



## Inspection Report

Zoological Society Of Cincinnati  
3400 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45220

Customer ID: **2208**

Certificate: **31-C-0044**

Site: 001

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: 17-MAR-2016

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### 3.125(a) REPEAT

#### FACILITIES, GENERAL.

On Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at approximately 11:30am a keeper entered the Bearline service hallway and saw one of the two polar bears present in the keeper area. She was about midway down the hallway when she saw the female bear, about 30 feet away. It is unknown where the male bear was at this time. She then quietly backed away

and retreated up the hallway. She exited out of the hallway to the outside through one secondary containment/access door. Once outside, the keeper initiated the facility emergency response plan by calling "Code Houdini-Polar bear" to security. The shooting team and veterinary staff were notified by security. Guests were ushered indoors without incident.

In the Bearline service hallway where the polar bears were discovered, are stored many items related to the care of the bears and maintenance of the exhibit including, but not limited to: Feed, bedding, enrichment items, cleaners, trash, hoses, fans, electrical switches & wires, fire extinguisher, etc. Once the dangerous animal response team was assembled, the bears were darted while they were in the Bearline service hallway by the veterinary staff. Upon being darted, the bears exited back out of the hallway into the exhibit. The female bear required a second dart, as the first one did not fully discharge and detached. Once safely anesthetized, the bears were dened and examined. No abnormalities with the bears were noted on examination. They recovered uneventfully.

It was determined that two doors were left open by keeper error which allowed the bears to have access to the hallway. The first is a door between the outdoor exhibit and one of the dens. This door is opened and closed with a weighted manual guillotine system. Once closed, an orange metal slide is placed then padlocked. Then a switch in the hallway is flipped which also prevents this door from being raised. The second door is between the den and the hallway. To close and lock this door, it is pulled closed and two padlocks are applied and latched.

Though keepers are not allowed to work alone in the Bearline, they are not always within visual contact. One may

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Prepared By: KERRY MCHENRY, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:  
18-MAR-2016

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER 6024

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be

working in the black bear or spectacled bear area and one may be working in the polar bear area. The length of the

hallway is estimated to be 50 yards long or more, so some distance may separate the keepers as they work. The standard operating procedures for the Bearline states that all locks and doors are to be double checked before any bear is let out, which did not occur on the day of the incident. There does not appear to be a routine or formalized method for keepers to double check locks and doors.

Animals may be injured or harmed when they access areas that are not maintained for their daily use. Surprising the bears in the keeper area could have resulted in human injury or death. Though the bears remained within secondary containment, had the bears gained outside access, the public would have been at great risk for injury, harm or death. Housing facilities shall be structurally sound, and maintained to protect and contain the animals.

Correct by: Immediate

This was a focused inspection to investigate events related to polar bear containment only

An exit interview was conducted with the Director of Animal Collections and other facility personnel.

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## Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2208	31-C-0044	001	ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI	17-MAR-16

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Ursus maritimus</i>	POLAR BEAR
<b>000002</b>	<b>Total</b>	