




FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

M E M O R A N D U M



TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: John W. Dargle, Jr., Director 

FROM: Cindy Walsh, Director
Resource Management Division

DATE: September 18, 2008

Agenda

Resource Management Committee
Wednesday, September 24, 2008 – 3:45 p.m.
Board Room – Herrity Building
Chairman: Frank Vajda
Vice Chair: Harry Glasgow

1. Adoption of Policy 207 Live Animal Collections and Appendix 16 – Guiding Principles for the Care and Management of Live Animal Collections – Action*
2. Park Authority Stewardship Update – Information*

*Enclosures



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Board Agenda Item
October 8, 2008

ACTION

Adoption of Policy 207 - Live Animal Collections and Appendix 16 - Guiding Principles for the Care and Management of Live Animal Collections

ISSUE:

For many years, the Park Authority has had both wild captive and farm animals under its stewardship, primarily at nature centers and Frying Pan Farm Park. The Park Authority animals are technically part of the agency's education collection, interpreted in programs, replaceable, and not purposely bred. Although the Park Authority has had both wild captive and farm animals under its stewardship for many years, a policy statement regarding their acceptance, care, and ongoing management does not exist.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends adoption of Policy 207 - Live Animal Collections and Appendix 16 - Guiding Principles for the Care and Management of Live Animal Collections.

TIMING:

Board action is requested on October 8, 2008.

BACKGROUND:

The impetus for developing a policy regarding live animal collections is multi-faceted: humane care of animals at park sites; public safety/disease management; protection of public trust and fiscal resources of the agency; and best practice collections management. A staff workgroup was formed to review live animal collections policies, procedures, laws and regulations from nature centers and historic farm museums around the country so that a similar policy could be developed for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The policy addresses the basic issues of what animals the agency collects, how animals come under Park Authority stewardship, level of care, record keeping, loan policies, public access, and removal from the collection.

As stewardship of Park Authority animals has long been an area of visitor interest, adoption of a policy statement regarding live animal collections will address concerns the public may have about agency stewardship, and will also direct staff member care of Park Authority live animal collections. The policy will also educate the public on best

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practices, ensure a consistent message across the agency regarding animal collections, and ensure proper stewardship of live animal collections. The guiding principles in the Appendix reflect current standards and best practices for live animal education collections.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no significant fiscal impact resulting from this policy, aside from purchase of some office supplies and reference materials to standardize and implement care and management procedures.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Policy 207 - Live Animal Collections Policy

Attachment 2: Appendix 16 - Guiding Principles for the Care and Management of Live Animal Collections

STAFF:

John W. Dargle, Jr., Director

Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/COO

Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division

Elisa Lueck, Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Policy Development

Todd Brown, Site Manager, Frying Pan Farm Park

John Shafer, Walney Visitor Center Manager/Assistant Park Manager, Ellanor C.

Lawrence Park

Policy 207 Live Animal Collections

The Fairfax County Park Authority collects, exhibits, interprets and studies farm animals and captive, bred, rehabilitated and non-releasable wild animals solely for educational purposes. In so doing, the Fairfax County Park Authority subscribes to the Resource Management Division Institutional and Professional Code of Ethics adopted by the Park Authority Board, the Code of Ethics for Museums adopted by the American Association of Museums (1993), and the spirit of the Code of Professional Ethics espoused by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association as they apply to live animal collections. The Fairfax County Park Authority is bound by all federal, state and county regulations, laws, and professional standards applicable to the stewardship and use of live animals.

The Fairfax County Park Authority shall ensure that collections under its stewardship are protected, secure, cared for, accounted for and documented. Acquisition, loan, presentation, deaccessioning and disposal activities shall be conducted in a dignified, respectful, humane and safe manner. All live animals will be cared for and maintained in a manner that will insure their health and well-being and the safety of staff, visitors and the animals. The Fairfax County Park Authority shall maintain detailed guidelines and principles for the management and care of live animals in its custody in the appended *Guiding Principles for the Care and Management of Live Animal Collections*. Specific practices and procedures are set forth in the *Live Animal Collections Care and Management Manual*, follow professional standards, and meet or exceed the requirements established by National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Association of State Public Veterinarians and/or the American Association of Museums.

Live animals may be acquired through donation, loan, purchase, natural species reproduction, intentional breeding, trade, capture or rescue. Animal transactions will occur only with reputable facilities, institutions or individuals having the appropriate expertise and facilities to care for them. All loan activities or temporary transfers of live animals to or from the Fairfax County Park Authority shall be for purposes as stated in the loan agreement, conducted in a manner that ensures the welfare of the animal, in compliance with all permit requirements, and in accordance with relevant local, state and federal regulations.

The Fairfax County Park Authority collects animals for the Live Animal Collections that meet the following criteria:

- Consistency with the agency mission and site interpretive plan.
- Wild animals represent species native or naturalized to Fairfax County; farm animals are historically appropriate and represent breeds associated with agricultural traditions in Fairfax County.
- The site has the resources to replace the animal with similar animals.
- The animal is not an endangered species.

