
Transfer Procedures

by Jennifer Bragg
printed in March, 2003

So you're thinking of transfer as a reason for your persona's arrival at Kadanzer? There is a lot to be done and more to know when it comes to a dragonrider transferring to/from a Weyr. Just like with Search as a candidate, there is paperwork and decisions to be made. What is the reason for the transfer? What job will the dragonrider be doing and where will she be placed? This article will go into the details that arise from a transfer. So let's begin!

The Reason:

When there is a transfer involved, there has to be a reason. Why is it that the dragonrider is leaving one Weyr, which has been his home for many Turns and which needs the personnel, to go to another? The majority of the time, graduating weyrlings from the Weyrling Wing are enough to keep a Weyr at a proper level of fighters and personnel. However, transfers still happen and there are many reasons for this. At Kadanzer Weyr, most transfers happened after the poisoning of 2850. The Weyr had lost many dragonriders to the tragedy and sent requests out to other Weyrs for help. Here are some other reasons for transfer:

- ★ Personal reasons on behalf of the dragonrider. Most of the time, this reason will not result in transfer but if a Weyr has more than enough riders or the reason is explained, the transfer might take place. Yet, this is rare and done on a case-by-case basis. For story purposes, this reason would have to be approved before the writing process began. An example of this might be, the rider misses her family and cannot acclimate to her new Weyr and returns to Kadanzer; a rider is heartbroken due to a serious breakup or death of a loved one and requests transfer.
- ★ A position of leadership (weyrlingstaff, wingleader etc.) is in need of filling and the current dragonriders present are not qualified. In this case a request can be made to other Weyrs for a transfer. The Weyr in need would still need to keep looking among their ranks for a replacement, but if another Weyr happens to have a person who would fill the position, they can decide to transfer the rider.
- ★ A clash of personalities can result in a dragonrider transferring to another Weyr. Weyrs may also transfer problem dragonriders or other personnel to other Weyrs.

Other reasons may appear beyond these and most ideas would need approval, which is usually taken care of during the persona creation process. If a writer has an idea they would like to suggest, they may send it to the Kadanzer Advisory Council or the Story Approval Team (SAT) for review.

The Paperwork:

Just as with Search procedures, transfers have to be approved, in this case by both affected Weyrs. Depending on the severity of the reason, other personnel like Flightleaders, Wingleaders or the Weyrlingmaster might have to be consulted before a transfer can take place. Depending on the reason for the transfer, a request is sent to other Weyrs or brought to the Weyrwoman for review. For the sake of simplicity, let us assume a specific situation. Weyrwoman Valenne is in need of a new Wingleader due to the death of the previous Wingleader to heavy Threadfall. She has already scouted Kadanzer Weyr for a replacement but no bronzeriders are available or fit the qualifications needed for the position. She then sends out a request for help to all the Weyrs. Weyrwoman Valenne might even personally meet with every Weyrwoman if the need is great enough.

The Weyrwomen at the other Weyrs will receive the message, read it over, and consult other ranking members if they decide to help. A decision to help might be declined for many reasons one of which would be not enough dragonriders to spare for transfer. In the event that a Weyr does decide to help, the Weyrwoman of that Weyr will start looking for transferees. So, if Weyrwoman Hana of High Reaches decides to help, she'll inform her Wingleaders of the request and ask for a list of possible transfers. They will send reports to Weyrwoman Hana, letting her know of available dragonriders who fit the request. Once a list is made, either one of two things will happen. The Weyrwoman will decide based on her own knowledge of the riders involved, or a meeting of the Wingleaders and the Weyrleader will be made. A discussion of the abilities of the dragonriders in question will take place, with a meeting that could last a couple hours. At this stage the leaders might decide not to get involved with the problems of Kadanzer Weyr and decline to help. Differing opinions may be one reason for the decision, or a Wingleader or the Weyrleader decides that the Weyr cannot afford to transfer any of their dragonriders out to Kadanzer. In this case, the process of transfer would end at High Reaches Weyr with a message to Kadanzer Weyr letting them know they cannot help.

