PROCEDURES FOR ANIMAL ESCAPES FROM BRANDYWINE ZOO

Directive: 6.29

The Brandywine Zoo is a modern zoo with facilities which accommodates small, exotic and large animals. Most of the animals are docile creatures that would be of little threat to the public or zoo handlers if they escaped from their confines. Several of the large animals, however, should be considered extremely dangerous should they escape.

The following procedures are to be maintained regarding animal escapes from the enclosed holding areas within the zoo as well as outside the zoo grounds. Both police and zoo officials will work in cooperation to ensure that the public and keeper safety is a **first priority** in any animal escape situation.

A. SMALL ANIMAL ESCAPES

1. Inside Zoo Grounds

Zoo personnel will handle all capture attempts of small animals within the zoo facility. The zoo supervisor will assess the situation and determine which escape procedure should be implemented. Police personnel, if called to the zoo, will only assist in the evacuation of an area so that the zoo officials may carry out their capture attempt. Police personnel will **not** in any way assist in capture attempts unless requested by the zoo supervisor.

Small animals within the zoo area will be considered as: owls, condors, otters, fox, raccoons, a bobcat and an ocelot.

2. Outside Zoo Grounds

If a small animal escapes outside the zoo grounds, police personnel will be responsible for observation only. The police will keep the animal under observation, keep the public away from the animal, and let zoo officials know the location of the animal. Zoo officials will handle all capture attempts. The only exception will be if a bobcat or ocelot escapes the confines of the zoo.

Officers encountering the bobcat or ocelot outside the zoo should keep bystanders away, try to confine the

animal and contact zoo officials so that they may tranquilize the animal. If the officer and/or zoo personnel deem that the bobcat or ocelot is in a position to endanger innocent bystanders, the officer is authorized to use a firearm (as per Directive 6.21 (1) of the Police Officer's Manual) to eliminate any threat. It should be noted that the bobcat is a rather docile animal that would rather run than encounter a person. Keep in mind that if cornered or provoked the bobcat can administer serious injury.

B. EXOTIC ANIMAL HOUSE ESCAPE

This area includes monkeys and other exotic animals. This procedure is the same as that of the "small animal escape".

C. LARGE ANIMAL ESCAPE

Large animals, all of which should be considered extremely dangerous, are: a black bear, a jaguar, and 2 Siberian tigers. In the event of a large animal escape the following procedures will be implemented:

1. Zoo officials will immediately contact the on-duty shift commander.

2. The shift commander will then contact a [redacted] who will take control of the animal capture/elimination.

3. [redacted] Under no circumstances will any officer respond [redacted]

D. ANIMALS LOOSE IN AN ENCLOSED HOLDING AREA/LOOSE IN ZOO

1. Patrol personnel will assist in the evacuation of the zoo and will not attempt a capture/elimination unless an immediate threat poses itself.

2. A [redacted] will respond and set up a temporary command post from which the [redacted] will operate. At the same time zoo officials will prepare their tranquilizer equipment.

3. Upon arrival of the [redacted], the animal will be tranquilized/eliminated at the discretion of the Zoo supervisor and [redacted].

4. If at any time the public, a zoo keeper, or an officer becomes endangered, the animal will be humanely eliminated. Large animals should be shot in the heart or lung area or in the head for a quick dispatch.

E. LARGE ANIMALS LOOSE OUTSIDE THE ZOO

The same initial procedures will be set forth with the following exceptions:

1. Initial responding patrol officers will try and keep the animal under observation from their vehicles and will not search or attempt a capture.

2. Upon arrival of the [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] will confer with the zoo supervisor and a coordinated search will be conducted. Only [redacted] [redacted] personnel will take part in the search.

3. Due to the unpredictable behavior of these animals, [redacted] and will eliminate the animal as quickly and humanely as possible.

4. If the animal begins to move toward a residential section of the City or if there is an immediate threat of danger to any person, the initial responding patrol officer(s) will be authorized to use the necessary force with [redacted], to eliminate the animal. If this danger does not exist, then the above steps will be followed.

F. GENERAL PRINCIPALS ABOUT ESCAPED ANIMALS

Each animal has it's own **flight distance.** This is the distance at which the animal will flee from a pursuer. To contain the animal, this flight distance should not be violated. Most animals can be approached in a vehicle more closely than on foot.

Each animal has a **critical distance.** This is the distance at which the animal will attack a pursuer. If an animal is cornered and you have gone within it's flight distance you will be approaching it's critical distance, and may be

subject to attack. In captivity, the flight distance is lessened by the animal being contained behind bars, moats, and fences. Once escaped, the flight distance is likely to increase due to the absence of these containments.

Animals usually have a strong attachment for their home cage. Thus, if the animal has not ventured far from it's cage, it may be possible to lure it back inside the cage. An escaped animal is in a strange situation and may feel quite desperate. This is due to it's strange surroundings, unusual and conspicuous people, and it may see an item with which it identifies negative significance. Nets, tranquilizer guns, hoses, sudden movement, and loud noises are all negative stimuli and should be avoided as much as possible.

The escaped animal is frightened and if given the opportunity will generally move back to familiar surroundings. To contain the animal do not violate the flight distance as doing so will cause the animal to move farther. By examining the animal's expression, stance or other factors, one can tell whether the animal is anxious, calm or about to attack. Act accordingly and with common sense.

When a dangerous animal escapes, many times these animals have a severe response to a [redacted] similar to the ones used in immobilization procedures. Therefore, it is imperative that the officers on the scene who have these [redacted] attempt to conceal them to minimize the reaction they may generate from the animals.

All officers are to note that the [redacted] In the event of any escape, the security guard will be responsible in notifying the Brandywine Zoo contact person who will in turn notify the Wilmington Police. The contact person is a [redacted]