

Task 36

You are going to read the first part of a newspaper article about giraffes. Some parts of the text are missing. Choose the best part from the list (A-K) for each gap (1-9) in the article. There is one extra part that you do not need to use. Write your answers in the boxes after the text. There is one example at the beginning (0).

Four London Zoo giraffes under death sentence

THE FOUR giraffes at London Zoo will be killed at Christmas if the Zoo closes in September and nobody offers to take them.

They are Hilary, the male, and Dawn, Crackers and Virginia, the three females. They are all old - the youngest is 10, (0) _____. They range from 13ft to 18ft tall.

The giraffes are the biggest problem for keepers (1) _____ and, so far, no one has come forward. If they do, transporting the four from Regent's Park would be possible, (2) _____.

Circuses and safari parks move giraffes routinely - (3) _____. The stress on animals used only to life in a zoo might be too great for them to survive.

It is best to transport giraffes at less than 18 months old, (4) _____. Adult giraffes are much taller, wobbly and prone to stress (5) _____. Victor, the 15-year old giraffe who did the splits when he slipped and fell at Marwell Zoo in 1977 died of stress.

Giraffes are naturally nervous. The keepers biggest worry would be (6) _____. Victor's ordeal brought home

the difficulties giraffes have in standing up once grounded.

Giraffes are not terribly bright, said Doug Richardson, collection manager at the zoo and chairman of the recently formed London Zoo Survival Group. They start flailing about and can damage their legs or necks easily. If they go down inside a box, (7) _____. Having spent the last 15 to 20 years in the same location, the stress will be that much greater.

I have seen one go down with a heart attack when it had an abscess lanced.

The animals could be sedated, (8) _____ - the weight of their bodies would soon crush their lungs. The keepers would also want the animals kept alert enough (9) _____.

Giraffes sleep in a half squat with their heads to one side... Nobody has tried hypnotising one yet, Mr Richardson said.

The Independent

- A it can be next to impossible to get them back up again
- B but these are seasoned travellers
- C if their environment changes suddenly
- D but that would risk suffocation
- E but fraught with difficulties
- F but giraffes breed well in captivity
- G when they are around 8ft or 9ft
- H that the animals might panic and fall
- I seeking new homes for their animals
- J to balance themselves
- K the eldest, Virginia, named after Virginia Wade, the tennis player, is 23