- The animal's overall health is good to excellent.
- The animal can withstand the stress of a captive environment.
- The animal's presence does not adversely impact the health, care, or maintenance of other animals in the collection or of the animal being acquired.
- The animal's temperament is such that they may be safely handled by most trained staff without additional highly specialized training.
- The site has the resources to meet the stewardship needs of the animal and to maintain the educational value of the animal.
- The Fairfax County Park Authority can provide staff with the specific training, education, and certification necessary for the ongoing care and handling of the animal.

In general the Fairfax County Park Authority discourages the collection of threatened or rare species. The Fairfax County Park Authority will not collect:

- Beyond agency capacity to provide adequate resources for the care of Live Animal Collections.
- Uncontrollable species.
- Animals that bond to only one handler.
- Animals with deformities.
- Animals typically considered as pets, unless specifically outlined in the site interpretive plan.
- Single animals of a species where mating or social behavior is such that holding only one may constitute undue cruelty.

Each animal or group of animals shall be evaluated individually in terms of its conformity to Scope of Collections criteria and to the ability of the Fairfax County Park Authority to care for the animal in a manner consistent with professional standards.

Recognizing that all live animals require constant care or husbandry, the *Fairfax County Park Authority Live Animal Collections Care and Management Manual* specifies protocols for routine health care and emergency veterinary procedures, quarantine, husbandry, nutrition, water, housing and pasture, cleaning of housing and management of animal waste, safety and security, protection from disease, handling and program use, and all other aspects of care for each species under Park Fairfax County Park Authority stewardship. All staff involved in the care of live animals shall receive basic and continuing education and training in animal care and handling.

An animal may be deaccessioned if at least one of the following criteria is met:

- The animal is not relevant or useful to the stated purposes of the Fairfax County Park Authority or is outside the Scope of Collections or site mission.
- The animal's health has deteriorated beyond exhibit or program usefulness or practicable treatment.

- The animal has been found to have physical ailments that jeopardize its quality of life.
- The animal is found to be behaviorally incompatible.
- There is concern for the animal's health.
- The animal has died.
- The animal duplicates others in the collection.
- The animal is ready for reintroduction to the wild.
- The Fairfax County Park Authority lacks the resources to care for the animal properly.
- The animal compromises the Fairfax County Park Authority's commitment to protect and preserve wildlife resources or to discourage illicit trade in such animals.
- Overpopulation threatens consumable stock.
- Traditional agricultural economic practices are best served.
- Resident stock has reached the end of its productive working life, has a chronic health condition, can be replaced by a more appropriate animal, or faces overpopulation.

Approved methods of disposition are as follows:

- Loan return.
- Reintroduction to the wild.
- Transfer to another institution.
- Transfer to a private animal caretaker.
- Sale consistent with routine farm practices.
- Humane euthanasia.

Disposal of Collection animals, alive or dead, must be in a manner that is dignified and humane and meets the requirements of all applicable local, state, and federal laws and health department regulations. Funds from the sale of farm animals support current and replacement animals. Wild animals will not be sold to any organization or individual that might sell the animal at auction.

The Fairfax County Park Authority shall maintain a permanent record of Collection animals with their documentation, including all legal instruments, agreements, conveyances, research and descriptive catalog records, and any other pertinent data necessary to meet permit requirements and standard record-keeping purposes. Records concerning deaccessioned animals will be retained for a period of five years, after which they may be destroyed.

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Appendix 16 Guiding Principles for the Care and Management
of Live Animal Collections

SECTION 1 - DEFINITION

The Fairfax County Park Authority Live Animal Collections consist of living farm animals and captive wild animals that support agency, division, and individual site missions and are interpreted in exhibits, demonstrations and educational programs or studied in research activities. Live Animal Collections are individuals and groups or colonies of species that are cared for and housed at agency facilities for extended periods of time. These Collections do not include animals used in surveys or catch and release programs, fish stocked by the state in parks, hen's eggs, feeder animals, or wildlife in the parks.

SECTION 2 - MISSION

These Guiding Principles stem from the Fairfax County Park Authority mission. The Fairfax County Park Authority collects, cares for, houses, exhibits and interprets farm animals and naturalized and native wild species in support of its stated mission:

"To set aside public spaces for and assist citizens in the protection and enhancement of environmental values, diversity of natural habitats and cultural heritage to guarantee that these resources will be available to both present and future generations. To create and sustain quality facilities and services which offer citizens opportunities for recreation, improvement of their physical and mental well being, and enhancement of their quality of life."

Members of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board and all Fairfax County Park Authority staff subscribe to the Code of Ethics for Museums adopted by the American Association of Museums (AAM), to the Resource Management Division Institutional and Professional Code of Ethics adopted by the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, and to the spirit of the Code of Professional Ethics espoused by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRRA) as they apply to live animal collections. The Fairfax County Park Authority is bound by all federal, state and county regulations applicable to the stewardship and use of live animals.

The Fairfax County Park Authority defines stewardship as "The careful and responsible management of the resources entrusted to the Fairfax County Park Authority by the citizens of Fairfax County in order to ensure their integrity for present and future generations." The Fairfax County Park Authority recognizes that stewardship of Live Animal Collections entails the highest public trust. Management of its Live Animal Collections is accordingly recognized as an essential responsibility of the Fairfax County Park Authority. Enforcement of the guiding principles, regulations, ethics, practices and procedures concerning the stewardship of agency Live Animal Collections is the responsibility of all Fairfax County Park Authority staff in any and all instances in which these collections are cared for, housed, interpreted, exhibited, or otherwise utilized by the Fairfax County Park Authority or its agents.

