



Inspection Report

City of North Platte
211 WEST 3RD ST. NORTH HWY 83
415
NORTH PLATTE, NE 69101

Customer ID: **5104**
Certificate: **47-C-0037**
Site: 001
City of North Platte

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 16-SEP-2021

2.40(b)(4) Critical

Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

Inadequate guidance had been given to personnel regarding different handling techniques to include distraction, shift gates, tranquilization, and euthanasia.

Issues became apparent during a deer handling incident that ended in the animal's death by gunshot. One issue was the lack of guidance to ensure that all animal personnel were aware of the location of the different animals and in what pastures. Both the seasonal employee and park superintendent indicated that they were unaware of the location and number of animals in the "big pen." Not identifying the location of all animals led to a preventable confrontation with the three-year old buck. Another issue was the improper handling by the park superintendent demonstrated by further wrestling with the already stressed deer instead of using alternative methods such as distractions, physical barriers, or the use of tranquilizers. The Program of Veterinary Care lists the word "gunshot," but does not give any guidance to the qualifications of the person(s) performing the gunshot, the type of weapon, caliber of bullet, or shot placement. Nor does it indicate the type of situation that would warrant death by gunshot.

The absence of guidance to personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, tranquilization, and euthanasia in this emergency put both the deer and the employee in unnecessary danger.

The licensee must ensure that appropriate guidance and instruction are developed and implemented with the attending

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veterinarian's input. This guidance must reference the handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, and tranquilization of animals present. Euthanasia guidance should also encompass communication with the attending veterinarian to ensure necropsy, tag removal, and carcass disposal guidelines are followed, if needed. This guidance and instruction are required for the prevention of injury and unnecessary death, and to provide adequate veterinary care.

* To be corrected by: 10/15/21

2.131(b)(1) Critical

Handling of animals.

Inappropriate handling of a three-year-old whitetail buck resulted in undue stress to the animal and ultimate death by gunshot.

In the early morning hours on September 8, 2021, a new seasonal employee on his first day by himself, drove through both the southeast perimeter and enclosure gates of the "big pen" as a short cut to the feed barn, as opposed to using the public paved road to access the feed barn. This "big pen" was occupied by a sexually intact three-year old whitetail buck "Johnny," a yearling buck, and a doe, all of them hand-raised orphans. The employee got out of his truck to open the north end gate, who said he was unaware of the location of "Johnny." When he got out of the truck, "Johnny" butted the employee, managing to gore him in the leg, resulting in an ongoing physical struggle with the employee trying to redirect the buck's antlers. Police were summoned by a park attendee, and police dispatch notified the park superintendent. Seeing the attack occurring upon his arrival, the park superintendent entered the pen on foot without any equipment. He physically grabbed the buck by the antlers, attempting to restrain the deer to allow the employee to get off the ground. The stressed deer reacted by struggling with and injuring the park superintendent. The employee re-entered the physical struggle by grabbing the buck's antlers and head, along with the superintendent. They were both struggling to hold onto the buck's antlers and head when the police officer arrived. The park superintendent then requested that the police officer

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shoot the deer to prevent further injury to themselves. The officer shot the deer in the "heart area," as there was no clear head shot due to the position of the men. Per the police report, the deer broke free, ran approximately fifteen yards, collapsed, and finally died.

Improper handling of the three-year-old whitetail buck "Johnny" resulted in undue behavioral stress, unnecessary discomfort, and the ultimate traumatic death of the animal without producing a rapid unconsciousness devoid of evidence of pain or distress.

The licensee must develop and implement protocols and safety measures with the attending veterinarian's input to handle all animals as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, unnecessary discomfort, or death.

* To be corrected: From this date forward (9/30/21)

3.132 Critical

Employees.

Adequately trained and sufficient numbers of caretakers are unavailable to maintain professionally acceptable levels of husbandry necessary for the animals.

At the time of inspection there was currently only one full time caretaker who appears to be adequately trained and knowledgeable in the care of the regulated species present at the zoo. Seasonal employees with minimal training are used for the only full-time caretaker's vacation or sick days, with the most recent trainee having only two weeks of training to include only two hands-on feeding experiences. Additionally, there are no known documented or established training methods to ensure employees receive consistent information regarding husbandry practices including, but not limited to: nutrition, feeding schedules, pasture movement, or animal behavior issues such as: rut season, sparring, aggression, heat cycling, gestation, birthing etc. that could impact the safety of the employees, animals, and the public. In addition, the

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current supervisor who is the park superintendent oversees all aspects of the park and has no specific animal care background or training.

Having a lack of adequately trained employees, and a supervisor (park superintendent) with no specific animal care background or training resulted in significant injuries to one employee, injuries to the park superintendent, and the undue stress and ultimate traumatic death of the three-year-old whitetail buck, "Johnny."

The licensee must ensure that there are enough adequately trained employees to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices set forth in this subpart for the species on site and supervised by someone who has a background in animal care. This is essential to protect the health and well-being of the animals, as well as the safety of the employees and the members of the public.

* To be corrected by: 10/15/21

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representative.

Additional Inspectors:

LYNN CLARKE, ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
5104	47-C-0037	001	City of North Platte	16-SEP-2021

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000003	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	SIKA DEER
000005	<i>Dama dama</i>	FALLOW DEER
000004	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	WHITE-TAILED DEER
000003	<i>Bison bison</i>	AMERICAN BISON
000002	<i>Lama glama</i>	LLAMA
000001	<i>Cervus elaphus canadensis</i>	ELK
000018	Total	