



Inspection Report

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
12500 Pleasant Valley Road
Flintstone, MD 21530

Customer ID: **44198**
Certificate: **51-C-0136**
Site: 006
Tuckahoe State Park

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 16-SEP-2024

2.131(b)(1) Critical

Handling of animals.

On August 8, 2024, a kestrel was on exhibit at the county fair when startled by a photographer. The kestrel reacted by leaping off its perch. The jesses attached to a leash broke and the kestrel flew to the top of a light pole. Multiple capture methods were implemented over a 8.5hour period, but the bird evaded capture with each attempt and flew away. Park Rangers and a falconer set-up baited traps and searched for the kestrel for a week as witnesses reported seeing and hearing the bird. Despite these efforts, the kestrel was not recovered. Search efforts ceased on August 19, 2024.

At the time of inspection, the kestrel had not been seen or heard from for weeks. The bird was never captured. Improper handling of animals increases the risk of escape. The facility must reassess their tethering process to ensure birds are handled as carefully as possible to minimize trauma and unnecessary discomfort during public exhibition. Correct by September 30, 2024.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representative.

Prepared By: GLORIA MCFADDEN
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Date:
18-NOV-2024

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
18-NOV-2024



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
44198	51-C-0136	006	Tuckahoe State Park	16-SEP-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BALD EAGLE
000001	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	RED-TAILED HAWK
000001	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	GREAT HORNED OWL
000001	<i>Megascops asio</i>	EASTERN SCREECH-OWL
000001	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	GOLDEN EAGLE
000001	<i>Strix varia</i>	BARRED OWL
000000	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	AMERICAN KESTREL
000006	Total	