



### Inspection Report

Zoological Society Of Pittsburgh  
One Wild Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Customer ID: **2241**  
Certificate: **23-C-0009**  
Site: 001  
THE PITTSBURGH ZOO

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION  
Date: 12-JUL-2017

#### 2.131(b)(1) CRITICAL

##### HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

An African elephant calf was born at the International Conservation Center (ICC) on 31 May 2017. The elephant manager and Pittsburgh zoo staff were responsible for the care and supervision for the pregnancy and birth. Prior to the acquisition of Seeni from Africa by the Pittsburgh zoo, she reportedly was unsuccessful in raising her previous calf. A written birth plan was in place for this event, which considered hand-rearing contingencies, however at the time of the birth, which occurred one month earlier than expected, there were logistical issues related to personnel and location that affected the decision to remove the calf from the ICC and introduce her to the Pittsburgh Zoo. The calf is currently six weeks old, and her weight at the time of inspection on 12 July 2017 was 176 lbs, which is eight pounds below her birth weight. She was removed from the ICC facility, and transferred to the Pittsburgh Zoo the day after her birth.

It is documented that the survival rate for hand-reared Asian elephant calves is very low (there has been one previous known case of a hand-reared African elephant and it did not survive). Whereas the written birth plan states: "the PRIORITY for this calf is to bond with Seeni...", due to multiple factors the decision was made less than a day and a half after the calf's birth to remove her from the ICC facility. Factors cited were health concerns related to the critical condition of the calf, the mother's lack of maternal interest in the calf, and the fact that she was not showing any signs of producing colostrum or milk. Also Seeni's intractability and human safety were cited. Additionally, the elephant manager stated that the ICC site was not adequately staffed or prepared to provide the intensive 24/7 care required for hand-rearing the compromised calf. The zoo staff indicated that it would have been disruptive to the current herds to relocate both the mother and calf at that time, and that the stress to Seeni would have been detrimental to the pair.

In Seeni's husbandry records, on 3 June 2017, three days after the birth, it states: "little to no swelling from breasts, but still lactating from both." Staff stated subsequently that the milk volume was minimal, but there is a concern that had the calf remained on the same site with the mother that adequate maternal lactation might have been a possibility. There has been a documented case where an elephant mother and calf have been successfully bonded

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13-JUL-2017

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18-02770\_000199



### Inspection Report

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up to ten days following birth.

At the time of inspection the calf was walked through an area with many hazards, including a manure conveyor apparatus where the calf had previously scraped her head, causing a two inch lesion, and electrical wires on the wet ground which the calf walked over. Upon returning to the barn, the calf walked unattended into a utility room that contained many hazards, including bottles of bleach, and other cleaning supplies within reach of the calf. Another risk for the elephant calf is that of infection, and the biosecurity measures in place at the time of inspection were limited and not adequate to prevent her from the risk of exposure to pathogens.

All animals must be handled in a manner that does not cause them harm, and that safeguards their well-being. Failure to adequately plan for the logistical and personnel issues, along with other multiple factors, may result in a negative outcome for this animal which is currently failing to gain weight. From this time forward all animals shall be handled in a manner that safeguards their welfare, including appropriate planning to address the logistics and staffing issues to handle reasonably foreseeable contingencies. The facility must protect this elephant calf from hazards from this time forward, and address its current critical needs, to include:

- following the written diet plan approved by the attending veterinarian;
- creating and following a written plan regarding milking a surrogate lactating elephant on site (this has been initiated but the goals have not been met);
- creating and following a written plan regarding exercise for the calf;
- creating and following a written plan regarding socialization with the other elephants.

At the time of the exit briefing a document was presented called " African Elephant Calf Hand Rearing Protocol". This protocol was created on 12 July 2017, demonstrating a good effort to consolidate procedures already in effect, and address issues discussed during the inspection. Biosecurity measures had also been increased at the time of the exit briefing.

These plans, and documentation of compliance with the plans must be available for inspection by 23 July 2017.

This was a focused inspection to address a recent elephant birth.

The elephant inspected was "baby" the infant calf born on 31 May 2017.

The inspection was conducted on 11-July 2017 -12 July 2017 with elephant care staff, elephant care manager, attending veterinarian and the Pittsburgh Zoo President & CEO.

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The exit briefing was conducted 13 July 2017 with the elephant care manager, attending veterinarian and the Pittsburgh Zoo President & CEO.

### Additional Inspectors

Smith Pamela, Veterinary Medical Officer

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### Inspection Report

Zoological Society Of Pittsburgh  
One Wild Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Customer ID: **2241**  
Certificate: **23-C-0009**  
Site: 002

INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION CENTER

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION  
Date: 12-JUL-2017

#### 3.132

#### EMPLOYEES.

This facility does not currently have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to meet the professional level of husbandry practices described in the regulations and standards for the four adult females and one adult male African elephants in their care. The facility currently has two full time elephant care employees and one off site elephant manager that are responsible for the care of these animals. Currently the lead keeper stated that he is working 6 days a week in order to accomplish basic husbandry tasks. There are complex medical, behavioral, nutritional, and other husbandry needs for these animals particularly while breeding. The adult female African Elephant named Seeni gave birth on 31 May 2017, this was one month earlier than the zoo had expected. Prior to this event, the staff were only training her to prepare for the birth as time allowed due to limited staffing. The zoo had planed to increase training frequency, however the training was unable to be completed due to the prematurity of the calf according to the zoo staff. The compromised calf from Seeni was removed on 1 June 2017 from the International Conservation Center (ICC) and taken to the Pittsburgh zoo due in part because of this limited staff and their inability to care for this animal the mother rejected, as reported by the zoo staff, thereby placing its welfare at significant risk. Additionally employees who work with dangerous animals should avoid working hours that promote excessive fatigue and may lead to harm of the employees and/or the animals.

All facilities are required to have a sufficient number of adequately trained employees to maintain the professional husbandry standards described in the regulations and standards to ensure that the animals are receiving appropriate monitoring, veterinary care, feeding, watering, and other care. The licensee must evaluate the current staffing level, work load, and employee training procedures to ensure that a sufficient number of adequately trained employees are utilized to maintain the professionally acceptable level of husbandry practices described in the regulations and standards.

Correct by: 31 August 2017.

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## Inspection Report

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This was a focused inspection to address a recent elephant birth.

The elephant inspected was Seeni

The inspection was conducted on 12 July 2017 with elephant care staff.

The exit briefing was conducted 13 July 2017 with the elephant care manager, attending veterinarian and the Pittsburgh Zoo President & CEO.

### Additional Inspectors

Smith Pamela, Veterinary Medical Officer

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