left in the north of Ethiopia, although there were many just a few years ago.

Civets are heavy set, with males weighing up to 20kg. Body length 27-36in (68-89 cm), tail 16-20in (40-50 cm). Their hindquarters are taller and more powerful than their forequarters. Their tail is bushy, banded and half their total length. They have five toes with blunt, non-retractable claws.

They have a distinctive black and white head and neck pattern and white lips, which may help them to identify other civets at night. Being nocturnal, the civet shelters by day in dense undergrowth or holes.

They are solitary animals, only mixing for the purpose of procreation and are very regular in their habits, following the same pathways. This behaviour makes tracking relatively easy. They can scream or growl when startled, or in fear. Civets are omnivorous, eating a variety of fruits, vegetables, insects, rodents, reptiles, birds and carrion. It uses its acute sense of smell and hearing to locate prey in the dark.

In captivity, civets can reproduce three times per year, but in the wild it may be seasonal. Females give birth to up to four kittens in a hole after a gestation period of 65-75 days. The kittens' eyes are open and they can walk in five days. Weaning starts at four weeks and is complete in four months. The distinctive civet musk smell develops at around six months of age.

Civets have been known to live for 15 years in captivity, if conditions are favourable.

Background

The history of musk production

The practice of keeping civets in captivity to extract and sell their musk is a tradition that goes back many centuries. Legend states that when the Queen of Sheba (1013 – 982 BC) went to visit King Solomon, one of the precious gifts she took with her to Jerusalem was civet musk. Documentary evidence exists to prove that the trade in civet musk was already well established at this time.

Throughout the following centuries, reference was made to the trade in civet musk in various chronicles, including The Bible, writing by Shakespeare and the documents of the Bonaparte expedition to Egypt in the 18th century.

In 1872, Antonia Cheche visited the area now known as Iluababora in Ethiopia. He wrote that the king of Jimma – Aba Jifar Abagombo – had set aside an area in his palace specifically where civets could calm and recuperate, after they had been captured from the wild and in preparation for the collection of their civet musk.

As the price of civet musk had always been expensive, the practice of keeping civets in captivity was exclusively for kings and queens. Only when the price began to fall was the practice handed down from royalty to the ‘common citizens’.

Traditionally, the civet musk trade has not changed in over 100 years. The method of capture, the handling of the civets and the way the musk is collected, have not advanced at all from those described by Antonia Cheche.

The 1973 ISPA report

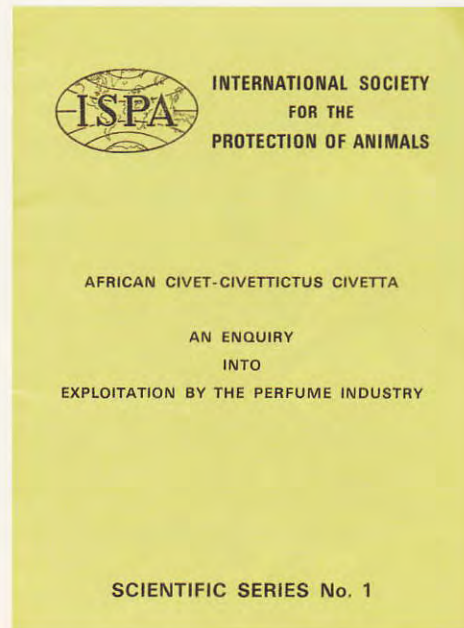
In 1973, ISPA – the International Society for the Protection of Animals (now known as WSPA), undertook an investigation into the trade of civet musk. It published a paper called, ‘African civet... An enquiry into the exploitation by the perfume industry.’

Findings:

ISPA found evidence of abuse within the industry, with stress and suffering caused to the civets. It stated its opposition to civet farming, “*as an unnecessary abuse of a wild animal, especially when non-animal alternatives are readily available.*”

Recommendations:

- ISPA requested regulation of the civet farming industry in Ethiopia by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation (EWCO)
- Improvements in all areas of husbandry
- EWCO to produce a booklet on practises within the industry
- Registration of dealers and owners
- Further study into the possibility of captive breeding civets
- A research station to be set up at Awash National Park, Ethiopia
- Quality control standards to be established for musk at the Pasteur Institute, Addis Ababa



In response to the public outcry following this campaign, the President of the Fragrance Foundation of New York, Mr Irwin Alfin, visited Ethiopia together with three advisers in 1973. Their findings concentrated specifically on the procedures used when extracting musk.

Findings:

They found no evidence of cruelty when musk is extracted – but concurred that, “there is considerable room for improvement in the manner in which the animals are kept.” The cages were “definitely too small for extended periods.”

The civet musk industry 1973 – 1998

For the next 25 years, the only advances within the industry were a half-hearted effort at registering farmers and exporters, and the setting up of quality control standards for musk in Addis Ababa. All the other recommendations were ignored or forgotten.

In 1987, and again in 1992, the EWCO proposed the setting up of a civet musk research station in Awash. This was never implemented. In 1996, the EWCO, along with the Ministry of Agriculture, carried out a study of civet farms in Ethiopia.