If High Reaches Weyr does decide to help, the meeting will finish with a list of transferable dragonriders. With a list of transferable dragonriders, the Weyrleader or the Weyrwoman would then go down the list to find a rider who will accept the transfer. If the reason for transfer were more

dire, like Kadanzer's poisoning in 2850, the dragonriders up for transfer would have to have a serious reason (say sickness or injury) to be able to decline the order to transfer. Once they receive a rider who accepts they send word to Kadanzer of their applicant. This message to Weyrwoman Valenne would contain the information on the dragonrider and when he would be available for transfer. The information would include a brief summary of the dragonrider's skills and his personality. Weyrwoman Valenne would consult the list and the other lists from other Weys as well as talk with staff that might know the transfer applicants. Kadanzer's Weyrwoman would then send a condensed list to the Weyrleader for review. Once the Weyrwoman and Weyrleader agree on who to accept, a message would be sent to the Weyr whose dragonrider was accepted to coordinate a time and date of transfer. A message of rejection is also sent out to the transfer applicants from the other Weys. This procedure may take a couple sevendays to do.

Arrival:

Preparation:

Once the decision has been reached, the dragonrider then makes ready for his transfer. If a dragonrider has any belongings he packs them up, and anything left, like furniture, is either given to the Headwoman and her staff or left in the weycot to be reused. The dragonrider will want to meet with family and friends to say farewell. His Wing might give a small going away party or gather in the Weyrhall for food and drinks. If the rider's dragon is in need of feeding, it is done before travel at the current Weyr's hunting areas. To make a good impression at the new Weyr, a dragonrider would also give their lifemate a good wash and oiling. Riding gear would be carefully inspected, oiled and cleaned (which is a normal routine even if he wasn't transferring).

A transfer from a Weyr to another is a huge life change for a dragonrider. This move is rarely done lightly, remember on Pern travel is on par with how it was done in the medieval times. Which is to say rarely done and only for very important reasons. Dragonriders have usually only moved one other time in their whole lives, that trip being from their home cot or hold to the Weyr. Once there, they make friends with the other candidates they meet and then their classmates and wingmates. This bond is a close one and is hard to break. To transfer to another Weyr is stressful and most dragonriders would rather not do it, opting to stay with those they love and know. When a dragonrider does transfer, which is necessary at times and can happen quite often, his or her life is turned upside down. They disrupt their old Wing's routines, and their new Wing's routines as well.

There are those riders who are different and seem to have an easier time changing Weys. They might just be used to

travel, in the case of a dragonrider with a holdless background. Sometimes the reason for transfer is not so much about need as want, as in the failure of a relationship or feelings of being held back from gaining a more prominent position in Wing or Weyr. Though the change of Weyr may be less stressful for these few, it is still a change that affects many.

Above all of this is the fact that they have to get up, within the next couple sevendays, and fight Thread with people they aren't used to flying with and are strangers with. If you have ever been the new kid in school, think of it like that but with the weight of Threadfall on top of it!

Arrival Procedure:

On the day of transfer the dragonrider arrives at Kadanzer Weyr at the appointed time. The time decided on will be a time during the day in both time zones. The day of transfer would take place on a day without Threadfall for Kadanzer Weyr so that the dragonrider has time to get used to their new Wing and how it works in time for the next Threadfall. No matter what rank the dragonrider has, a small meeting party will meet the new rider when they arrive. This meeting party will consist of the Weyrwoman or one of her junior goldriders, the Headsecond of the Wing Complex, the Wingleader and wingseconds of the rider's new Wing and depending on time and importance, the Weyrleader.

The rider will be welcomed to the Weyr, told what Wing he's assigned to and then the Headsecond will show the rider to his new weycot. Once the dragonrider is settled in, a goldrider or wingrider from the Wing would give the new dragonrider a tour of Kadanzer. This would help the rider familiarize himself with the important locations like the Weyrhall and Infirmary. Then the rider would meet with his new Wingleader and be given instructions for the next day. This may include drill routine, Threadfall schedule and being paired with another rider until he has learned the layout of the Weyr. The Wingleader would discuss rules and regulations at Kadanzer and add any specific rules dealing with his Wing.

Transferring to a new Weyr is a long process. That is why the business of transfer is given great thought and consideration. Keeping a Weyr in top fighting condition is vital to the safety of Pern. If you've been thinking of transfer as an option, you now have the information to make it possible. Let us hope that it works out well and you find your place in Kadanzer's skies!