



Inspection Report

Essex County Turtle Back Zoo
560 Northfield Ave
West Orange, NJ 07052

Customer ID: **2051**

Certificate: **22-C-0141**

Site: 001

County of Essex Turtle Back Zoo

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 02-JUN-2025

3.132

Employees.

On the morning of May 29, 2025, Jelly, the Black bear was able to leave her enclosure through an open gate and into a rear area that was fully enclosed by fencing and walls. An employee failed to close the gate and reconnect the hotwire before alerting another employee that they could let the bear out of holding and into the exhibit enclosure. The bear was quickly returned to her enclosure without incident. However, the lack of fully ensuring that the enclosure was appropriately secured, before the allowing the bear access to the enclosure, was not an acceptable level of husbandry practices. Employees should be appropriately trained to ensure that the bear is completely secured to prevent such events of escape from occurring.

A sufficient number of adequately trained employees shall be utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices set forth in this subpart. Such practices shall be under a supervisor who has a background in animal care.

TO BE CORRECTED BY: JUNE 23, 2024

This inspection was conducted with the facility representatives on June 2, 2025 and the exit briefing was conducted with the Curator via phone call.

Prepared By: KARLA WILLS

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:

09-JUN-2025

Received by Title: Curator

Date:

09-JUN-2025



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2051	22-C-0141	001	County of Essex Turtle Back Zoo	02-JUN-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000001	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	NORTH AMERICAN BLACK BEAR
000001	Total	