Each civet is carried out of the dark shed in its cage for musk collection

Findings of the 1996 EWCO report

WSPA was informed that although legislation exists for the protection of wildlife in general, this is not enforced. There is no legislation specific to civet farming. This means that no official in Ethiopia has the right of entry to civet farms. If a farmer wishes to start a farm, his premises are not inspected and the only documentation needed is a capture permit. Enquiries have revealed that the vast majority of farmers do not even apply for these permits. The EWCO published the following data:

The EWCO interviewed only 29 farmers, seven of which refused to reveal the number of civet they had. Therefore 22 farms, in four of the six Oromiya zones, were found to contain 280 civets.

Farmers application for permits

Date	No. of registered farms	No. of captive civets
Before 1990	174	2,617
1996	203	3,037

However, due to cultural beliefs mentioned below, many other farmers refused them entry to their farms and most would not reveal how many civets they had in captivity. Thus, the data produced is, at best, an underestimation and may be wildly inaccurate in terms of number of farms and numbers of civets in captivity.

An example of this was that at one farm, WSPA was shown a list of 26 other civet farmers, all of which had at least seven civets. One farmer had 40 civets, another 35, others 20. None of these names were on any EWCO lists.

On 03/01/1997, Anita Pollack asked the European Parliament whether products from civets are used in the European cosmetics industry.

On 05/02/1998, Mrs Bonono replied that musk fragrances are used by the fragrance industry, some of which have a natural origin. About a tonne of this is used every year. She then stated some civet species are bred in captivity in Africa.

This reply was enough evidence for WSPA to surmise that no independent investigation into the methods involved in musk production and subsequent use in the European fragrance industry has been carried out in 25 years.

During that time, the attitude of the general public has changed radically to the use of animals and animal products in the production of cosmetics. People feel they have a right to know about the methods involved in the production of what they buy. This knowledge would enable them to make a moral judgement as to whether they want to buy or boycott these products.

In May 1998, a WSPA representative visited Ethiopia, with the objective of investigating the trade in civet musk, and therefore bring evidence of methods of farming to the fragrance-buying public who 'have a right to know'.

Traditional beliefs

Civet farming has been handed down from father to son over generations. The present day farmers are predominantly Muslims who have a strict regard for their faith. Not only are the methods of keeping civets passed on, but also the myths and superstitions that surround this practice.

One such belief is that if someone other than the owner or the person who feeds the civet, sees it, then the animal will die. This belief surrounds the legend of the evil eye (Buda). The civet must also be buried without anyone seeing it, so that the evil spirits are buried along with the body. There is another belief that if a stranger sees the food that the civet eats, then the amount of musk produced will decrease and the civet will eventually die.

Unfortunately, such beliefs were enforced at the time of the EWCO study in 1996. Part of the criteria of the study was to administer treatment to those civets that were found to be sick. WSPA was told of one incident where three civets received treatment and died soon after. These free treatments were offered only during the study and have not been available since. News of these deaths spread throughout the farming community, making farmers even more wary of strangers.

Because some civets are kept within private residences, diplomatic negotiations took place through a translator before two farmers, at different farms, allowed WSPA inside their homes to view their civets. At two other farms, permission was not granted.

These problems make an investigation of civet farming in Ethiopia extremely difficult – not only for WSPA, but also for government officials. Subsequently, monitoring of the industry is almost impossible.

It was interesting to note that the regional government wildlife official who accompanied WSPA was only allowed to see the civets kept at one of the four farms.

Civet farming today

Discrimination in favour of male civets

Male civets are preferred for the production of civet musk for the following reasons:

- Male civets produce a greater quantity of musk than females
- Male civet musk is of superior quality
- Female civets excrete a proportion of their musk when they urinate
- Farmers recognise that female civets are of more value producing young in the wild and thus maintaining stocks of civets for future musk production
- Female civets in oestrus will attract males to an area, and these can be caught for the production of musk
- One farmer stated that experience has shown that male civets adapt more readily than females to captivity and thus their mortality rate is lower

Civets are found in the wild by following their tracks



WSPA/Mike Pugh

Therefore, if a female civet is captured in the wild, some trapper's cut her claws and release her. The absence of claw marks makes her easily identifiable to subsequent trappers and future capture is avoided for a period of time. The procedure used to cut the claws was not observed, but unless carried out carefully, it could involve severing nerve endings and inflicting pain.

Capture methods

Experienced trappers find the location of a civet by following its tracks from the night before. WSPA was informed of three methods of capture:

- If the civet is traced to dense vegetation, four people surround the area with a net, some 20 to 30 metres in length. The civet is disturbed from its resting place and runs into the net
- Paths frequently used by the civets are located and a rope snare is placed across the path. The civet is snared by its feet when walking through the loop
- A net is placed over the hole of a civet. When it emerges at dusk it becomes entangled in the net and is captured

Transportation

The captured civet is placed in a heavy duty sack made of sisal, customarily called 'bino', which is tied with string. According to one farmer, the subsequent lack of ventilation, combined with struggling by the civet, often leads to death by suffocation.

