

**Wildlife Site Assessment Zoo Questionnaire**

### INSTRUCTIONS

The purposes of wildlife site assessments are to assess potential pathways of introduction of wildlife origin pathogens onto zoos and discern potential lateral transmission routes of wildlife pathogens from premise to premise. All sections of the form should be completed through a site visit, including direct conversation with the individual(s) most familiar with the site’s management and operations. Where applicable, direct observation of the biosecurity procedures and/or management practices should be conducted. Personnel conducting the site visit and interviewing staff are encouraged to take additional notes and supplemental photos (with the facility’s permission) while on site to use in the risk assessment report.

This questionnaire was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Wildlife Services program. It provides a guide for conducting a systematic and standardized assessment of potential pathways of initial pathogen movement onto the site and potential movement of the pathogen off the property. This is an in-depth review of the facility’s current biosecurity and management practices and exposure risks on a site.

It is important to emphasize to the cooperator that this site assessment is **NOT** an inspection and USDA’s Wildlife Services program is not a regulatory agency.

Date of Wildlife Site Assessment:

Interviewer(s) name/organization:

Interviewee(s) name/Job title/organization: How long have you/they work at this zoo?

# PREMISES INFORMATION

Zoo name:

Address:

Zoo (premises) ID:

County:

Township:

Range:

Section:

Is facility enrolled in any zoological associations or organizations?........................................ □ Yes □ No

# WILDLIFE

1. Do you consider yourself an outdoors person (hunt or fish)? ………………………… □ Yes □ No

## How would you rate your mammal identification skills? (1 none, 3 some, and 5 expert)

□ 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5

## How would you rate your bird identification skills? (1 none, 3 some, and 5 expert)

□ 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ 5

## Are you familiar with the wildlife species that have been implicated as potential hosts for the pathogen?………………………………….…………………………………………………… □ Yes □ No

1. Is contact with wildlife addressed in the employment survey/training? …… □ Yes □ No

Including:

Waterfowl or game hunting? ……………………………………………………………………… □ Yes □ No

Hunting, feeding, or other recreational activities that may allow for contact with

wildlife grazing or loafing areas including open pond/ditches on their property?.... □ Yes □ No

Contact with parks/golf courses that have nuisance wildlife issues? ......... □ Yes □ No

Any contact with wildlife rehabilitation facilities or animals? ......................... □ Yes □ No

1. Has this zoo ever had a herd or flock infected with pathogens from wildlife origins? □ Yes □ No If Yes, which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What strain(s) and date(s)?

1. What wild mammals do you typically see around the zoo?
   * Raccoons
   * Opossums
   * Skunks
   * Rabbits
   * Large rodents (e.g. marmots/woodchucks)
   * Small rodents (e.g. mice, rats)
   * Predators (e.g. coyotes, wolves, bobcats)
   * Other (feral cats) 





1. What wild birds are typically seen around the zoo?
   * Waterfowl
   * Gulls
   * Other water birds (e.g. egrets, cormorants, shorebirds)
   * Passerines (e.g. sparrows, starlings, swallows)
   * Raptors
   * Gallinaceous birds (e.g. pheasants, quail, wild turkeys, chukars)



* + Pigeons



* + Other 

1. Are there any known current or past wildlife issues? ……………………………. .......... □ Yes □ No

If Yes, explain: \_

\_ 10. Is there seasonality to the presence of some wildlife? ............................................... □ Yes □ No

If Yes, what type of wildlife and what seasons do you see them?



11. Do you see wildlife all year round? ............................................................................. □ Yes □ No

If Yes, what species of wildlife?

1. Are there certain events that seem to cause more wildlife activity around the zoo?
   * Shortly after Rain □ Clear/sunny □ Overcast □ After/during the fields are being tilled
   * Other
2. Are any bird(s) nesting on the property that you are aware of? □ Yes □ No

If yes, what species and where?



1. Where do birds come from and go to? (i.e geese that come from a lake or wildlife refuge nearby) \_



1. Are water bodies on the zoo frequented by wildlife? .........................□ Yes □ No

If Yes, what species? How many of each? Seasonally present?

