



Inspection Report

City of El Paso
4001 E. Paisano Drive
El Paso, TX 79905

Customer ID: **3888**
Certificate: **74-C-0052**
Site: 001
City of El Paso

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 11-JAN-2023

3.101(a)(3)

Facilities, general.

The decking surrounding the Holding and Quarantine pools for one adult male sea lion ("LB") and one adult female sea lion ("Delilah") when they are off exhibit has multiple areas where the concrete coating is missing and the underlying concrete is eroded or broken, leaving a rough surface over which the sea lions must haul themselves to and from the pools.

Unsealed and/or broken concrete can cause injury to the sea lions and is difficult to clean because it is porous. The licensee must ensure that the sea lion enclosure floors are kept in good repair to help prevent animal injury and facilitate proper sanitation.

TO BE CORRECTED BY MARCH 31, 2023

3.106(a) Critical

Water quality.

Water quality monitoring records show that coliform counts for the main exhibit and holding pools, occupied by one adult male sea lion and one adult female sea lion, exceeded the maximum threshold for coliforms for many times over the last year due to failure of water life support equipment and components, necessitating the move of the two sea lions to adjacent holding areas with pools that do not meet minimum space requirements for the larger, male sea lion. The

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attending veterinarian needed to authorize these temporary holding measures to keep the animals out of the poor quality water for 1 or more days at a time for multiple instances of inappropriate water quality during the past year.

Poor water quality poses a threat to animal well-being and health, contributing to discomfort as well as eye, skin and respiratory illnesses. The facility must ensure the availability and effectiveness of equipment and protocols for maintenance of water quality within marine mammal enclosures. Sustained levels of high coliform counts and/or inappropriate levels of pH and chemical additives must be prevented to protect the health and well-being of the animals and eliminate the need to frequently relocate them to alternate areas that do not meet space requirements.

TO BE CORRECTED BY JANUARY 31, 2023

3.106(b)(3) **Critical** **Repeat**

Water quality.

Coliform testing for the water inside the sea lion exhibit, holding and quarantine pools was not performed at least once weekly. Water quality monitoring records show that coliform testing did not occur between 12/18/2022 and 12/27/2022. Failure to monitor coliforms, pH and other chemical additives as required can delay mitigation to prevent animal discomfort or illness resulting from poor water quality. The licensee must ensure that coliform testing is performed at least once weekly and that pH testing is performed at least once daily for all pools where marine mammals have access.

3.125(a) **Critical**

Facilities, general.

During March 2022, zoo staff became aware that the entire colony of 14 adult black-tailed prairie dogs was missing. The animals were last seen on September 26, 2021, prior to going underground for the colder season. When the animals did not reappear in March as expected, zoo staff began to actively search for them, using camera equipment to explore the tunnels and burrows and, finally, excavating the underground passages. No tunnels were noted to breach the exhibit perimeter, and no opening could be found in the exhibit walls that would have facilitated the animals' escape. None of the

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animals or their carcasses were found, but a feral cat had been seen around the area and the exhibit is mostly uncovered, making predation a possibility. The facility discontinued use of the enclosure for any animals and has not procured additional prairie dogs for the collection.

On 10/22/2021, zoo keepers noted that an ~7-year-old female slender-tailed meerkat, named "Pink" (202226) was missing from the meerkat enclosure. A search of the enclosure did not reveal a potential means of escape for the animal, and the remaining three meerkats in the enclosure were all accounted for. The remaining meerkats were moved out of the enclosure for excavation efforts and the El Paso Animal Control Department was notified in case the animal had escaped. Despite these efforts, the animal was never recovered and predation by a raptor or other animal was a remaining possibility.

The floors, a gate and some of the metal posts within the barn used for housing one adult male and one adult female Malayan tapirs are in disrepair; the barn floors have eroded concrete, and some of the metal posts and one gate are rusted, with sharp points in some areas with which the animals can come into contact.

Failure to provide enclosures that keep zoo animals contained and safe, and which are built to prevent entry of other animals from coming over or under walls or fences of the primary enclosure can lead to animal injury, escapes and predation events. Sharp points and other damaged surfaces pose a risk of injury to the animals and prevent proper cleaning and sanitization.

The licensee must ensure that housing facilities are constructed in a manner and of such material and strength as appropriate for the animals involved; they must be sound and maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury

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and to contain the animals. Enclosures should not only prevent zoo animal escapes, but also effectively prevent predator access.