Obtaining a civet by farmers, for use in musk production

The following data was obtained from the EWCO study:

Of 29 farmers interviewed in November 1996:

- 52% buy civets from the civet trappers
- 36% trap civets themselves
- 12% both buy and trap civets to supply their farms

The cost of a male civet can range from 100 to 200 birr (\$14 – \$28). The price depends on the health, the age and the quantity of musk that the civet produces. Farmers often buy civets which are offered for sale at the local market.

Quarantine

Newly acquired civets are initially kept separately, quarantined from the permanent resident civets on the farm.

As soon as the civet is placed in quarantine, the musk is extracted. This is because the wild civet, having eaten natural food containing protein and vitamins, yields more musk of superior quality than at any other time in its life in captivity.

According to one farmer, the stress associated with extracting musk on the first occasion is one of the main causes of early fatality, with many 'wild' civets subsequently refusing to take food.

The civets are fed a diet of butter and milk soup for the first week, or if finances permit, eggs and meat soup may be provided. This change in diet from natural food can cause diarrhoea, leading to dehydration and death.

Typically, the newly acquired civet will be kept separately from the resident civets for a period of four weeks. The farmers believe that the symptoms of disease



WSPA/Mike Pugh

The initial imprisoning of wild civets often results in fatality

become apparent in the first two to three weeks. A civet that survives this period of quarantine is believed to have become accustomed to its captivity. Because of the high mortality, payment is usually made by the farmer to the trapper only after the civet has survived the first ten days in captivity.

Mortality

Wild civets thrash about in distress when confined and try to escape. Due to rough handling and the primitive methods used, many civets sustain physical injuries during capture and transportation.

According to the EWCO study, the vast majority of civets succumb to diseases and injuries within the first three weeks of capture.

One farmer informed WSPA that of the last 100 male civets he had been offered, 80 had been suitable for musk extraction. Of the 80 he had purchased, 30 died within three weeks of capture. Therefore the mortality rate of civets caught to supply this farmer was 37.5 per cent in the first three weeks.

Accommodation

The majority of civets are kept in rooms inside, or in close proximity to the farmer's residence. The size and structure of these buildings vary, but traditionally they have a dried mud floor and cow dung/straw walls, plastered onto a wooden frame. The roof is grass thatch or corrugated iron sheet.

Civets are kept in a dark room, with little or no light source – natural or artificial. A smouldering fire is continually kept on the burn, producing a smoke-filled atmosphere. During the day, little ventilation combined with the heat from the fire maintains temperatures consistently higher than outside – it is the farmers' belief the high temperatures cause the civets to produce increasing quantities of musk. The same fire may be used to cook the food for the civets, using clay or metal cauldrons.

In contrast to daytime temperatures, at night the temperature can plummet dramatically – especially during the rainy season. In the wild, civets use vegetation for warmth. In captivity, the civets are not given any bedding to keep them warm. These large fluctuations in temperature experienced by the civets sometimes lead to hypothermia and death.

In the past, civets were usually kept in a purpose-built housing, situated away from the farmers residence. WSPA was informed that on many occasions, when feeding the civets, farmers would find that there had been an invasion by 'army'

WSPA/Mike Pugh



The exterior of a typical Ethiopian civet farm

A fire is kept burning all day to maintain high temperatures, resulting in an atmosphere thick with smoke



ants. These ants attack any living creature in their path. In their thousands, they enter the ears and nose of their victim, which will eventually die of suffocation. Ants have been known to kill a tethered cow. Civets, trapped inside their cages, have no means of escape from an ant invasion and will subsequently die.

One farmer explained that in the past, he has also lost civets to attacks by snakes and rats. Therefore, farmers now keep civets near their own residence to enable frequent checks.



WSPA/Mike Pugh

A closer view of a civet cage reveals a cramped, wet interior

Cages

Each civet is caged separately, the cages being placed side by side on wooden beams, a metre or so off the ground.

The maximum external measurements of each cage are 91 to 110cm long (3ft – 3ft 6”) x 30cm high (1ft) x 30 to 40cm wide (1ft – 1ft 3”). The internal measurements are less, especially when considering that the shape of the roof is arched and not square.

The cages are constructed of wooden sticks (3/4” diameter) tied together with locally-made twine. These sticks are placed horizontally (approximately 2.5 cm [1”] apart) to form the floor, roof and walls of the cage. Support is given by four arched sticks, one at each end and two spaced in the middle. One end of the cage is permanently closed off with sticks placed vertically and horizontally. The other end is temporarily blocked off with a wooden food container and sticks, inserted at various angles to fill the gaps. These sticks and the food container can be easily removed to facilitate the process of musk extraction.

The various gaps allow for ventilation, but they do not allow for the civet to be properly observed for signs of illness or injury. If the civet remains still, it is easy to be mistaken that the cage is empty.

The civet will spend the rest of its life inside this cage, never stepping outside it. In an area as small as 91cm long (3ft) by 30cm wide (1ft), it will have to exercise, feed, defecate and groom. It will spend the rest of its life standing, or laying, on soiled wooden sticks. Even musk extraction and cleaning takes place with the civet inside the cage.

The floor is not solid, but made from round sticks with uneven gaps in-between. Standing can be difficult, because of the fact that civets have non-retractable claws, unlike a domestic cat. In the wild, these claws are constantly being worn down and blunted with exercise, but in captivity the civet has no suitable surface to wear them down and the claws may grow long and sharp, causing discomfort.

