



Inspection Report

Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens
500 Ninos Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Customer ID: **3503**

Certificate: **93-C-0013**

Site: 001

SANTA BARBARA ZOOLOGICAL
FOUNDATION

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION

Date: 13-APR-2023

3.125(a) Critical

Facilities, general.

A 7-month-old male fennec fox escaped from his primary enclosure on 3/30/ 2023. The fox, along with his littermate, had been acquired 3 weeks prior and were in the exhibit for approximately 2 weeks before the escape. According to the attending veterinarian, this particular exhibit has housed multiple fennec foxes over the last 10 years without any escapes. Although the fox is 7 months old, he is adult size with a weight of 1 kg.

Based on video footage, the fox squeezed through the mesh at the ground level at the corner, where the mesh opening is stretched, and larger than the mesh of the remaining enclosure. Following the escape, there were multiple searches of the zoo grounds, the zoo perimeter and the perimeter outside of the zoo with baited traps set nightly to attract the fox to the exhibit area. On 4/6/2023, the fennec fox was recaptured, outside the perimeter fence. The fox was evaluated by a qualified veterinarian and found to be in good health with some weight loss. Both foxes are currently housed together in temporary quarters until the mesh can be replaced.

Animal escapes may result in injury and/or cause stress to the animal due to the unfamiliar environment with unknown availability of food and water.

The facility must be constructed of such material and of such strength as appropriate for the animals involved. Outdoor housing facilities shall be structurally sound and shall be maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and

Prepared By: JEFFREY LEE

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

26-APR-2023

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL
OFFICER

Received by Title: Facility Representative

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26-APR-2023



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to contain the animals.

To be corrected by close of business 4/26/2023

3.127(d) Critical

Facilities, outdoor.

A 7-month-old male fennec fox, weighing 1 kg, escaped from his primary enclosure on 3/30/ 2023. In addition, the fox escaped through the perimeter fence and was recovered on 4/6/23 in an underground parking lot across the street from the facility. The fox was evaluated by a qualified veterinarian and found to be in good health with some weight loss. Both foxes are currently housed together in temporary quarters.

Although the facility currently has a system in place to ensure the perimeter fence is maintained in good repair, has a perimeter alarm system, and evening security observing the fence line, these measures did not prevent the fox from leaving the premises. Animal escapes may result in injury and/or cause stress to the animal due to the unfamiliar environment with unknown availability of food and water.

The function of the perimeter fence is to serve as a secondary containment system for the animals in the facility. It should be designed to restrict animals and unauthorized persons from going through it, over or under it. A system should be in place to ensure the perimeter fence can contain animals, as a secondary measure, in the event an animal escapes from its primary enclosure.

To be corrected by close of business 4/26/2023

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

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
3503	93-C-0013	001	SANTA BARBARA ZOOLOGICAL FOUNDATION	13-APR-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Vulpes zerda</i>	FENNEC FOX
000002	Total	