

Cookies on the BBC website

We use cookies to ensure that we give you the best experience on our website. We also use cookies to ensure we show you advertising that is relevant to you. If you continue without changing your settings, we'll assume that you are happy to receive all cookies on the BBC website. However, if you would like to, you can [change your cookie settings](#) at any time.

✓ Continue
ⓘ Find out more

BBC

News

Sport

Weather

Capital

Future

Shop

TV

Radio

More...

Search



NEWS LONDON

Home **UK** Africa Asia Europe Latin America Mid-East US & Canada Business Health Sci/Environment Tech Entertainment Video

England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales UK Politics Education

4 February 2014 Last updated at 15:05 GMT

896 Share



Twelve of the iguanas had survived the journey wrapped in the socks

Thirteen "incredibly rare" iguanas that had been stuffed into socks by smugglers have been seized by a customs team at Heathrow Airport.

The **endangered lizards** were found in a suitcase at Terminal Five on Monday when officers stopped two Romanian women who had arrived from the Bahamas.

They were due to take the San Salvador rock iguanas on to Dusseldorf, Germany, border officials said.

Each was wrapped in a sock and 12 had survived the journey.

The two women, aged 24 and 26, were arrested on suspicion of importation offences.



The iguanas were destined for Dusseldorf, according to officials

Grant Miller, from the Border Force's endangered species team, said: "This particular species of iguana is incredibly rare - only a few hundred are believed to be left in existence - so this was a remarkable and very important seizure.

13

TUBE STRIKE LATEST

- Tube strike: Millions disrupted
- Commuters: 'Smiling and bearing' the strike
- Listen live: BBC London 94.9 travel

13:51: David Cameron said he "**unreservedly**" **condemned the Tube strike** affecting London's Underground network on today and tomorrow, and he called on the Labour leader to do the same.

The prime minister was answering Conservative MP Sir Richard Ottaway, who said the action was "nothing short of economic vandalism" by the unions.

✉ **13:40:** Zoe emailed locallive@bbc.co.uk about her commute from Wanstead to Richmond this morning.

"Usually takes me 1.5 hours," she said. "Today I left at 6:45 and arrived there at 10:30...getting home and tomorrow are going to kill me, or I'll kill someone, we'll see..."

13:39: "We're the only strike for the rest of the UK"

Live from 08:00 to 18:00 every day

Get in touch

Tweet [@BBCLondonNews](https://twitter.com/BBCLondonNews)
Find us on Facebook
Email locallive@bbc.co.uk
Give us feedback on this service

13



UK storms wash away railway line

Gas explosion: Ten hurt in blast

Millions hit by Tube strike chaos

UN: Vatican must remove child abusers

Miliband claims PM 'failing women' **NEW**

13



Obscure treasures

The dodo skeleton and other strange objects



Cow v camel

Would you drink coffee made with camel milk?



Brilliant Bill

What Microsoft's co-founder can still teach the firm



'Dim sum playgrounds'

Are Chinatowns doomed to slowly

"Given the circumstances we found them in it seems incredible that all but one survived such a long flight."

He said the animals - which were dehydrated - are under the supervision of a specialist vet.

He added: "We are working with experts to find the best way to protect and safeguard these endangered creatures longer term."



Related Stories

- Exotic reptile seizures revealed 24 MARCH 2010, UK
- Man arrested over owls in freezer 10 OCTOBER 2013, ESSEX

From other news sites

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Yorkshire Post
Rare iguanas rescued by customs officers
17 hrs ago</p> | <p>Huffington Post UK
Rare Iguanas Seized At Heathrow
17 hrs ago</p> |
| <p>Mail Online UK
Iguanas stuffed into socks by smugglers seized at Heathrow
18 hrs ago</p> | <p>Metro.co.uk
Rare iguanas stuffed in socks seized at Heathrow Airport
20 hrs ago</p> |
| <p>Evesham Journal
Police seize rare iguanas in socks
21 hrs ago</p> | |

[About these results](#)

Related Internet links

[Border Force](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external Internet sites



896 [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [p](#)



Millions hit by Tube strike chaos

Tube passengers experience travel chaos as London Underground workers walk out over Transport for London proposals to cut jobs and shut ticket offices.

[Man jailed for Queen portrait attack](#)

[Prince to charge \\$10 for live shows](#)

T

[Latest road incidents, public transport information and live traffic jam cameras near you.](#)

Weather

London
 10 °C
6 °C

ht

RUN BY THE BBC AND PARTNERS



THU 6 FEB
Animal Magic
V&A Museum of Childhood



THU 6 FEB
Rollerskating
Rolladome Allskate

[See London Activities >](#)

Find activities near you

Town, city, postcode

LIVE BBC London 94.9

[Local Radio sport commentaries](#)



die out?



[Shared](#) [Read](#) [Video/Audio](#)

- [Thousands without power as storm hits](#) 1
- [Parting kiss 'traps Paris robber'](#) 2
- [Google and EU near anti-trust deal](#) 3
- [Michael Schumacher: Coma challenges](#) 4
- [UN lambasts Vatican over child abuse](#) 5
- [Police probe 'Tesco horse dare'](#) 6
- [Four arrested 'over Hoffman death'](#) 7
- [Millions hit by Tube strike chaos](#) 8
- ['Japanese Beethoven' admits fraud](#) 9
- [Talks break down in Panama Canal row](#) 10



Fast in France

BBC Autos takes a look at the competition cars expected to fly out of the auction rooms in Paris



Click

New York artist Adam Harvey explains why he invented an anti-paparazzi device

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE BY HUAWEI

What it takes... [Build a smart city](#)

ADS BY GOOGLE

British Expat in Germany?

Get Your Pension Out of the UK & Avoid Losing 55%. Free Expat Guide. www.forthcapital.com/QROPS



Mobile



Connected TV



News feeds



Alerts



E-mail news



Master without Bachelor

British Online Master for managers upgrade your career today !
www.college.ch

British Expat In Germany?

£100k+ In UK Pensions? Download A Free Guide To QROPS & Expert Advice
your.qropschoices.com/HMRC-listed

Editors' blog
BBC College of Journalism
News sources
Media Action
Editorial Guidelines



Mobile site
Advertise With Us
Ad Choices

Terms of Use
Privacy
Cookies

About the BBC
Accessibility Help
Contact the BBC
Parental Guidance

BBC © 2014 The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. [Read more.](#)