



Inspection Report

Birmingham Zoo
2630 Cahaba Road
Birmingham, AL 35223

Customer ID: **3036**
Certificate: **64-C-0222**
Site: 001
Birmingham Zoo Inc

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION
Date: 21-AUG-2025

2.131(b)(1) Critical

Handling of animals.

On February 19, 2025, Sarabi a 14 year old female Serval underwent a foreign body removal surgery to remove a piece of a Kong toy from her intestines. As noted in the medical report, the piece of rubber was about the size of a marble (~2.5 cm long x ~1.5 cm wide) was stuck just after the sphincter that connects the stomach to the small intestines. On February 21, 2025, the patient died from a focal full-thickness intestinal rupture with secondary peritonitis and sepsis as noted on the necropsy report.

Per the facility representative, prior to this incident Kongs were an approved enrichment device for the BZI ambassador animal collection, while under supervision. Sarabi had been given access to a Kong, unsupervised. Immediately after the incident occurred, Kong products and any other similar rubber devices had been removed from the approved enrichment list for the BZI ambassador animals. Each staff having access to these animals have been retrained on approved and not approved enrichment items.

Failure to supervise animals with enrichment items that can become intestinal foreign bodies is not handling the animals as expeditiously and carefully as possible and can cause illness and even death. Handling of all animals shall be done in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. Corrected prior to inspection.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Prepared By: BRITTANY KESSLER
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Date:
22-AUG-2025

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
22-AUG-2025



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
3036	64-C-0222	001	Birmingham Zoo Inc	21-AUG-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Tragelaphus eurycerus</i>	BONGO
000000	<i>Eupodotis gindiana</i>	BUFF-CRESTED BUSTARD
000000	<i>Lemur catta</i>	RING-TAILED LEMUR
000000	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>	SOUTHERN OPOSSUM
000000	<i>Marmota monax</i>	GROUNDHOG / WOODCHUCK
000000	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>	RAINBOW LORIKEET
000000	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO / GREATER SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO
000000	<i>Otidiphaps nobilis</i>	PHEASANT PIGEON
000000	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	GIRAFFE
000000	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>	DOMESTIC FERRET
000000	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	SERVAL
000000	<i>Felis nigripes</i>	BLACK-FOOTED CAT
000001	<i>Panthera leo</i>	LION
000003	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	AFRICAN ELEPHANT
000003	<i>Otocolobus manul</i>	PALLAS'S CAT
000002	<i>Canis latrans</i>	COYOTE
000001	<i>Felis margarita</i>	SAND CAT
000001	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>	HOFFMANN'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000001	<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>	RED PANDA
000002	<i>Equus quagga</i>	BURCHELL'S / GRANT'S / CHAPMAN'S / PLAINS ZEBRA
000002	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	DOMESTIC PIG / POTBELLY PIG / MICRO PIG
000001	<i>Cephalophus rufilatus</i>	RED-FLANKED DUIKER
000000	<i>Megascops asio</i>	EASTERN SCREECH-OWL
000019	Total	