



## Inspection Report

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Rhode Island Zoological Society dba Roger Williams Park Zoo  
1000 Elmwood Avenue  
Providence, RI 02907

Customer ID: **2245**

Certificate: **15-C-0004**

Site: 001

Rhode Island Zoological Society

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 30-JUN-2025

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### 2.131(e) Critical

#### Handling of animals.

Keeper staff found 2 giant pouched rats deceased in their enclosures on Wednesday morning 6/25/25; the other two giant pouched rats housed in separate enclosures in the same room appeared normal. The Providence area was experiencing a multi-day period of temperatures and/or heat index values in the 90's to 100 that began several days prior. Zoo management sent out messages to all keeper staff by email and by radio communication to follow the extreme temperature written guidelines for each building housing animals that the staff are to follow during those conditions.

Zoo management determined not all of the additional measures that the keepers should have implemented on Tuesday 6/24/25 were done to alleviate the impact of the high temperatures on the giant pouched rats. The presumptive cause of death of the two rats was exposure to high temperatures according to veterinary staff.

Per this Section, when climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health or well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. Animals may never be subjected to any combination of temperature, humidity, and time that is detrimental to the animal's health or well-being. Although the facility staff did put a portable fan in the housing room of the giant pouched rats when the outdoor temperature increased, this measure alone was not sufficient to alleviate the impact of the high temperatures on the animals and two of them died. The facility was in the process of developing a corrective action plan at the time of the inspection that will include a review of processes and guidelines for temperature extremes and refresher training for all keeper staff to prevent any incidents in the future. To be corrected by 7/18/25.

This inspection and exit briefing were conducted with facility representative.

\*END OF REPORT\*

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Prepared By: PAULA GLADUE

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

07-JUL-2025

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL  
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

07-JUL-2025



**Species Inspected**

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2245	15-C-0004	001	Rhode Island Zoological Society	30-JUN-2025

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Cricetomys ansorgei</i>	SOUTHERN GIANT POUCHER RAT / EAST AFRICAN SAVANNAH POUCHER RAT
000002	<b>Total</b>	