Zoo and Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Emergency Preparedness

Chicago Zoological Society
Inspiring Conservation Leadership

Thomas Meehan DVM
Chris Anchor
Michael J. Kinsel DVM
AZA ACCREDITATION

- 230 zoos and aquariums
- Comprehensive Array of Standards
- AZA Safety Committee
- ICS model
- 2016 AZA Accreditation Standards
11.2  **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

- 11.2.4. All emergency procedures must be written and provided to staff and, where appropriate, to volunteers. Appropriate emergency procedures must be readily available for reference in the event of an actual emergency.

Explanation: An integrated emergency management and response system should combine zoo/aquarium personnel and appropriate local agencies in any incident management planning and response. An example is the US-based “Incident Command System” (ICS)...
11.2 Emergency Procedures

- 11.2.5. Live-action emergency drills must be conducted at least once annually for each of the four basic types of emergency (fire; weather/environment appropriate to the region; injury to staff or a visitor; animal escape)...

Explanation: Emergency drills determine if institution staff are aware of emergency procedures, and understand their respective duties and responsibilities...
11.2 Emergency Procedures

- 11.2.5. Live-action emergency drills must be conducted at least once annually for each of the four basic types of emergency.

Explanation: ...A drill is defined as a training exercise that physically re-creates an emergency situation and response outside the circumstances of an actual emergency...

These live-action drills may be supplemented (not replaced) with table-top drills or other emergency preparedness scenarios.
11.2 **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

- 11.2.6. The institution must have a communication system that can be quickly accessed in case of an emergency.

  Explanation: There should be immediate access to designated persons in case of an emergency via walkie/talkie, pager, mobile telephone, intercom, telephone, alarm, or other electronic devices.
Remember the Zoo!
A Call for Inclusion in Community Preparedness
• Currently headquartered at Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Silver Spring, MD
• 230 AZA member institutions
  – ‘Large’ facilities
  – ‘Small’ facilities
• Working to reach out to…

– Zoological Association of America
– Exotic Wildlife Association
– American Sanctuary Association
– Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries
…Emergency management staff in all jurisdictions have a fundamental responsibility to consider the needs of all members of the whole community….

…Staff must also consider those who own or have responsibility for animals both as members of the community who may be affected by incidents and as a potential means of supporting response efforts. This includes those with household pets, service and assistance animals, working dogs, and livestock, as well as those who have responsibility for wildlife, exotic animals, zoo animals, research animals, and animals housed in shelters, rescue organizations, breeding facilities, and sanctuaries….
• Source of preparedness materials
  – 2008: proposed rule change to the Animal Welfare Act (*currently in a stay*)
  – all licensed exhibitors should prepare written contingency plans
    • Compatible with NASAAEP planning guidelines
Roosevelt Park Zoo 2011

Photos courtesy of Minot Park District and Dr. Ann Olson
Calgary Zoo 2013 Bow River
Height=Life!
Belvidere zoo destroyed, but sees donations grow online
Animals Set Loose in Oklahoma After Tornado Hits Zoological Park

BY POLLY MOSENDZ 5/6/15 AT 11:17 PM
Zanesville 2011
Know your community!
Licensed Exhibitors

- 195 licensed exhibitors in Texas
Sanctuaries & Private Owners

Check with your county!
For updates on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and techniques on preparing your facility check here.

zahp.aza.org
What is Secure Zoo?

• It’s a Roadmap…“By the Industry; For the Industry”
  – Not regulatory, it’s voluntary
  – Preparedness, but HUGE recovery considerations!
• Companion to the Secure Egg, Milk, Beef projects
• SZ focus on FMD and other infectious diseases: but eventually all hazards
• The biggest challenge for our industry:
  – Our business model: How do we function in an outbreak when we have visitation as a core element?
Why Secure Zoo?

- **State vets are familiar with Secure platforms**
- Owners and managers learn to understand the ‘standardized language’
- Ultimately
  - Provide biosecurity audits to prevent disease
  - Guidance for business continuity and recovery
    - Lessons Learned: US HPAI, UK FMD
  - An “Exercise” to showcase Secure Zoo readiness
PURPOSE: This checklist enables state approved certified Secure Zoo Strategy auditors to evaluate zoological park premises to be permitted for continued visitation and operations (revenue and conservation) in the event of a major biosecurity threat from an outbreak of Foreign Animal Disease(s).

REQUIREMENTS: A pre-event audit of biosecurity measures for zoo and aquarium premises is based on the following:

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Evaluation: Check one option</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Present or Satisfactory</td>
<td>Could be improved</td>
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**Controlled Access - Zoo Guests**

- **HMD - Plan exists to limit access to specific areas and species**
  - e.g. close access to contact areas; keep susceptible animals off public walkways
- **HPAI/END - Plan exists to limit access to specific areas and species**
  - e.g. close walk-through aviaries; remove free-ranging birds
- **Signage for guests recently traveling out of country**
  - e.g. HMD outbreak in neighboring region
- **Measures are in place for "behind-the-scenes" tours access**
  - e.g. query travel history, hand-washing, eliminate high risk situations

**Facility Measures**

- **Perimeters - AZA fencing requirements**
  - Identify what wildlife and collection animals are able to traverse perimeter
- **Identify "Lines of Separation" and "Control Points" for entry/exit**
  - Identify for guests, employees, vendors
- **Identify zones within facility for which lines of separation can be created**
  - e.g. walk-through aviaries, petting zoo area, other animal contact areas
- **Identify and mitigate disease transmission risks due to facility design**
  - e.g. largely outdoor collection, behind-the-scenes tours, drive-through viewing

**Incoming/Outgoing Collection Animals**

- **Risk-based quarantine practices**
  - Consider regional disease risks, institution risks, sharing of animal records
- **Consider specific disease testing related to FAD issue**
  - Vaccine titers - consider DIVA HPAI vaccine
- **Assure tracking and traceback capabilities**
  - Generally handled well through ZIMS or equivalent
- **Animal transport protocols**
  - Decon of vehicles, route plan/audit, vehicle manifest

**Animal food**

- **Audit animal food source vendors for biosecurity**
  - Particularly important for non-commercial food sources e.g. crickets, rabbits as well as...
Secure Zoo Strategy is a component of the Zoo and Aquarium All Hazards Preparedness Response and Recovery Center (ZAHP Fusion Center). The Secure Zoo Strategy project has as its primary goal, the production of work products that will assist the Zoo Community address the recognized National Preparedness mission areas (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) for Foreign Animal Disease outbreaks. You can find these work products in the left sidebar or in the menu on mobile devices.