

APPENDIX H

Red Wolf Escape Contingency Plan

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Introduction. The majority of captive red wolves have spent their entire lives in a pen and may be better adapted to remain there than in the wild. On occasion individual wolves do escape their enclosures. It is important to realize that a recently escaped wolf is unfamiliar with and therefore likely very uncomfortable with its newfound freedom, and may exhibit behavior unlike a wild wolf. The behavior of an escaped individual wolf cannot be specifically predicted but it can be generally anticipated depending upon the length of time it has been out of its enclosure, the environment of and surrounding the facility, and the wolf's prior behavior. Escaped wolves may be more visible to and tolerant of humans, this does not mean they are in any way a threat; but like any animal, they should not be approached or especially cornered.

Escape prevention and preparation. The causes for escapes experienced throughout the Red Wolf Captive Breeding Program can be separated into the following categories: human error, uncontrollable (natural) events and wolf behavior.

Causes for escape related to human error (e.g., unsecured gates, pen disrepair, etc.) can be minimized with frequent inspection/maintenance schedules and proper training of well-qualified keepers. Over time, many of the routine duties associated with keeping captive animals can become monotonous and boring. Mistakes during repetitive activities are human nature and expected. But, such mistakes can be kept to a minimum if the routines that are taught are well planned, tested, and revised. Service biologists responsible for housing captive-born and wild wolves on Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge will provide the protocols and training for this facility.

Uncontrollable events (e.g., severe weather, trees falling on pen, etc.) although not completely preventable, can be minimized during the pen construction planning and prior to placement of wolves in the enclosures by involvement of the captive breeding coordinator and/or other experienced program personnel. As added precaution, wolves placed in this facility will wear radio-transmitter collars for an initial period of time sufficient to determine their normal behavior (see following paragraph), and to assess the condition and function of the pen(s). Collars also will be used yearly during the peak months of hurricane season.

Wolves held for long periods of time in an enclosure eventually develop routine behaviors that can be observed. Certain behaviors such as excessive digging, chewing fencing, and jumping on and/or climbing the pen walls, are more likely to result in escapes. Changes to the pen environment (e.g., addition of new wolf/wolves, excessive human activity, and visitation by dogs or wild wolves outside the pens) also can alter more benign behaviors and increase the risk of escape. Knowledge of a particular wolf's behavior and attention to these early warning signs within keeper protocols can greatly reduce chances of escape. A perimeter fence around the facility serves as an extra precautionary enclosure.

In the event of an escape. When it is determined that a wolf is not in its enclosure, **time** is the most influential factor affecting its recapture and possible survival. Contact with one of the red wolf recovery **field team** will be made **immediately**. The capture of wild wolves and coyotes is

a continuous and major part of the duties of the field team. Field team personnel also serve as the last resort in those rare instances when red wolves escape from zoos and other captive facilities around the United States when those facility's attempts fail.

Attempts to contact **supervisory personnel** also will be made as soon as possible, but voice messages are acceptable. If necessary, contact of local law enforcement, other county officials, or residents will be made by the field team member on site or by supervisory personnel. If any other wolf/wolves is/are still in the enclosure, immediate effort by the keeper will be made to determine if the escape was by means that could afford escape for other animals. If possible to do so, the escape route should be closed off with whatever means is available until assistance arrives. The escaped wolf may still be within the perimeter fence or nearby outside, so disturbance in the area should be minimized. Capture of the escaped wolf will be by field team personnel using the most appropriate means at their discretion.

Contact List (all telephone numbers are 252 area code).

Field team - **Call every number in succession until one of the team is reached in person.**

| Name | Work | Mobile | Home | Pager |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Arthur Beyer | 473-1131 x 241 | 475-8351 | 473-6258 | 473-9036 |
| Christopher Lucash | 796-3004 x 230 | 475-8259 | 766-0123 | NA |
| Ford Mauney | 946-6090 | 475-8352 | 946-6090 | NA |
| Michael Morse | 473-1131 x 242 | 475-8350 | 441-4297 | NA |
| Leslie Schutte | 473-1131 x 244 | 475-8353 | 473-4782 | NA |
| Kathy Whidbee | 473-1131 x 243 | NA | 475-1905 | NA |

Supervisory - **Contact all within several hours of the event from 7:00 am. to 11:00 pm., leave messages if necessary.**

| Name | Title | Work | Mobile | Home |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|----------|----------|
| Howard Phillips | PLNWR Manager | 796-3004 x 226 | 796-7517 | 796-3486 |
| David Kitts (alternate) | PLNWR Asst. Manager | 796-3004 x 225 | 796-7881 | 796-3334 |
| Buddy Fazio | Red Wolf Recovery Team Leader | 473-1131 x 240 | 475-1183 | 473-4590 |
| Diane Hendry | Red Wolf Recovery Program / Outreach Coordinator | 473-1131 x 246 | 305-0800 | 473-6633 |
| Kim Wheeler | Red Wolf Coalition Executive Director | 796-5600 | | |