When civets are initially caught from the wild, they are unable to turn around inside the cage until they have lost weight.

Hygiene

The civet’s cage is ‘cleaned’ by poking a stick through the top of the cage and scraping the faeces off the slatted wooden floor below. This is only carried out when the process of musk extraction takes place – every 9 to 15 days. Urine drains through the gaps. No other form of cleaning takes place; the cages are not washed

down with water, or cleaned with any sterile solution. Below the cages, the faeces can build up into layers several inches thick.

WSPA observed eight cages at a farm, seven of which contained civets. These were kept in a dark room some 13ft long x 6ft wide x 8ft high. When the door to the room was opened, smoke drifted out. As the WSPA representative moved around the room, swarms of flies took off from inside and around the cages. On closer examination, it was clear that the flies were breeding, as maggots could be seen moving around on the debris that lay under the cages. Maggots were also in evidence on spilled food around the food containers.

Swarms of flies flew around pieces of fly-blown meat that were protruding from a cauldron of lentil/meat soup. It appeared that this concoction was the civets food for the next few days. Thin beams of light penetrated through the external wall, but when the main door was closed, ventilation was insufficient to disperse the smoke in the air. Soot from the fire floated around in the smoky haze and landed on every surface. From this inspection, it was clear that hygiene was of little, or no importance to this farmer.

Feeding

In the last ten years, the cost of feeding civets has risen sharply. In Ethiopia, the price of eggs and meat has increased dramatically, putting them well beyond the reach of most farmers. In contrast, the amount paid to the civet farmers for their musk has actually fallen. The lower financial returns have forced many farmers out of business, while others are only able to continue with their activities by providing cheaper foods for their civets.

The best quality musk is produced when civets are given high protein food, such as meat and eggs. However, these food items are now too expensive for most farmers. Therefore a cold soup of maize, lentil or wheat has become the staple diet and is given to civets on a daily basis.

Under certain circumstances, butter, eggs or meat are given to the civets. It appears that all civets are given up to five eggs immediately after musk is extracted. If the civet starts to lose weight, or the amount of musk produced reduces, then farmers provide a little meat or butter. Enquiries reveal that once every week, farmers give the civets some protein-rich food.

Thus, most civets do not regularly receive enough food containing minerals, vitamins and protein and subsequently, the quality and quantity of musk declines. The farmers are aware of this fact, but simply cannot afford to buy the appropriate foods. The civets are fed in the early evening, with food dropped, or poured into a rectangular wooden bowl at the entrance to the cage.

When WSPA visited a civet farm one morning, the remnants of soup were observed in food bowls. At another farm visited one afternoon, the food containers were empty and dry, but in the small room, a cauldron was seen containing a cold cereal soup. At this farm, four eggs were dropped into the food container of one civet, immediately after WSPA had been shown the technique used for musk extraction.

A cauldron contains a soup of bones and maize for the civets





WSPA/Mike Pugh

Securing the back end of a civet for musk extraction. The part of the process can take several minutes and can result in injury



Musk extraction

Once every nine or ten days, the musk is extracted from the civets. This takes place in the early evening, prior to feeding. During the winter months, the civets produce less musk and extraction may be carried out every 15 days.

Each cage in turn is carried outside, where there is more light. One person squats down at the entrance to the cage, while another person removes some twine, sticks and the food container. When this container is removed, a hessian sack is quickly pushed over the entrance to prevent the civet from escaping. A third person slides

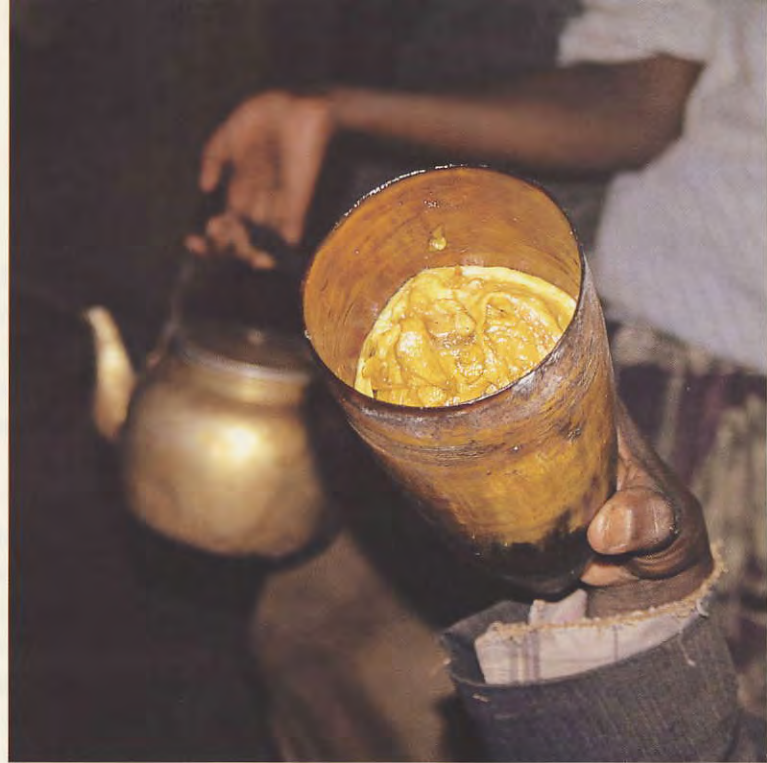
WSPA/Mike Pugh



a stick (approximately 120cm long (4ft) with 2 cm diameter) (3/4") or a thin iron rod, through one of the gaps at the top of the cage and uses it to trap the civet's neck against the side of the cage. This is done when the civet is facing away from the entrance. As soon as the civet is secured, the sack is lowered and the hind legs and tail are grasped. The stick securing the civet is then removed, as the rear end of the civet is partly pulled out of the cage.

