4.25.1 PURPOSE

This procedure is to ensure the Topeka Police Department will respond to any dangerous escaped animal emergency in an organized manner.

4.25.2 POLICY

All assigned Department officers will assist the Zoo to reduce risk to the public and help contain and resolve the situation.

4.25.3 PROCEDURE

A. Topeka Zoo policies provide a designated response to escaped animals at the Zoo. This includes any unplanned presence of an animal outside its exhibit or designated holding area or any loss of control of an animal.

B. There is a designated response to an animal attack. This is anytime a person is attacked or is in an enclosure with or in proximity to a dangerous animal and under risk of attack.

4.25.4 PROCEDURE

A. Escape of Animals that are Dangerous to the Public

1. TPD and Animal Control will be immediately notified and respond;
2. Dispatch will relay information from the zoo personnel that may include;
   a. A description of the escaped animal; and
   b. The recommended shot placement for the type of animal to be destroyed, if necessary.

B. Animal Within Zoo Perimeter

1. Zoo personnel shall immediately close all gates and have an employee
standby at gate D with a Zoo radio. Gate D is on the east side of the Zoo and can be seen from the 700 block of Gage.

2. Zoo personnel shall evacuate or direct all visitors to a secured area.
3. All units shall respond to gate D. Entry into the Zoo perimeter shall be made in teams of one officer and one representative from the Zoo whenever possible.
4. Officers should enter the area with the shotgun loaded with a rifled slug, or a patrol rifle, unless otherwise directed.
5. Teams should enter the perimeter in a vehicle whenever possible for safety reasons.
6. Officers are authorized to destroy any animal that represents a clear and immediate danger to public safety whether it is within or outside the zoo perimeter. Officers are also authorized to destroy any animal after the Zoo veterinarian has made the decision that the animal cannot be subdued with immobilization drugs.
7. If there are injuries involved, officers shall secure the scene for EMS personnel. Zoo personnel and a TPD officer should escort EMS personnel to the injured and provide safety.
8. Officers shall document the incident on appropriate reports.

C. Animal Outside Zoo Perimeter

1. Zoo personnel and dispatched officers should meet at a location where the animal was last seen.
2. Whenever possible, officers and Zoo personnel shall form teams for a search of the area. Air surveillance, to include the Department’s UAV should be used whenever possible.
3. If a foot search is required, the teams shall keep vehicles or other safe areas available.
4. The City PIO or Police Department PIO shall be notified. A media release or other social media platforms should be used informing the public and asking them to stay out of the area.
5. Officers should be assigned to keep citizens out of the area where the animal was last seen.
6. The Field or Incident Commander may consider activating the Response Team to assist in the search of the animal, if needed.
7. An after action report should be completed to include; circumstances of need to respond, why, what procedures may have been violated, resources used, how was the incident resolved, and any corrective action warranted. Upon completion this report will be submitted to the Chief of Police’s office.