TO BE CORRECTED BY FEBRUARY 20, 2023

3.127(d)

Facilities, outdoor.

The sliding track gate which serves as a section of perimeter fencing outside of the commissary, has a gap of ~6 inches beneath it when it is closed. This gate and the attached section of fencing must serve as the perimeter fence for this part of the zoo because the city water district's fencing and gates that surround the nearby concrete canal are in disrepair and also have gaps of several inches beneath and between the chainlink.

Perimeter fences must be placed and constructed so as to be able to serve as secondary containment for all of the animals inside the zoo, as well as prevent outside animals and people from entering over, under or through the perimeter fencing. The licensee must ensure that fencing which must function as a perimeter fence not only meets minimum height requirements, but is maintained in good repair with no gaps or holes present that could allow the entry of unauthorized persons or outside animals.

TO BE CORRECTED BY FEBRUARY 20, 2023

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
3888	74-C-0052	001	City of El Paso	11-JAN-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Leontopithecus rosalia</i>	GOLDEN LION TAMARIN
000006	<i>Saguinus oedipus</i>	COTTON-TOP TAMARIN
000002	<i>Nycticebus pygmaeus</i>	PYGMY SLOW LORIS
000002	<i>Macaca silenus</i>	LION-TAILED MACAQUE
000002	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	CALIFORNIA SEA LION
000004	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	BLACK-HANDED SPIDER MONKEY
000001	<i>Symphalangus syndactylus</i>	SIAMANG
000001	<i>Lama guanicoe</i>	GUANACO
000003	<i>Ovis aries aries</i>	SHEEP INCLUDING ALL DOMESTIC BREEDS
000002	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	DOMESTIC RABBIT / EUROPEAN RABBIT
000002	<i>Vulpes zerda</i>	FENNEC FOX
000004	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	AFRICAN HUNTING DOG / AFRICAN WILD DOG
000003	<i>Panthera leo</i>	LION
000002	<i>Leopardus pardalis</i>	OCELOT
000002	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	TIGER
000001	<i>Octodon degus</i>	DEGU
000002	<i>Coendou prehensilis</i>	PREHENSILE-TAILED PORCUPINE
000002	<i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>	PREVOST'S SQUIRREL / TRI-COLORED SQUIRREL
000012	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	PRONGHORN
000002	<i>Addax nasomaculatus</i>	ADDAX
000002	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	GREATER KUDU
000007	<i>Equus quagga</i>	BURCHELL'S / GRANT'S / CHAPMAN'S / PLAINS ZEBRA
000003	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	RED RIVER HOG
000006	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	WILD BOAR
000001	<i>Helarctos malayanus</i>	MALAYAN SUN BEAR
000001	<i>Tolypeutes matacus</i>	SOUTHERN THREE-BANDED ARMADILLO
000003	<i>Tragulus napu</i>	GREATER MALAYAN CHEVROTAIN
000001	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	ASIAN ELEPHANT
000004	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	BLACK-FOOTED FERRET
000002	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	GIRAFFE
000001	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>	SLENDER-TAILED MEERKAT
000002	<i>Pecari tajacu</i>	COLLARED PECCARY
000002	<i>Tupaia belangeri</i>	NORTHERN TREE SHREW
000001	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>	HOFFMANN'S TWO-TOED SLOTH
000001	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>	SOUTHERN TAMANDUA
000002	<i>Tapirus indicus</i>	MALAYAN TAPIR
000002	<i>Chinchilla lanigera</i>	CHINCHILLA (DOMESTICATED)
000003	<i>Equus caballus przewalskii</i>	PRZEWALSKI'S WILD HORSE
000008	<i>Canis lupus</i>	GRAY WOLF / GREY WOLF / TIMBER WOLF



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3888	74-C-0052	001	City of El Paso	11-JAN-2023
000004	<i>Pongo abelii</i>		SUMATRAN ORANGUTAN	
000002	<i>Panthera onca</i>		JAGUAR	
000001	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>		VIRGINIA OPOSSUM	
000002	<i>Nasua narica</i>		WHITE-NOSED COATI	
000002	<i>Neotoma albigula</i>		WHITE-THROATED WOODRAT	
000002	<i>Callithrix geoffroyi</i>		WHITE-FRONTED MARMOSET	
000002	<i>Puma concolor</i>		PUMA / MOUNTAIN LION / COUGAR	
000124	Total			