The assistant then lifts the tail vertically into the air and may lock it between two protruding sticks of the roof of the cage.

Catching a civet for extraction, using a stick



Musk is collected with a spatula every 9 to 15 days

With the hind legs in the lowered position, the perineal gland is exposed. The gland is then opened up using thumb and index finger and squeezed gently until the musk exudes. A piece of cow horn shaped as a spatula, is then used to scoop away the musk.

WSPA observed the techniques used for musk extraction at two farms: At the first farm, the civet was trapped with the stick after a period of 20 seconds. As the civet moved around, the stick was prodded towards its neck from different positions until the neck was locked against the side of the cage. Once the rear legs and the

A raw wound is left untreated



WSPA/Mike Pugh

tail were grabbed, the civet lay still, but was panting heavily. At the second farm, it was not so easy to secure the civet, which was eventually trapped with the stick after a period of two minutes and 15 seconds. Once the rear legs and tail were secured, the civet lay still, panting heavily. Examination through the gap of the cage revealed a deep open wound on the side of the civet's neck. This wound was recent and raw.

There is little doubt that the procedure of pinning the neck prior to musk extraction must have been extremely painful for this civet. It is likely that the healing process will be hindered every time the neck is 'secured' for further musk extraction. As no treatment would be offered for this civet, it is possible that the wound will become infected, or fly blown, leading to the demise of the animal.

From observing the procedure of catching the civets at both farms, it was obvious that the amount of stress inflicted on the civet depends on the time taken to secure the animal. The time taken depends on the movement of the civet and the experience of the person trying to pin the neck.

Health

Because of the way the cages are constructed, it was extremely difficult to check the civets while in their cages. Despite this limitation, injuries were seen.

At one farm, when filming using a strobe light, it was possible to see the face of one of the civets that was trying to pace up and down in its cage. There was an abrasion behind its right eye that was approximately two cm long x one cm wide, although the skin was not broken.

WSPA requested information from the farmers about diseases and illnesses leading to the death of civets. The farmers said that they had observed the following symptoms in a number of animals: vomiting, diarrhoea, shivering, spasms, blood in the stools, coughing, sneezing, weight loss, loss of appetite, restlessness, collapse.

On interviewing an EWCO vet, WSPA was told that civets are prone to a wide number of diseases and parasites, which they are extremely vulnerable to when taken from the wild. The following are thought to be likely causes of death in civets:

- rabies
- canine distemper
- parvovirus
- leptospirosis
- hepatitis
- anthrax
- internal parasites, such as tapeworm

However, from the findings of this investigation, it is clear that no vaccinations or veterinary treatments are given to captive civets in Ethiopia.

Replacement of civets

A farmer was asked what happens to civets that become sick. His reply was that he could not afford any veterinary supplies, so he stops feeding the animals – to save money.

Another farmer, who was asked if he ever used a vet, laughed out loud at the suggestion, saying he did not have enough money to provide medical care for his own family, let alone for civets.

Captive breeding

WSPA interviewed a current exporter of musk who also used to farm civets – ATO GIRMA GUSTAVO. He said that he had tried to breed civets on three occasions:-

1. The male and female civets were accommodated in a small cage where they mated. Two kittens were born. The male remained in the cage and within 24 hours, he killed and ate both offspring.
2. At the second attempt, the male was removed from the cage prior to two kittens being born. The female was given extra vitamins. One kitten survived 13 days, the other 15 days, before the female killed and consumed them.
3. The third attempt ended in failure within 24 hours of two kittens being born, when the female ate and killed her offspring.

On all occasions, the box used to contain the female and young was very small. No extra meat was given to the female, no bedding was provided and no area for her to escape from the attentions of her offspring.

Mr Gustavo stated that he will try again at captive breeding, although he realised that offspring would have to be fed for a considerable amount of time before they start to produce musk.