The Director of the Fairfax County Park Authority has assigned responsibility for Live Animal Collections to the Resource Management Division. The Director of the Resource Management Division has delegated oversight of any required permits to the Resource Management Division Site Operations Branch Manager. The Resource Management Division Director has delegated review of site stewardship practices to the Live Animal Collections Committee. The Live Animal Collections Committee regularly reviews and revises live animal collections management principles and procedures as necessary to comply with federal, state and local regulations and professional guidelines. They may consult and/or provide recommendations for animal acquisition, deaccession and disposition. They also review site Live Animal Collecting Plans. The Live Animal Collections Committee is comprised of one member from each site holding live animal collections and one member of the Museum Collections section. The Resource Management Division Director has charged site managers with the ongoing daily care and protection of live animals at their sites, including the manner in which animals are acquired, housed, transported, cared for, handled, exhibited, interpreted, used and disposed of, as well as planning for future needs of the Collections. Specific procedures for the appropriate care and management of these collections are set forth in the *Fairfax County Park Authority Live Animal Collections Care and Management Manual*, and are based on federal, state and county regulations and on professional organization and museum standards and guidelines.

SECTION 3 - GENERAL PROGRAM MESSAGE

The Fairfax County Park Authority holds and displays live animals for educational programs and temporary and permanent exhibits to enrich the visitor experience, to inspire an appreciation for the county's fauna, and to develop responsibility and respect for the world we share. Display of live animals must enhance site, division and agency goals concerning pertinent interpretive messages. Such messages endeavor to foster public awareness, understanding, appreciation and stewardship of Fairfax County fauna and their habitats and of the role farm animals played historically in county agriculture. Educational goals include teaching the public about agricultural traditions and the natural world around them, dispelling myths and misconceptions related to animals, and striving to increase the current level of knowledge and understanding of certain species through observation and interpretation. The Fairfax County Park Authority live animals partner with staff to provide these learning opportunities.

Live animals provide a unique opportunity to educate people about the natural world and about our agricultural past. Species that are often difficult to observe in their natural setting can be presented to the public through exhibits and programs. Exhibits and programs highlight living systems in the environment by focusing on adaptations and natural behaviors of living organisms. Similarly, farm animals convey an awareness and understanding of the central role animals played in our agricultural traditions and in people's lives. In demonstrating their uses and how they were managed, farm animals support interpretation of historic agricultural practices, food production and economy, farm work and rural family and community life. To that end it is important to communicate the message that farm animals were not pets, but were bought and sold as part of the rhythm of farm life.

The use of animals in settings allowing for close observation, including animal contact, can be positive and powerful. Animal and human welfare is considered at all times. Because the Fairfax County Park Authority teaches respect for animals in their natural settings, it needs to respect captive and farm animals at agency sites. All animals are presented in a dignified, respectful, humane and safe manner that neither threatens nor degrades them. To that end live animals are utilized only in appropriate uses and settings and for purposes for which they have been specifically bred. All are used solely for educational purposes. Every effort is made not to jeopardize any wild animal or the natural population from which it is drawn. Program staff is specifically trained, and in turn demonstrates to the public, how to properly handle or touch animals.

SECTION 4 - SCOPE OF COLLECTIONS

The Fairfax County Park Authority collects farm animals and captive, bred, rehabilitated and non-releasable wild animals for the Live Animal Collections that meet all of the following criteria:

- They are consistent with the agency or site mission and site interpretive plan, providing a connection to wildlife or farm life through exhibition or educational programming.
- Wild animals represent species native or naturalized to Fairfax County, farm animals are historically appropriate and represent breeds associated with agricultural traditions in Fairfax County.
- The site has the resources to replace them with similar animals.
- They are not endangered species.
- Their overall health is good to excellent.
- They can withstand the stress of a captive environment.
- Their presence does not adversely impact the health, care, or maintenance of other animals in the collection or of the animal being acquired.
- Their temperament is such that they may be safely handled by most trained staff without additional highly specialized training.
- The site has the resources to meet the stewardship needs of the animal, which includes housing and husbandry requirements, permit and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection requirements, routine veterinary care, and disposition.
- The site has the resources to maintain the educational value of the animal.
- The Fairfax County Park Authority can provide staff with the specific training, education, and certification necessary for the ongoing care and handling of the animal.

The Fairfax County Park Authority will not collect beyond agency capacity to provide the resources to adequately care for Live Animal Collections. In collecting certain species, only the number needed for interpretive purposes will be collected. When possible, wild animals in the Live Animal Collections are obtained from local wildlife rehabilitators or governmental agencies that have deemed those specimens non-releasable due to physical or psychological disability (injury, habituated, imprinted, captive-born, etc.) or other reasons that prevent a successful wild life. In general, the Fairfax County Park

Authority discourages the collection of threatened or rare species, but in special circumstances and in consultation with the Live Animal Collections Committee, consideration may be given to animals that are threatened or rare.

The Fairfax County Park Authority does not collect:

- Uncontrollable species.
- Animals that bond to only one handler.
- Animals with deformities (exceptions may be made for special program messages).
- Animals typically considered as pets.
- Single animals of a species where mating or social behavior is such that holding only one may constitute undue cruelty.

