



Inspection Report

RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN
500 WILDLIFE PARKWAY
COLUMBIA, SC 29210

Customer ID: **3263**

Certificate: **56-C-0001**

Site: 001

RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 20-OCT-2023

3.105(c)

Critical

Feeding.

One harbor seal pup at the facility was in the process of being weaned when it passed away on September 29th, 2023. The facility incorporated varying methods to introduce the pup to fish, as well as promoted interactions between the keepers and harbor seal pup in which fish were offered. Enrichment opportunities and missing pieces of fish were noted throughout the weaning process, but several weeks went by where the seal had not received an adequate amount of food to maintain good health. Though the facility's weaning protocol referenced parameters where weight loss was expected, their harbor seal pup experienced significant weight loss with minimal fish consumed throughout the weaning process. More aggressive attempts to intervene were not initiated until shortly before the pup passed away.

Providing sufficient caloric intake is imperative to growing animals that are no longer nursing from their moms. Subsequently, it is critical that employees overseeing these practices are knowledgeable and aware of the appropriate measures required to proficiently recognize the timeframes and cues in which the staff needs to intervene and directly assist with additional feeding approaches, to ensure that the observations noted during weaning are within normal parameters.

Food, when given to each marine mammal individually, must be given by an employee or attendant who has the necessary knowledge to assure that each marine mammal receives an adequate quantity of food to maintain it in good health. Such employee or attendant is required to have the ability to recognize deviations from a normal state of good health in each marine mammal so that food intake can be adjusted accordingly.

Correct by October 30, 2023.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the facility representatives.

Prepared By: CARLA THOMAS

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

27-OCT-2023

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:

27-OCT-2023



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
3263	56-C-0001	001	RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN	20-OCT-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000000	NONE	NONE
000000	Total	