The marketing and export of musk

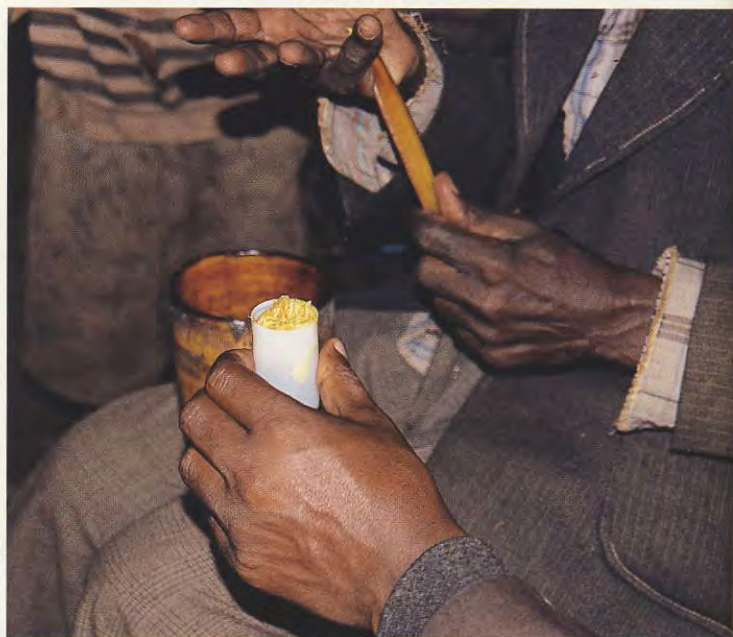
Over the course of two weeks, WSPA interviewed a number of civet farmers, exporters and 'middle men' (who buy musk from the farmers and then sell it at a higher price to the exporters).

Information was obtained about the trade in musk – its journey from the farms in Ethiopia to France, the people involved and the price/profit at each stage.

A male civet may produce between 1.0 and 4.5 grammes of civet musk a day – providing between 0.365 and 1.65 kg in one year. Quantity and quality of musk vary in relation to:

- sex of civet
- age of civet
- amount of time in captivity
- type/quantity of food given
- bodily condition
- level of stress
- living conditions
- if butter used as for soothing.

WSPA/Mike Pugh



Exporters taste musk to estimate its quality

Musk is graded – depending on quality:

- Grade 1: Contains 50% and above of pure musk – can be sold
- Grade 2: Contains 40% and above of pure musk – can be sold
- Grade 3: Contains under 40% of pure musk – cannot be sold

Grading can be undertaken at the Pasteur Institute in Addis Ababa, but two exporters told WSPA that they estimate the quality by tasting the musk.

civet musk is sold by the farmers either directly to exporters in Addis Ababa, or to middle men, who visit their farms and buy musk in quantities of 1kg and above. They are usually paid between 1,000 and 1,700 birr (\$141 and \$241) per kg. However, some of the older farmers receive a far less amount of money; one farmer is paid between 500 and 600 birr (\$70.9 – \$85.1) per kilo.

The middle man sells the musk on to the exporters based in Addis Ababa at between 1,500 and 2,200 birr (\$202 – \$312) per kg.

The farmers complained that in the past, they were given money as soon as the musk was given to the exporters, but nowadays the exporters take the musk away and do not pay the farmers for up to four months.

During the course of an interview with the leading exporter, WSPA was told that the reason for the delay in payment to the farmers is that the exporters store the musk until they have a sufficient quantity to export. Only then do they grade the musk and so pay the farmers accordingly.

The exporter sells the musk in quantities of 5kg or more to his contacts overseas. He can receive between 3,102 to 3,243 birr (\$440 – \$460) per kg.

Civet facts

According to the EWCO, approximately 1,000kg of musk are exported from Ethiopia each year, of which 97% is purchased by France. Between 1985 and 1996, 13,678.78 kg of civet musk was exported from Ethiopia.

Small quantities of musk are exported to Germany and Japan.

Theoretically, if all this musk had been used in the perfume industry, it would have helped to produce 118.367 million 30ml bottles with an income of \$6,391 million

In 1986, the value paid to the Ethiopian exporters was 3,877 birr (\$550) per kg. Therefore, 12 years later, the price paid by France has actually decreased by 20%.

WSPA found that there are only five main exporters of civet musk in Ethiopia. Because Ethiopia is the only country actively exporting civet musk, these exporters could have formed a cartel and named their price for musk. Instead, the price has actually dropped. The leading exporter – MR THEWODROS, was asked the reason. He explained that competition is fierce, because buyers from France contact each exporter, to find the lowest price. Therefore, exporters will undercut each other to secure a deal.

The exporter is paid cost including freight (CIF). The musk is shipped in 5kg aluminium containers, by Ethiopian Airlines or Lufthansa. In France the musk is purchased by 'broker houses', who sell the civetone fixative to the perfume and cosmetic industry and to perfume component manufactures. According to the ISPA report of 1973, and stated by an exporter, 1kg of musk is sufficient to produce 3,000 litres of good quality perfume. This is typically sold as 10,000 bottles of perfume, each containing 30ml.

In 1998, a popular French perfume is sold at \$54 for a 30ml (1fl oz.) bottle. Thus, 10,000 bottles have a value of \$540,000. These prices can vary, depending on the world market demand.

The use of civet musk in the perfume industry

Despite documentation of the cruelty involved in the farming of African civets, perfume manufacturers continue to use civet musk derived from these animals. The concerns expressed in this report over the production of this ingredient were voiced to the British (BFA) and International (IFRA) Fragrance Associations. Their responses indicate a general move away from natural musk towards artificial alternatives, but also a lack of understanding of the behavioural needs of the captive African civet.