Collecting Plans serve as a basis to plan for the rotation and future needs of the Live Animal Collection. They guide acquisitions of specific species and adhere to acquisition and disposition policies. Responsible management necessitates that selected animals be acquired and that others be removed from the collection at certain times. Farm animals categorized as *resident stock* are not kept beyond the end of their productive working lives and those categorized as *consumable stock* are disposed of regularly to prevent over-population, usually within one year or less.

SECTION 5 - ACQUISITIONS

Live animals may be acquired through donation, loan, purchase, natural species reproduction, intentional breeding, trade, capture or rescue. Animal transactions will occur only with reputable facilities, institutions and/or individuals. All transactions will be conducted in accordance with relevant local, state, federal and international laws, policies, permits, procedures and guidelines. Transactions will occur in an ethical manner befitting the museum and the animal. The Fairfax County Park Authority accepts animal acquisitions only from sources that are known to operate legally and conduct their business in a manner that follows Fairfax County Park Authority ethics for Live Animal Collections as defined herein.

The Fairfax County Park Authority intent in maintaining Live Animal Collections is to minimize impact on natural populations. In acquiring live animals, to insure proper health standards, inventory and diversity, exhibition, and adherence to regulations, each animal or group of animals shall be evaluated individually in terms of its conformity to Scope of Collections criteria described above and the ability of the Fairfax County Park Authority to care for the animal in a manner consistent with professional standards. All contacts regarding acquisition of live animals must be forwarded to the site animal care supervisor. Animals owned or cared for by staff and visitors are not permitted inside Fairfax County Park Authority facilities where Collection animals are present, except for program use. Service animals are not considered pets and are the only other animals permitted inside Fairfax County Park Authority buildings. All acquisitions to the Live Animal Collection must be approved in advance by the site manager. Following approval, animals shall be accessioned promptly according to

procedures stated in the *Fairfax County Park Authority Live Animal Collections Care and Management Manual*.

SECTION 6 - LOANS

Loans are temporary transfers of live animals to or from the Fairfax County Park Authority for stated purposes, such as exhibition, breeding, or research. All loan activities shall be conducted in a manner that ensures the welfare of individual animals.

Conservation of populations, species, and ecosystems are carefully considered during acquisition and disposition activities. Transactions will occur in an ethical manner befitting the museum and the animal and comply with all permit requirements. All transactions will be conducted in accordance with relevant local, state, federal and international laws.

Animal transactions will occur only with reputable facilities, institutions and/or individuals. Purchases of farm animals are made only from qualified breeders and breed association consignment sales. Loans of captive wild animals to the Fairfax County Park Authority will be obtained from well-respected captive collections. Veterinarian-approved husbandry protocols for hygiene and safety shall be followed in order to protect the health of staff, volunteers, public and animals in the Live Animal Collection.

Live animals on loan to the Fairfax County Park Authority for program purposes shall be appropriate to the Scope of Collections criteria described above and to the ability of the Fairfax County Park Authority to care for the animal in a manner consistent with professional standards.

Any and all restrictions and specific conditions accompanying a loan to or from the Fairfax County Park Authority shall be so stated on the appropriate *Loan Agreement* form. Transportation methods, costs, and any specific instructions for the animal's care shall be specifically defined. An agreement detailing provision of medical care signed by the owner and instructions for disposition of the animal at the end of the loan period shall be stipulated in the loan agreement. All loans extended to or from the Fairfax County Park Authority shall be for stated and specific periods of time. The site animal care supervisor monitors all loans and specifies conditions for their exhibition, interpretive use, protection and care.

The loan of any animal from the Fairfax County Park Authority, or transfer of an animal from one site to another, requires permission from the site manager. Loans of live animals from the Fairfax County Park Authority are made only for educational, interpretive, breeding, or research purposes. Loans of live animals are made only to individuals or organizations having the appropriate expertise and facilities to care for them and the protection required during transport, exhibition and through all phases of the loan period. Animals may not be loaned from the Fairfax County Park Authority if their absence will adversely affect programming. The Fairfax County Park Authority reserves the right to recall the animal at any time. The condition of and ability of the recipient to provide proper care for any animal loaned to other institutions will be

assessed at least annually. If the conditions and care of the animal are in violation of the loan agreement, the animal will be recalled.

SECTION 7 - CARE

Standards –

The Fairfax County Park Authority assumes responsibility for the housing, husbandry, and protection of the farm animals and wildlife in its stewardship. All live animals will be cared for and maintained in a manner that will insure their health and well-being. Collections practices and procedures follow professional standards and meet or exceed the requirements established by NWRA, the USDA, the National Association of State Public Veterinarians (NASPHV) and/or the AAM, as appropriate. Regardless of historical authenticity, the safety of staff, visitors and the animals shall not be sacrificed, and all necessary modern-day health care and husbandry practices, animal-handling equipment, storage and handling of feeds and animal waste, shelters, and fencing will be utilized.

