

**LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL ORDER**

**G.O. 323 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS INVOLVING THE LITTLE ROCK ZOO**

<b>DATE:</b> 11-9-2015	<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b> DEPARTMENTAL	<b>REPLACES:</b> 10-13-2010	<b>NUMBER:</b> 323
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**I. Purpose**

- A. To provide procedures to be followed by this Department in the event of the escape of an animal from the Little Rock Zoo or intrusions by humans into dangerous animal enclosures.

**II. Dangerous Animal Escapes – On Zoo Grounds**

- A. It is the responsibility of the Zoo's Emergency Response Team to handle animal emergencies on Zoo grounds. The Emergency Response Team will recapture, immobilize or terminate an animal utilizing the specialized equipment, munitions and training at their disposal whenever an animal is on Zoo grounds and within the Zoo's perimeter.
- B. If a dangerous animal escapes onto Zoo grounds causing a threat to the public, the Zoo's Emergency Response Team will immediately respond and the Zoo will commence the appropriate plan to close, partially close, lock down and/or evacuate the Zoo grounds. A call will be placed to 9-1-1 and Communications will immediately dispatch a patrol unit and a patrol supervisor, who will respond to a location outside the Zoo's perimeter as designated by a member of the Zoo's Emergency Response Team.

1. The responding units will arrive at the Zoo without lights, sirens, or loudspeakers.

2. The responding units will stand by at the designated location outside the Zoo's perimeter until contacted by Zoo personnel. The supervisor will serve as a liaison for the Department until the incident is concluded.

a) The supervisor will contact the Zoo's Manager on duty between the hours of 0800-1700.

(1) Zoo's main phone number – 501-666-2406

(2) Zoo's emergency cell phone number – 501-975-9111

(3) Emergency alternate cell phone number – 501-366-0441

b) After 1700 hours, the supervisor will contact after-hours Zoo personnel.

(1) Zoo's main phone number – 501-339-3430

(2) A radio can be used on the Zoo's channel (A1) until cell phone communication has been established.

- c) Communications and the supervisor responding will monitor the City Common channel, for information purposes only, until the incident is concluded.
- 3. If the Zoo staff determines it is necessary to evacuate humans from all or part of the Zoo, the supervisor assigned may request additional officers to respond to the scene.
- 4. Officers will only enter Zoo grounds when requested by Zoo personnel.

### III. Human Intrusion into Dangerous Animal Enclosures

- A. The Zoo's Emergency Response Team is responsible for handling emergencies involving unauthorized human intrusion into animal environments. In many situations, Zoo staff may be able to rescue a human without having to use immobilization drugs or firearms and this Department may or may not be notified.
- B. In the event that the Department is requested to respond, a call will be placed to 9-1-1 and Communications will immediately dispatch a patrol unit and a supervisor to a location specified by Zoo personnel. The supervisor will make contact with the appropriate personnel and assess the situation. Officers will only enter Zoo grounds when requested by Zoo personnel.
  - 1. When the Zoo's Emergency Response Team is engaged, officers will not enter into animal enclosures to assist with control or termination of animals, or the rescue of unauthorized persons inside the habitat.
  - 2. If the Zoo's Emergency Response Team is unavailable to respond, officers may enter the grounds and animal enclosures to rescue the unauthorized person(s).
    - a) Though every effort should be made to corral and separate the animal(s) from the intruder and other human beings prior to extraction, officers may take any action necessary, including the use of deadly force against the animal, to protect human life.

### IV. Dangerous Animal Escapes – Off Zoo Grounds

- A. Should a dangerous animal escape Zoo grounds into the community, a 9-1-1 call will be placed by Zoo personnel as soon as the escape is discovered. Communications will dispatch a patrol unit and a supervisor to the scene. Responding officers will be responsible for the following:
  - 1. Protecting the public; and,
  - 2. Assisting with the search, recapture, immobilization and/or termination of the animal.
- B. As the Zoo's Emergency Response Team has specialized training in specific animal behavior and methods of animal control and capture, the officers and the Zoo's personnel will form teams for a search of the area when possible and meet at a location in the area where the animal was last seen.
- C. Responding officers should be aware that the Zoo's Emergency Response Team will be dressed in civilian clothes and will be armed with weapons loaded with both tranquilizers and live ammunition. Personnel with tranquilizer guns will wear a yellow vest, and firearms team personnel will wear an orange vest.

1. Officers will also be utilized for traffic control and to keep citizens out of the area where the animal was last seen.
- D. Officers are authorized to destroy any animal presenting a clear and immediate danger to any person outside of the Zoo grounds.

Revisions will be underlined and italicized.