Statement from the IFRA:

“In the case of natural civet, it is our understanding that familial farms now represent the largest source of this ingredient. In most cases, these farms are owned and operated by impoverished families, who rely on civet for a significant part of their family income. They have every reason to look after the animals and treat them well since they are producing a valuable product for their keepers. In fact, the majority are well-fed and tended for the benefit of both animal and keeper.

We also assure you that the industry we represent has long been committed to developing alternative materials to replace animal-derived ingredients in fragrance products, particularly to the extent that animal survival or welfare could have been concerned. As a consequence, you may be interested to learn that over a 20 year period, the use of animal-derived civet has decreased by more than 50 per cent.”

Statement from the BFA:

“...synthetic animal notes have almost entirely replaced materials of animal origin; this is particularly true for the most widely used “animal” odour, musk.

Some products, which have been on the market for a very long time, may still contain small amounts of animal ingredients. However, most products have been, or are being, reformulated in order to replace animal derived ingredients, and it is very unlikely for new products containing such compounds to be placed on the market.

The industry in general, strongly encouraged by the British Fragrance Association, is actively replacing animal derived ingredients in perfumes with synthetic materials, for the reasons of concern over animal welfare as well as quality and cost.”

The development of synthetic musks presents another set of welfare problems that need to be addressed, both by consumers and fragrance houses. Like many other ingredients in cosmetics, artificial musks may have been tested on laboratory

animals, and civet-free perfumes do not guarantee cruelty-free products. A report by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection indicates that recent tests to determine toxicity levels of synthetic musks involved force-feeding animals with large doses of chemicals.

WSPA's investigation in 1997 showed that 97 per cent of civet musk collected in Ethiopia is exported to France. Small quantities were said to be sold to Germany and Japan. (The study undertaken by WSPA in 1973 – then known as ISPA – revealed that at that time approximately 65 per cent of all civet musk went to France, 30 per cent went to the United States and smaller quantities were exported to Germany and the UK.) Agents in Ethiopia confirmed the details of several importers in France who bought civet musk.

The perfume industry is by nature very secretive about the ingredients it uses, and many fragrance houses are reluctant to reveal whether civet is a component of their brands. In an informal telephone survey of 32 fragrance houses, four admitted to using natural civet, while a further eight were unable to confirm. Many companies were reluctant to respond to the inquiry, and some of the information provided was contradictory. These findings reinforce how controversial the use of civet is for the perfume industry, and how the cruelty implications mean the truth is often obscured.

Recommendations

This investigation by WSPA has highlighted the fact that since the 1973 ISPA report and its recommendations were published, no progress has been made to improve the welfare standards for civets kept on farms in Ethiopia. Over the past 25 years, the price of food items has sharply increased, yet the price paid for civet musk has actually fallen in Ethiopia. With these financial constraints, many farmers have been forced to cut back on essential care for their civets, thus making standards decline even further.

This report underlines the ongoing abuse of civets in Ethiopia to provide musk for the perfume industry. This exploitation is totally unacceptable, and appropriate pressure should be applied to ensure that the deplorable conditions for animals on farms in Ethiopia can be brought to an end. The findings of WSPA's staff in Ethiopia suggest that reform of the existing civet farm industry is unrealistic.

WSPA therefore strongly urges the fragrance industry not to use natural civet musk, as well as any synthetic musks that have been developed through painful animal experimentation.

WSPA urges consumers not to buy products containing natural civet musk and to write to fragrance manufactures to determine their policy on the use of animal ingredients and animal testing. Consumers seeking to buy perfumes or cosmetics that are guaranteed to be 'cruelty free' should contact the European Coalition Against Cosmetic Testing which can supply a list of approved products.

Appendix 1

Revenue generated from export of civet musk during the first 6 months of Ethiopian fiscal year 1990 (Gregorian date 1998)

No.	Date	Exporter's Name	Amount of musk (kg)	EWCO's Export fee (birr)	Exporter's income (\$)
1	8/11/96	Ato Ali Kalib	30	2190	15,000
2	8/11/96	Haji Sharif yusuf	30	2190	15,000
3	8/12/96	Ato Ali kalib	0.5	36.5	250
4	8/12/96	Ato Ali kalib	10	730	5,000
5	10/12/96	Ato Girma Gustavo	30	2190	15,000
6	6/01/97	Ato Ali kalib	10	730	5,000
7	7/02/97	Feruth	50	31,650	25,000
8	16/03/97	Haji Sharif yusuf	10	730	5,000
9	11/04/97	Ato Girma Gustavo	60	4,380	30,000
10	22/05/97	Feruth	10	1,460	10,000
11	26/05/97	Haji Sharif yusuf	22	1,606	11,000
12	8/07/97	Ato Abdi Ahemed	30	2,190	15,000
13	8/07/97	Ato Girma Gustavo	30	2,190	15,000
14	30/07/97	Ato Ali kalib	10	730	5,000
15	12/09/97	Ato Girma Gustavo	5	365	2,500
16	22/09/97	Feruth	30	2,190	15,000
17	19/10/97	Ato Girma Gustavo	30	2,190	15,000
18	19/10/97	Ato Ali kalib	30	2,190	15,000
TOTAL			437.5	31,937.5	218,750

Revenue generated from export of civet musk during Ethiopian fiscal year 1989 (Gregorian date 1997)