Responsible Persons –

A designated animal care supervisor with appropriate Resource Management Division certification will oversee stewardship of all animals on site, all activities involving Collection animals, and training of all other staff involved in the care, handling, and interpretation of the site live animal collections. The site animal care supervisor shall monitor the husbandry, protection, housing, exhibition, program use and research of Live Animal Collections so as to insure that the methods of their housing and husbandry, protection, and disposition are in accordance with professional standards. All sites shall maintain a network of professional animal advisors and a licensed veterinarian on call in case of emergencies. Professional advisors may be veterinarians and staff or members as appropriate from the USDA, NASPHV, NWRA, or Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Care –

Recognizing that all live animals require constant care or husbandry, the *Fairfax County Park Authority Live Animal Collections Care and Management Manual* specifies protocols for routine health care and emergency veterinary procedures, quarantine, husbandry, nutrition, water, housing and pasture, cleaning of housing and management of animal waste, protection, protection from disease, handling and program use, and all other aspects of care for each species under Fairfax County Park Authority stewardship. All animals in the Live Animal Collections receive individual attention and care from staff with regard to these requirements.

Upon arrival at any site all animals will undergo a quarantine period before being placed in the same living areas as current Live Animal Collection animals. Health care shall include daily inspections by staff, routine vaccinations and health testing, veterinary inspections, immediate treatment of illness and injury, and quarantine when appropriate. All sites housing Live Animal Collections will have established written emergency protocols for each animal. All paid site staff shall receive training in these procedures as part of their initial site orientation.

While it is understood that all animals may occasionally become sick or injured, they shall be promptly treated and examined by a veterinarian as appropriate. Staff with consultation from the appropriate advisors shall determine the method of treatment or disposition that best benefits the animal, is humane, and is in keeping with the Code of Ethics described herein. Treatment shall be undertaken only by licensed veterinarians or trained staff, and treatment records shall be kept for each animal.

Training –

To ensure that animals receive professional care and handling, all staff involved in the care of live animals shall receive basic and continuing education and training in animal care and handling. All staff who handle and care for live animal collections shall receive training specific to each species of animal on site, including policies and procedures, basic care and first aid, handling procedures, feeding and grooming, restraint techniques, physiology, record keeping, emergency procedures, visitor, staff and livestock safety, and use and care of appropriate handling equipment. Any staff member handling an animal shall earn the appropriate level of Resource Management Division certification prior to handling the animal without supervision. Routine re-certification/training updates shall be mandatory for all animal handlers.

Training in animal care and handling shall comprise three levels: exposure (the person has witnessed a procedure but has never done it themselves), competence (the person can complete a procedure under supervision) and proficiency (the person can complete a task and perform it in front of the public on a regular basis).

Usage –

Each animal or group of animals shall have a usage protocol specific to that animal, and shall be handled only by trained staff in accordance with that protocol. Only healthy animals able to tolerate the stress of visitor traffic and easy to maintain shall be exhibited or used in demonstrations. Animals having a potential to become stressed shall be housed away from public view and sick or injured animals shall be isolated and receive appropriate care. At all times, animal health will take precedence over revenue production potential.

Transfer –

Animals may be transferred from one location to another for the purposes of acquisition, veterinary treatment, off-site programs, or disposition. The site animal care supervisor will determine the method of transportation, determine the animals are able to withstand the ordinary strains of handling and transportation, ensure the animals are adequately secured and housed during transportation, provide any special husbandry needs, and arrange for any necessary veterinary treatment or approval.

SECTION 8 - RECORDS

Accession records shall be maintained and kept current for each animal or group of animals and must contain the acquisition date, type of acquisition, source, common and scientific names, breed, age, sex, origin, value, and any other pertinent data needed to meet permit requirements and standard record-keeping purposes. Where appropriate,

vaccination records, health certificates, medical records, and registration papers for the animal shall be part of the accession record. Each animal or group of animals in the Live Animal Collections and all records pertaining to that animal or group shall be given its own unique accession number. A permanent record of accessions with their documentation, including all legal instruments, agreements, conveyances, research and descriptive catalog records pertaining to each acquisition or in the Live Animal Collection shall be maintained by the site animal care supervisor. These records shall be kept according to professional museum standards and updated regularly through annual inventory, research and other appropriate means to provide a record of the current status of each animal in the Collection. Duplicate records will be kept at a separate, secure location.

The Resource Management Division Site Operations Branch Manager oversees permits for all wild animals held in the Live Animal Collections throughout the Fairfax County Park Authority. All records pertaining to permitted wildlife species are maintained by the site manager and the relevant site animal care supervisor. All appropriate licenses, permits and records pertaining to farm animals are maintained by the site animal care supervisor. All appropriate husbandry actions will be recorded and records kept for periodic review to insure the quality of humane care provided and for review by the permitting agencies and county animal control.

SECTION 9 - ACCESS

Fairfax County Park Authority Live Animal Collections are accessible to the public through exhibits and programs. All animals shall be secured in enclosures that ensure both their protection and safety of staff and public. Recognizing that contact with animals poses certain risks to staff and to the public, procedures to minimize the possibility of disease transfer and to ensure staff and visitor safety are specified in the *Fairfax County Park Authority Live Animal Collections Care and Management Manual*. Even when their normal behavior may not pose a risk, certain animals (such as venomous snakes or rabies vector animals) that present public safety concerns may dictate special caging.

