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12 Seals Die En Route to Dolphinarium

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Twelve fur seals bound for a dolphinarium in the Far East were discovered dead upon arrival at an airport in Vladivostok, Interfax reported Tuesday.

Twenty seals in all were flown from Sakhalin's capital, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, to Vladivostok, where they were expected to be shipped to a dolphinarium in the town of Nakhodka.

But upon their arrival, it was discovered that only eight had survived the trip.

The cause of the seals' death is unknown, a spokesman for shipping company Aerogruz said, adding that an investigation was under way.

Primorye region investigators are checking conditions within the shipping containers that held the seals, said Kristina Ilinskaya, a spokeswoman for the transportation police.

Veterinarians who examined the animals did not find any infectious diseases and approved further tests, Ilinskaya said.

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