



Inspection Report

BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOO

Customer ID: **11495**

Certificate: **14-C-0131**

Site: 001

BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOO

425 HAWTHORN ST

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740

Date: 07 January 2014

2.131 (b)(1) DIRECT NCI

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

1. On 1/2/14 two zookeepers failed to padlock the access door in the heated elephant barn that leads to the outdoor exhibit space when the exhibit was closed at the end of the day. As a result, one of the facility's Asian elephants managed to open the access door sometime in the early morning hours of 1/3/14 during a snow storm when the outside temperatures were below freezing. The elephant went outside into the outdoor exhibit space and was discovered outside when zookeepers arrived for work on the morning of 1/3/14. Based on the time of the last check made by security and the time the zookeepers arrived, it is estimated that the elephant was outside for at most 90 minutes.

The elephant was immediately brought back into the heated barn and appropriate supportive measures and treatments were implemented under the direction of the Attending Veterinarian to address the potential effects of hypothermia and possible frostbite. At the time of the inspection, the margins of both of the elephant's ears show some sloughing of the superficial layer of the skin associated with some mild drainage of clear fluid, portions of both ears exhibit some swelling of the tissues, and there is also some mild edema of the caudal part of the ventral abdominal skin. The underlying tissues of both ears appear look healthy in appearance, the elephant's appetite continues to be good, and her vital signs are stable. The elephant is being monitored around the clock by facility personnel and the animal is receiving appropriate veterinary care as prescribed by and under the supervision of the Attending Veterinarian.

Per this Section of the Regulations, animals should be handled as expeditiously as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort to ensure the health and well-being of the animal. In this instance, the failure of zookeepers to lock the outside access door of the heated elephant barn resulted in the elephant being able to leave its heated barn and get outdoors and be exposed to sub-freezing temperatures that can cause adverse effects on the health of the animal.

In response to this incident and to prevent any future incidents, the facility took immediate corrective actions including but not limited to the implementation of additional checks made by management to ensure facility standard lockdown procedures are being followed, the addition of new security processes, re-training of

Prepared By:

PAULA GLADUE, V M D

PAULA S GLADUE, V M D USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title:

VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1054

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

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zookeepers on standard procedures, and the installation of a second locking mechanism on the outside access door of the elephant barn.

The facility is taking appropriate corrective measures to address this item.

NOTE - This was a focused inspection of the elephants and elephant barn. The incident documented in this inspection report was reported by the facility to the USDA. Exit interview held on-site with facility representatives.

END OF REPORT

Prepared By:

PAULA GLADUE, V M D

PAULA S GLADUE, V M D USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1054

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