SECTION 10 - DEACCESSION

The site manager, in consultation with other appropriate staff and/or advisors, may deaccession an animal if one or more of the following criteria are met:

- The animal is not relevant or useful to the stated purposes of the Fairfax County Park Authority or is outside the Scope of Collections or site mission.
- The animal's health has deteriorated beyond exhibit or program usefulness or practicable treatment.
- The animal has been found (after behavioral, environmental, and veterinary intervention) to have physical ailments that jeopardize its quality of life.
- The animal is found to be behaviorally incompatible.
- There is concern for the animal's health.
- The animal has died.
- The animal duplicates others in the collection.

- The animal is ready for reintroduction to the wild.
- The Fairfax County Park Authority lacks the resources to care for the animal properly.
- The animal compromises the Authority's commitment to protect and preserve wildlife resources or to discourage illicit trade in such animals.
- Overpopulation threatens consumable stock.
- Traditional agricultural economic practices are best served.
- Resident stock has reached the end of its productive working life, has a chronic health condition, can be replaced by a more appropriate animal, or faces overpopulation.

The procedure for deaccessioning is as follows:

Prior to any method of disposition, animals on loan are formally returned to the lender either via a Loan Return Form or a written report from the site manager stating their return status, the date of return, and the proposed method of disposition. When any animal on loan (after behavioral, environmental and veterinary intervention) is found to have behavioral or physical ailments that make its quality of life questionable, the owner of the animal will be consulted and the animal either returned to the owner or humanely euthanized at the direction of the owner, in writing and dated and signed by the owner.

When an animal meets one or more criteria for deaccessioning, the site manager may deaccession the animal by completing a Live Animal Collection Deaccession Form, recording the reason/s for deaccession, date of deaccession, and method of disposal. Where appropriate, the permitting agency will be notified.

Where deaccessioning or disposal presents a sensitive issue for the public, an ethical issue, or an unusual medical situation, the Live Animal Collections Committee shall be convened and animal advisors consulted. A decision regarding deaccession and the nature of disposition shall be made by the site manager and the reason/s for deaccession, date of deaccession, and method of disposal recorded on a Live Animal Collection Deaccession Form.

Upon deaccessioning and disposal, all records pertaining to the animal are placed in a special file for deaccessioned animals. Records concerning deaccessioned animals will be retained for a period of five years, after which they may be destroyed.

SECTION 11- DISPOSITION

Disposition occurs when an animal leaves Fairfax County Park Authority custody permanently for any reason. Disposal of Live Animal Collections must be done humanely and ethically and meet the requirements of all applicable local, state, federal and international regulations and laws.

Decisions regarding the disposition of any deaccessioned animal may be made in consultation with the Live Animal Collections Committee. Every effort will be made to assure that all animals under Fairfax County Park Authority stewardship are disposed of

in a manner that meets current disposition standards of the field and is such that they do not find their way into the hands of those not qualified to care for them properly. All inquiries regarding disposition, public or otherwise, will be directed to the site manager or designated spokesperson.

Approved methods of disposition are as follows:

Loan Return -

Where the owner of an animal on loan to the Fairfax County Park Authority has authorized the agency to determine the method of disposition that best benefits the animal, is humane, and is in keeping with the site mission, disposition methods may include sale, transfer or euthanasia. The offspring of any farm animals are recognized as belonging to the owner, unless otherwise stipulated in writing by the owner.

Reintroduction to the Wild –

An animal that is ready to be reintroduced to the wild and is no longer appropriate for exhibition purposes may be released according to established wild life rehabilitation procedures and permit regulations and best practices as recognized by appropriate state or national organizations.

Transfer to Other Institution –

Institutions that are open to the public must balance public display, recreation and entertainment with demonstrated efforts in conservation, education and science. In dispositions to other institutions, the recipient must have the expertise, record management capabilities, financial stability and facilities required to properly care for and maintain the animals. The Fairfax County Park Authority will retain written documentation regarding such transfers in its records.

Living animals may be transferred to institutions licensed under the USDA regulations for non-terminal scientific study. The receiving institution must provide the Fairfax County Park Authority with a written summary of the animal's role in the study. Animals will not be provided for stressful biomedical research. Only studies such as nutrition or behavior that directly benefit the individual and species will be considered.

Transfer to a Private Animal Caretaker –

If an ailment is behavioral or environmental and a suitable owner can be found that has a high probability of providing a behavioral or environmental solution, the animal will be transferred to this owner. The Fairfax County Park Authority will only transfer animals to facilities that have the appropriate expertise and resources to care for and ensure the welfare of the animal for the rest of its life.

If an ailment prevents an animal from working in programming or exhibition and the animal is not suffering, the Fairfax County Park Authority may retire the animal to an off-site facility owned or managed by the Fairfax County Park Authority or transfer the animal to an owner that can provide proper care.

Sale –

Disposition of farm animals through sale is consistent with routine farm practices. Sale of farm animals may only be made to reputable individuals, vendors or auction companies. Funds from the sale of farm animals support current and replacement animals. Wildlife animals will not be sold to any organization or individual that might sell the animal at auction. Recipients must ensure in writing that such animals will not be disposed of at a wild animal auction or to an individual or organization that allows experimentation or hunting of the animal.

Humane Euthanasia –

If a veterinarian and staff determine that an ailment is not practicably treatable and if the animal is suffering, the animal will be humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian according to state procedures, consistent with acceptable practices, and subject to all relevant laws and regulations. The following factors should be considered in decisions to treat or euthanize a sick or injured animal and recorded in writing:

- Program value.
- Age of animal.
- Known personality (easy to use).
- Retention of authenticity as a wild animal post-treatment.
- Whether condition could infect other animals in the Collection.
- Reasonable recovery rate.