No.	Date	Exporter's Name	Amount of musk (kg)	EWCO's Export fee (birr)	Exporter's income (\$)
1	11/11/97	Haji sherif yusuf	20	1,460	10,000
2	14/11/97	Ato ali kalib	30	2,190	15,000
3	23/11/97	Haji sherif yusuf	15	1,095	7,500
4	23/11/97	Ato abdi Ahemed	40	2,920	20,000
5	24/11/97	Feruth	50	3,650	25,000
6	25/11/97	Ato Ali kalib	20	1,460	10,000
7	10/12/97	Ato Girma Gustavo	30	2,190	15,000
8	26/01/98	Haji sherif yusuf	20	1,460	10,000
9	2/03/98	Ato Ali kalib	20	1,460	10,000
10	4/03/98	Haji Sharif yusuf	22	1,606	11,000
11	4/03/98	Ato Abdi Ahemed	40	2,920	20,000
12	12/03/98	Ato Abdi Ahemed	20	1,460	10,000
13	15/03/98	Feruth	30	2,190	15,000
14	4/05/98	Feruth	115	8,395	25,500
TOTAL			472	34,456	236,000

Civet Cat Farms

Proprietor:

HAJI SHEMSU AHMED

Tel/fax:

Address:

ILUABABORA
ZONE

-

Location:

OREMIYA REGION
SOUTH WEST ETHIOPIA

How long been open:

LICENSED
15 YEARSKEEPING OF CIVETS
IS A FAMILY TRADITION

Visitors (government, NGO's, vets, perfume industry):

1996 - ETHIOPIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORGANISATION.

Civet Cats

Males:

7

Females:

-

Ages:

BETWEEN 3 + 15 YEARS APPROXIMATELY

How long in captivity:

FROM 2 YEARS OLD UNTIL DEATH

OLDEST ONE KEPT FOR
15 YEARS

WSPA FILMED A CIVET HELD CAPTIVE FOR 6 YEARS.

Caught / bred:

C

Caught where:

LOCAL FOREST

Any breeding:

No. females:

Frequency:

Health:

VARIES

Bodily condition:

UNDERWEIGHT

Signs of illness / injury:

Desc. SORE BEHIND EYE - RIGHT

Quarantine:

Health checks:

NONE

2 WEEKS

Claws:

?

Treatments (vaccinations, flea spray, deworming):

NONE

Vet used:

Details:

-

Musk Production

Method / tools used:

HORN SPOON + HORN CONTAINER

Musk produced at what age range:

2 YEARS to DEATH

Quantity collected:

males $\frac{1}{2}$ kg / yr

females

-

Frequency of collection:

10 DAYS

Old civets:

Euthanased:

Released:

Details:

NEITHER - FOOD WITHHELD UNTIL DEATH

What can be done to increase production of musk:

JP

BETTER FEEDING - HIGHER PRICE PAID FOR CIVET MUSK - MORE CIVETS WANTED

Is butter used as a stimulant:

Details: INSERTED INTO GLAND AFTER MUSK EXTRACTED TO SOOTHE THE AREA

Husbandry

Diet: MAIZE OR LENTIL SOUP - SOMETIMES BUTTER, EGGS + MEAT

Frequency of food is given: DAILY AT 7 P.M.

Availability of food or water: FOOD ONLY NO WATER PROVIDED

Accommodation

Building (dimensions, roof, walls, floor): 13 FT LONG X 6 FT WIDE X 8 FT HIGH

Lighting: Temperature: WARM HIGHER THAN OUTSIDE Ventilation: SMOKEY ATMOSPHERE

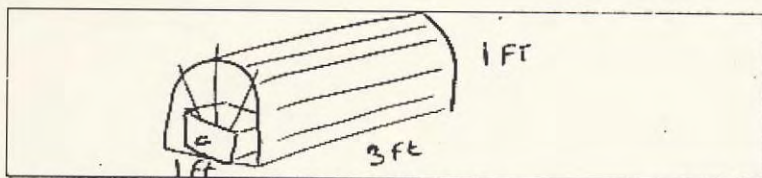
Cages

Dimensions: 3 FT X 1 FT X 1 FT Made of WOODEN STICKS + TWINE

Door design: FOOD BOWL + STICKS BLOCK ENTRANCE Ventilation:

Cleaning (method, frequency): ONCE EVERY 10 DAYS Faeces:

Overall plan:



Musk

Containers: COW'S HORN Frequency of export: MUSK SOLD TO EXPORTER

How much in one year: 5 kg

Exporter: ① THE WOODS NOTE: LARGEST EXPORTER
② FERUTH PLC
SHERRIF YUSUF TRADING CO LTD

Exported to which countries: FRANCE

Airlines used: BY EXPORTER
ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES
LUFTWANSA

Buyers: SHALABAL, SOUTHERN FRANCE
HASSLER, PARIS
SOVPEX, MARSEILLES

Selling price: TO EXPORTER
\$ 70 TO \$ 85 per KG
500 TO 600 BIRR

WSPA (pronounced wis-pa) works in cooperation with over three hundred member organisations in 70 countries to promote animal welfare and conservation. Registered UK Charity 282908

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