



## Inspection Report

Chicago Zoological Society  
Brookfield Zoo  
3300 S Golf Road  
Brookfield, IL 60513

Customer ID: 2567

Certificate: 33-C-0003

Site: 001

CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: Nov-03-2015

This was a focused inspection of dolphins.

No non-compliant items identified during this inspection.

Inspection and exit interview conducted with facility representative.

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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**Prepared By:**

DAWN E BARKSDALE, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Date:**

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1062

Nov-04-2015

**Received By:**

WILLIAM ZIEGLER, SR. V.P. ANIMAL PROGRAMS

**Date:**

**Title:** SENT BY EMAIL

Nov-04-2015



United States Department of Agriculture      Customer: 2567  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service      Inspection Date: Nov-03-15

**Animals Inspected at Last Inspection**

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2567	33-C-0003	001	CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	Nov-03-15
Count	Species			
000001	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN			

NOV 16 2015

33-C-0003 2567

**Barksdale, Dawn E - APHIS**

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**From:** Zeigler, Bill <Bill.Zeigler@CZS.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 04, 2015 10:37 AM  
**To:** Barksdale, Dawn E - APHIS  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Subject:** RE: USDA Report

Thank you for following up on the focus inspection regarding one of our dolphins. I have received your report and will place it in our files.

If there are any further actions we need to take at the Chicago Zoological Society please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Bill Zeigler

F. William Zeigler  
Senior Vice President Animal Programs  
Chicago Zoological Society  
3300 Golf Road  
Brookfield, IL 60513  
Office 708 688 8840  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**From:** Barksdale, Dawn E - APHIS [mailto:[Dawn.E.Barksdale@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Dawn.E.Barksdale@aphis.usda.gov)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 04, 2015 10:30 AM

**To:** Zeigler, Bill <[Bill.Zeigler@CZS.org](mailto:Bill.Zeigler@CZS.org)>

**Subject:** USDA Report

Mr. Zeigler,

I am forwarding a copy of the inspection report for the focused inspection that was conducted yesterday. As we discussed once you have reviewed the report your response to this email will serve as your signature. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Dawn Barksdale, DVM  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
[dawn.e.barksdale@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:dawn.e.barksdale@aphis.usda.gov)  
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200  
Raleigh, NC 27606  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



## Inspection Report

Chicago Zoological Society  
Brookfield Zoo  
3300 S Golf Road  
Brookfield, IL 60513

Customer ID: 2567

Certificate: 33-C-0003

Site: 001

CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

Date: Sep-25-2015

This was a focused inspection of dolphins.

No non-compliant items identified during this inspection.

Inspection and exit interview conducted with facility representatives.

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**Prepared By:**

DAWN E BARKSDALE, D V M USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

**Date:**

**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 1062

Sep-25-2015

**Received By:**

WILLIAM ZIEGLER,SR. V.P. OF ANIMAL PROGRAMS

**Date:**

**Title:** SENT BY EMAIL

Sep-25-2015



United States Department of Agriculture      Customer: 2567  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service      Inspection Date: Sep-25-15  
**Animals Inspected at Last Inspection**

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2567	33-C-0003	001	CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	Sep-25-15
Count	Species			
000001	BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN			

# Memorandum

**To:** Dr. Cathy Hovancsak  
**From:** Dr. Dawn Barksdale  
**Date:** 9/28/2015  
**Re:** Brookfield Zoo: "Birdie"-rehab dolphin

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On September 25, 2015 I conducted a focused inspection at Brookfield Zoo, Cust #2567, 35-C-0002 in response to a complaint. The complaint alleges a rehab dolphin, "Birdie", that had been deemed non-releasable due to severe auditory and visual deficits was being held in a medical pool since arriving on September 9, 2015. During the course of the focused inspection the following was discussed with the attending veterinarian and staff:

1. "Birdie" is a 4 year old dolphin that arrived at Brookfield Zoo on September 9, 2015 from the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network.
2. "Birdie" has severe auditory and visual deficits. "Birdie" does not echolocate and swims with her right eye above water level because she does not appear to be visual in the left eye. "Birdie" was initially isolated to allow for assimilation to the new surroundings and to determine the extent of her deficits.
3. "Birdie" is housed in a medical pool, however, on either side is a pool with other conspecifics to help facilitate eventual integration into the larger group. "Birdie" initially wasn't feeding well, however, she has adapted to the surroundings and is eating more, gaining weight and exhibiting interest in the animals in the pools next to her. I was able to observe "Birdie" during feeding time in which she was interested and responsive to the training. She has enrichment toys that she plays with in the pool. "Birdie" is hesitant to pass through the channel, however, will go through with the assistance of the trainer.
4. I reviewed "Birdie's" medical records in which the attending veterinarian indicates that as "Birdie's" training progresses she will be reevaluated in order to determine when she can safely be integrated into the group ( her ability to target, shift at the gate to medical pool reliably).

**Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network**  
*Dedicated to the Conservation of Marine Mammals through  
Rescue and Rehabilitation, Research and Education*



June 1, 2015

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

GA1940 "Birdie"  
Female  
Length at stranding: 222 cm  
Age: Est. 3-5 years  
*Tursiops truncatus*  
Stranding date: 18 December 2014

History:

GA1940(Birdie) stranded on Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County, TX. The dolphin was found without external trauma or injury and was transported to the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (TMMSN) for rehabilitation. Upon entry, the animal immediately began swimming without assistance and after the first 24 hours of rehabilitation she was readily eating fish offered. The dolphin was underweight at the time of stranding and was treated for parasites, stomach ulcers (observed healing during initial endoscopy), and lung infection. After several months of rehabilitation, the dolphin responded to treatment and the issues resolved. Birdie still displays intermittent episodes of cramping and arching indicative of gastrointestinal discomfort, however, she continues to eat readily and her body score is now a 7/9 representing good overall nutrition.

Behavioral Assessment:

Several days into the rehabilitation process the animal care team suspected a vision or hearing deficit due to behavior exhibited during feeds. She was often observed displaying a scanning behavior where she would quickly move her head side to side as if looking for the fish until she was able to locate it or the fish was netted out. Birdie still has occasional difficulty locating a fish in the pool, but can usually locate the fish with cues from the feeder.

According to the final assessment report regarding the Auditory Evoked Potentials (AEP) testing completed on 16 March 2015 and 21 May 2015, the dolphin was deemed to have significant hearing impairment in both ears, impeding her ability to forage with the use of echolocation. Taking the AEP test findings into consideration along with the aforementioned behavior observed during rehabilitation, the report stated that it was unlikely that the animal would be able to successfully forage in the wild.

Birdie has tolerated handling and short (<45 minutes) medical procedures well, however, lengthier procedures have led to an increased respiration rate and have occasionally resulted in decreased appetite.

Currently, Birdie has periods of high activity while breaching and interacting with her enrichment devices. She has been vocalizing frequently and is alert and strong.

Background and Recommendation for Disposition

Taking into consideration Birdie's behavioral history as well as her compromised auditory function, it is not likely that she would be able to successfully forage and survive in the wild and as a result does not meet essential release criteria.

Given, the above information and evaluation of Birdie over the last six months, we are recommending that she be placed in a permanent facility with con-specifics as soon as possible for socialization and overall health and well-being. The recommendation is being made with consideration of the animal's best chance for survival and many months of careful observation, diagnostic testing and treatment.

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