If an animal dies while under stewardship of the Fairfax County Park Authority, its' remains shall be disposed of in a manner that is dignified and humane. Disposal of dead animals must meet the requirements of all applicable local, state and federal laws and health department regulations. Where it is appropriate, maximum use should be made of the remains, which may include use in educational programs or exhibits at the Fairfax County Park Authority or another institution. The Fairfax County Park Authority recognizes the sensitive nature of the disposition of some individual remains and will consider this when determining final disposition. All accessions of remains to Fairfax County Park Authority will be made in consultation with the Live Animal Collections Committee. Records of all dispositions, including animal body parts, shall be retained whenever possible. If a necropsy is necessary, the remains must be refrigerated, except when specified by the veterinarian.

SECTION 12 - ETHICS AND LIVE ANIMAL COLLECTIONS

The Fairfax County Park Authority subscribes to the "Code of Ethics for Museums" adopted by the American Association of Museums November 12, 1993. The distinctive character of museum ethics derives from the custody, care and use of living collections representing the world's wildlife common wealth. This stewardship of collections entails the highest public trust and carries with it the presumption of care, documentation, accessibility and responsible disposal. Thus, the Fairfax County Park Authority ensures:

- Collections in its custody support its mission and public trust responsibilities.
- Collections in its custody are protected, secure and cared for.

- Collections in its custody are accounted for and documented.
- Access to the collections and related information is permitted and regulated.
- Acquisition, deaccession, disposal and loan activities are conducted in a manner that respects the protection and preservation of wildlife resources and discourages illicit trade in such materials.
- Acquisition, deaccession, disposal and loan activities conform to its mission and public trust responsibilities.
- Disposal of collections through sale, trade or research activities is solely for the advancement of the Fairfax County Park Authority mission.
- Collections-related activities promote the public good rather than individual financial gain.

The Fairfax County Park Authority Live Animal Collections Policy and attendant *Guiding Principles for the Care and Management of Live Animal Collections* are available to the public. Access to the *Fairfax County Park Authority Live Animal Collections Care and Management Manual* and specific animal records is monitored by and available through the site manager.

These guiding principles shall be reviewed and revised every five years or more often as circumstances warrant.

Board Agenda Item
October 8, 2008

INFORMATION

Park Authority Quarterly Stewardship Update

The purpose of the Stewardship Update is to provide information on a quarterly basis on current museum collections and cultural and natural resource issues, to highlight projects of note and to provide updates on activities related to the implementation of the Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and the Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). This includes both Park Authority-specific and countywide activities.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Park Authority Quarterly Stewardship Update

STAFF:

John W. Dargle, Jr., Director

Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/COO

Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division

David Bowden, Director, Planning and Development Division

Charles Bittenbring, Director, Park Services Division

Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division

Miriam Morrison, Director, Administration Division

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**Park Authority Quarterly Stewardship Update
 Museum Collections
 September 2008**

| Item | Background | Status | Lead Agency |
|--|---|--|-----------------------|
| <p>POLICY & PLANNING Live Animal Collections Policy</p> | <p>While the Park Authority has both wild captive and farm animals under its stewardship, primarily at Resource Management Division nature centers and at Frying Pan Farm Park, it has never had a formal policy addressing them. Adoption of a formal policy by the Park Authority Board will help address any potential concerns the public may have about live animals at Park Authority sites, and also further demonstrate agency professionalism in this area of stewardship.</p> | <p>Scheduled for presentation to the Resource Management Committee on September 24, 2008, and for adoption by the Park Authority Board on October 8, 2008.</p> | <p>Park Authority</p> |
| <p>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH Virginia Association of Museums (VAM)</p> | <p>VAM is the statewide organization for museum professionals. Part of its mission is to offer training opportunities for staff who work in museums, which it does through sessions at the annual meeting, its workshop series and special programs.</p> | <p>Susan Clark will represent the Fairfax County Park Authority by serving on a panel for the "Museum Collections Management Workshop" at the annual VAM conference scheduled for March 2009.</p> | <p>VAM</p> |
| <p>PARTNERSHIPS Virginia Association of Museums/ Collections In Action (CIA)</p> | <p>VAM is the statewide organization for museum professionals. VAM is sponsoring a program similar to the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums called the "White Gloves Gang" to serve collections care and stewardship needs of museums around the state. Under this program a Virginia museum can apply for volunteer assistance with a well-defined one- or two-day collections stewardship project.</p> | <p>Susan Clark, an active VAM member, represents the Park Authority by taking part in the monthly meetings to discuss development of a regional "Collections in Action" (CIA) team and seek institutions in need to determine the specialized services offered by the committee.</p> | <p>VAM</p> |

