



Inspection Report

State Of Florida Dept Of ENV Protection
4150 S. Suncoast Blvd.
Homosassa State Wildlife Park
Homosassa, FL 34446

Customer ID: **3116**
Certificate: **58-C-0412**
Site: 001
HOMOSASSA SPRINGS PARK

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 05-MAR-2025

2.131(b)(1) Critical

Handling of animals.

One manatee "Shantay" was discovered deceased in the in-ground medical pool due to drowning. On January 23, 2025, an employee started to drain the pool holding the manatee in order to conduct required care for the animal. While the pool was draining, the manatee was left unattended and checked periodically by employees. During one of these unattended periods, the pool drained faster than anticipated. Because of the position of the manatee by the edge of the lift and the dropped water level, the animal became entrapped and drowned.

Failure to implement proper handling procedures can result in injury or death of the animal. Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

To be corrected from this day, March 14, 2025, forward.

3.125(a)

Facilities, general.

In the enclosure housing one bobcat, the channel shift door leading to the off exhibit yard is severely rusted and not in good repair. The frame for the door has areas that are almost completely rusted through, reducing the structural integrity and creating jagged edges that the animal can access.

Enclosures that are not kept in good repair can result in injury to the animal. The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. The housing facilities shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals.

To be corrected by April 14, 2025.

3.150(a) Critical

Facilities, general.

According to records, one sandhill crane "Ruby" was killed by an unknown species in November 2023. "Ruby" was being housed in an open top enclosure at the time. According to facility representatives, the other birds living in this habitat are now housed in fully enclosed areas overnight.

Failure to provide a safe primary enclosure can result in injury and/or death of the birds contained within. Housing facilities for birds must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound for the species of bird housed in them.

Housing facilities for birds must be kept in good repair, protect the birds from injury, and restrict other animals from

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
14-MAR-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
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entering that may negatively affect the welfare of the birds within.
To be corrected from this day, March 14, 2025, forward.

3.154

Environment enhancement to promote psychological well-being.

At the time of inspection, a written environment enhancement plan has not been established to promote the psychological wellbeing of the birds.

Failure to establish and maintain a plan for environment enhancement can result in the behavioral, social, and psychological needs of the birds not being met. The plan must address at a minimum social grouping, environment enrichment, special considerations, restraint devices, and any birds that are exempted by the attending veterinarian because of health issues or other conditions. The plan must be approved by the attending veterinarian. The facility must establish and maintain an environment enhancement plan for the birds.

To be corrected by April 14, 2025.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

Additional Inspectors:

KRISTIN NAPOLI, SUPERVISORY ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST

Andrew Jones, Assistant Director

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USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
3116	58-C-0412	001	HOMOSASSA SPRINGS PARK	05-MAR-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	RED FOX (INCLUDES SILVER FOX & CROSS FOX)
000003	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER
000004	<i>Canis rufus</i>	RED WOLF
000001	<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	VIRGINIA OPOSSUM
000002	<i>Puma concolor</i>	PUMA / MOUNTAIN LION / COUGAR
000002	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	GRAY FOX / GREY FOX
000004	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	CARIBBEAN MANATEE
000001	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	BOBCAT
000002	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	NORTH AMERICAN BLACK BEAR
000001	<i>Sciurus niger</i>	EASTERN FOX SQUIRREL
000001	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	HIPPOPOTAMUS
000007	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	WHITE-TAILED DEER
000002	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	EASTERN GREY SQUIRREL
000001	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	FISH CROW
000005	<i>Tyto alba</i>	BARN OWL / WESTERN BARN OWL / AMERICAN BARN OWL / EASTERN BARN OWL
000001	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	BLACK VULTURE / MEXICAN VULTURE
000001	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	OSPREY / SEA HAWK
000014	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	AMERICAN FLAMINGO
000003	<i>Megascops asio</i>	EASTERN SCREECH-OWL
000002	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	TURKEY VULTURE
000003	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BALD EAGLE
000001	<i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT
000001	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	HARRIS'S HAWK
000004	<i>Antigone canadensis</i>	SANDHILL CRANE
000014	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	ROSEATE SPOONBILL
000001	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	WILD TURKEY
000001	<i>Egretta thula</i>	SNOWY EGRET
000003	<i>Strix varia</i>	BARRED OWL
000002	<i>Grus americana</i>	WHOOPING CRANE
000010	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN
000018	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	BROWN PELICAN
000003	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	GREAT HORNED OWL
000003	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	GREAT BLUE HERON
000002	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON
000001	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	RED-TAILED HAWK
000001	<i>Caracara plancus</i>	CRESTED CARACARA
000001	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	PILEATED WOODPECKER
000001	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	AMERICAN CROW
000001	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	WOOD STORK
000001	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	LITTLE BLUE HERON
000131	Total	



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