



# Managing Animals and Veterinary Care at Drive-Through Parks



Animals housed in large drive-through parks may be more difficult to observe and manage than animals housed in typical zoo enclosures. Having strategies in place for proper animal management and optimal veterinary care will help keep your animals healthy.

## ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Here are some methods that can help when managing animals at large parks:

- **Develop a staffing plan** and review it regularly to make sure your park has proper staffing levels.
- **Give staff training** on what to look for during daily animal observations.
- **Equip staff with binoculars, remote cameras, all-terrain vehicles, or other tools** so they have what they need to find and observe all of the animals every day.
- **Set up a well-defined process for staff to immediately report any concerns or health issues to the right personnel** so issues are addressed promptly.
- **Train animals to enter smaller, off-exhibit pens.** This will help you protect them during severe weather, manage special care needs (such as animal compatibility or pregnancy), and provide veterinary care.

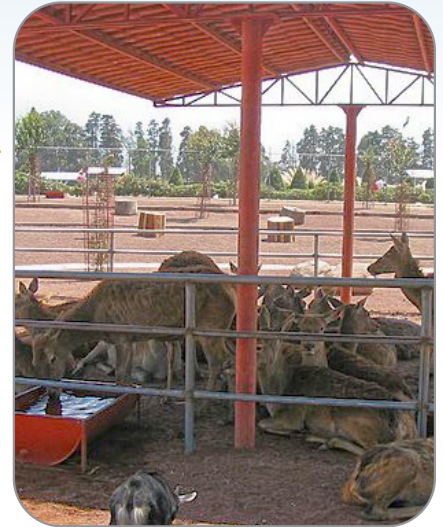


## VETERINARY CARE

Your facility's attending veterinarian is your best resource to create a tailored care plan for your animals.

Below are a few general strategies for effective herd-wide care:

- **Perform regular 'round ups' for preventive care** (such as vaccination and deworming) and to examine animals up close so you can catch and treat any problems early.
- **Learn how to use a remote delivery system and have a plan for managing this task safely.** For example, you'll need to maintain the right equipment and drugs for each species, train key employees, make sure at least one trained staff member is available at all times, and consider the terrain when immobilizing animals.
- **Monitor food intake of the various species at your facility.** One approach is to place feed stations for each group of animals where staff can easily check them. It's also important to assess the body condition of each animal regularly to help you see if they're getting enough to eat.



ANIMAL CARE AID

This Animal Care Aid is part of a series developed to provide information about managing animals housed at drive-through parks.

Questions? Email us at [CenterforAnimalWelfare@usda.gov](mailto:CenterforAnimalWelfare@usda.gov)

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