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1. Where are wildlife species seen in relation to the zoo habitats?
   * On adjacent habitats away from facilities and equipment (**take photos**)
   * On the zoo but not in the habitats (identify facilities and/or equipment birds have contact with; **take photos**)
   * Sometimes or often in the habitats (identify features and/or equipment that

birds have contact with; **take photos**)

1. Are there any waterfowl production areas nearby or any being planned

## for the future? ............................................................................□ Yes □ No

If Yes, where and how far?

1. After a heavy rainfall event, is there standing water or temporary ponding issues?
   * Yes □ No If Yes, how long does it take water to desiccate?

If Yes, where does water occur?

1. Are there signs of animal intrusion in zoo facilities? … □ Yes □ No If Yes, avian or rodent? Explain: (**take photos**) \_

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1. When intrusions happen, is there an established protocol for dealing with it? ………….. □ Yes □ No Describe process: \_

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If lethal removal is employed, are these carcasses tested for disease? ...................... □ Yes □ No

1. Is the property adequately fenced to prevent wildlife intrusion? … □ Yes □ No Is there evidence of holes/digs in/or under fencing? …………………… □ Yes □ No
2. Any sign of spillage or leaks with feed structures? ……………………… □ Yes □ No
3. Are feed structures inspected regularly? …………………………………………….………………..… □ Yes □ No If Yes, how often?
4. Is poultry used to feed carnivores sourced from licensed inspected facilities? …………..… □ Yes □ No

If the zoo offers whole carcasses as food, are the carcasses inspected for abnormalities? □ Yes □ No

1. Are records kept of feed sources and delivery dates?...................................................... □ Yes □ No
2. Is excess feed removed in the afternoon/evening for diurnally active animals? …………… □ Yes □ No
3. Wherever possible, is feed left for nocturnal animals placed on elevated platforms? … □ Yes □ No
4. Do you have a wildlife abatement program in place to discourage wildlife from utilizing zoo features? ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. □ Yes □ No

If Yes, what discouragement method/tool is used? *[Select all that apply.]*

* + Reflective tape/flagging
  + Wire grids
  + Lasers
  + Audio scare device
  + Sprinklers
  + Bird balls
  + Scary man
  + Effigies
  + Hazing……………….. (□ Dogs, □ Pyrotechnics, □ Firearms, □ Other )
  + Removal…………….. (□ Trapping, □ Shooting, □ Chemical, □ Other )
  + Other

1. Is there an established rodent management program? …………………………………..…….. □ Yes □ No If Yes, what techniques are used? (i.e. baiting, trapping, chemical)

Are the techniques rotated? □ Yes □ No If yes, how often?

1. Is there an established mammal management program? …………………………………..… □ Yes □ No

If Yes, what techniques are used? (i.e. shooting, trapping, other)

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1. Is there an established bird management program? …………………..…………………………..…□ Yes □ No

If Yes, what techniques are used? (i.e. shooting, trapping, other) \_

1. Has any dead wildlife been discovered within or around the facility? …………………….…. □ Yes □ No

If Yes, what species, when, and where? Sent for testing?



1. Are outside wildlife or exotics ever housed at the zoo?…………………………..…………………. □ Yes □ No

Are these animals maintained in separate quarantine facilities?.......……………………. □ Yes □ No

Are separate boots and clothing used when caring for these animals?.................... □ Yes □ No

Is testing conducted on sick/injured wildlife?............................................................ □ Yes □ No

1. Is water used for animal drinking and cleaning from a municipal source ?…………… □ Yes □ No
2. Are debris and material that may harbor pest species removed regularly?................. □ Yes □ No
3. Are dedicated coveralls and boots used when caring for species that may serve as reservoirs for wildlife origin pathogens? ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….□ Yes □ No
4. Are footbaths used when transitioning between habitats and the rest of the zoo?

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….□ Yes □ No

1. Are roof-top ventilation screens/doors/eves inspected regularly and repaired/replaced when damaged to prevent wildlife from entering the buildings? …………………………………….. □ Yes □ No

If Yes, how often?

1. Are the outside dumpsters containing garbage or dead animal carcasses covered or closed to prevent wildlife access at all times, unless it is being used? ………………………………….... □ Yes □ No
2. Any additional comments from zoo staff?



### Assessment Staff Comments

