Statement of Purpose:

This procedure outlines the appropriate response when responding to an escaped animal at the Charles Paddock Zoo.

Lexipol Policy:
None

Procedure:

Zoo Personnel and the Atascadero Police Department have identified 4 priorities when responding to an escaped animal:

1) Safety of the public
2) Safety of employees
3) Safety of the animals
4) Safety of the facility

There are two types of escapes and three animal classifications related to the levels of potential danger of the animals.

Types of escapes:
1. Animal out of exhibit, but contained in zoo grounds
2. Animal beyond the zoo’s perimeter fence

Levels of danger:
1. MOST DANGEROUS – Tiger, Venomous species
2. DANGEROUS – Small cats, Fossa, Fisher, Primates, Non-Domestic Hoof stock
3. LEAST DANGEROUS – Birds, Lemurs, Small Mammals, Wallabies, Domestic Hoof stock.

- If an escaped animal is reported, all responding officers should contact Zoo personnel immediately upon arriving on scene if available.
- Determine the type of escape and the level of danger of the escaped animal. If public is at risk consider a social media/reverse 911 notification to the potentially affected areas.
- Consider reasons for the escape. i.e. accidental or purposely.
• Determine if Zoo personnel have deployed their Escaped Animal Apprehension Team. The Charles Paddock Zoo possesses a **SHOTGUN** and a **TRANQUILIZER GUN** and will deploy them during a dangerous animal escape.

• Evacuate and contain the area.

• Request outside resources. California Department of Fish and Wildlife has special training and equipment to deal with large animals (308 cal. rifle).

• Once the animal is located, evaluate the area and danger level. If the animal poses an immediate threat to public safety the animal should be neutralized. Deployment of a patrol rifle or shotgun with 1oz slug should be used during this situation.

• If an animal is neutralized, notification to the Chief of Police via the chain of command should be made as soon as possible and an incident report taken.

• If no immediate threat is present, develop a re-capture plan with zoo staff.

This Standard Operating Procedure was approved and distributed for training by:

_______________________
Joe Allen
Commander

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Jerel Haley
Chief of Police

Attachments: (List here)