Park Authority Quarterly Stewardship Update
Museum Collections
September 2008

| Item | Background | Status | Lead Agency |
|--|--|---|-----------------------|
| <p>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Conservation Treatment Projects</p> | <p>The Park Authority annually undertakes a series of conservation treatment projects for its Historic Object Collections.</p> | <p>The Park Authority contracted for the installation of ultra-violet protective film for the windows at Sully Historic Site locations which house museum objects as a preventative conservation project. U-V film was also applied to the office windows of the Museum Collections Management office to provide additional light protection.</p> | <p>Park Authority</p> |
| <p>Collections Storage</p> | <p>Improvement of collections storage has been identified as a key strategy of the Park Authority Strategic Plan. It is also an issue that will strongly influence the future accreditation of the agency museum sites. Existing spaces for storage of the Museum Collections has been reported as grossly inadequate, especially for oversize objects and farm equipment.</p> | <p>A storage annex for museum collections to be located at Ash Grove is in the planning and funding stages. This site will provide minimal storage requirements for oversized objects, farm equipment, and structural artifacts not on exhibit.</p> | <p>Park Authority</p> |

**Park Authority Quarterly Stewardship Update
Cultural Resource Management and Protection
September 2008**

| Item | Background | Status | Lead Agency |
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| EDUCATION AND OUTREACH Intern Funding | Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section is supported by the Fairfax County History Commission and other organizations. | The Fairfax County History Commission awarded the Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section \$7,000 to fund archaeological interns. Two interns, Katherine Maskell and Kira Bonomo, have been assisting the Section with grant writing, research, field and laboratory work, and exhibit preparation and installation. | Fairfax County History Commission/ Park Authority |
| PARTNERSHIPS George Mason Anthropology Partnership | The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section is developing partnerships with other organizations to promote stewardship of cultural resources, provide educational opportunities, and accomplish projects where staffing is not available. | The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section continues to partner with George Mason University. This initiative is beginning its third year. This summer, four interns from George Mason volunteered to complete projects. Several George Mason students will be interning this fall, completing projects for course credit. | Park Authority/George Mason University |
| Cemetery Committee | The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section partners with the Fairfax County History Commission and other agencies to protect cultural resources. | Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section staff are currently working with the History Commission, local historians and concerned citizens to identify, clean up and protect historic cemeteries in the county that have been subject to neglect. | Park Authority and History Commission |
| Fairfax County History Conference | The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section partners with the Fairfax County History Commission and other agencies to protect cultural resources. | Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section staff are working with the History Commission to organize the Fairfax County History Conference which will occur in November. The theme of this year's conference is Fairfax County in the 20th century. | Fairfax County History Commission/ Park Authority |

**Park Authority Quarterly Stewardship Update
Cultural Resource Management and Protection
September 2008**

| Item | Background | Status | Lead Agency |
|--|---|--|---|
| CULTURAL RESOURCES/RESEARCH | | | |
| Cultural Landscape Reports/Treatment Plans | The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section prepares cultural landscape reports to assist in the interpretation and treatment of historic landscapes. | Currently, cultural landscape reports and treatment plans are in planning or underway for the following projects: Laurel Hill Gardens, Sully Historic Site, Green Spring Gardens, and Lamond. | Park Authority |
| Historic Structures | The Park Authority annually undertakes a series of conservation treatment projects for its Historic Object Collections. | Cultural Resource staff continues to work on an Historic Structures report for Minnick House; rehabilitation for Oakton School House; appropriate treatment for Dranesville Tavern. | Park Authority |
| Ox Hill Battlefield Park | The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section conducts interpretation of cultural resources for the public benefit. | A ribbon cutting ceremony at Ox Hill Battlefield Park was held on September 1, the actual anniversary of the battle. The park includes a newly established trail, interpretive signs and a kiosk. The project came about as a result of a partnership between the Park Authority and the Chantilly Battlefield Association. Interpretive work is continuing including development of a podcast for the site. | Park Authority/ Chantilly Battlefield Association |
| Sears House | The Cultural Resource Management and Protection Section conducts interpretation of cultural resources for the public benefit. | September 13 marked the opening of the Sears House which has been restored to its 1930s appearance. | Park Authority/ National Park Service/ US Army Corps of Engineers |

**Park Authority Quarterly Stewardship Update
Natural Resource Management and Protection
September 2008**

| Item | Background | Status | Lead Agency |
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| <p>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council's Biannual Workshop (MAEPPC)</p> | <p>MAEPPC was established in the mid-1990's to coordinate regional efforts to identify, prevent and remove invasive exotic plants and to restore the area's ecosystems and native biodiversity. With over 300 members, the Council plays an integral role in creating a network of land managers to quickly disseminate information and build general knowledge of invasive plants.</p> | <p>Frying Pan Farm Park co-hosted the MAEPPC's biannual workshop, this year entitled "Mapping the Mid-Atlantic." Over 60 attendees from throughout the region, Ohio and Hawaii, listened and participated in this day-long event working towards an early detection rapid response system for invasive species such as Emerald Ash Borer, Wavy-leafed basket grass and Giant Hogweed. This system will help natural resource managers communicate across the region about the presence and invasion fronts of all invasive and potentially invasive species.</p> | <p>MAEPPC</p> |
| <p>PARTNERSHIPS Forest Pest Monitoring and Control</p> | <p>Each year the Park Authority works with Urban Forest Management to support county efforts to control and monitor for forest pest species.</p> | <p>Following Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB) outbreaks in Herndon and Newington, a quarantine has been issued over five counties in northern Virginia with restrictions on harvested timber and education efforts to citizens about not moving firewood out of the area. Urban Forest Management is currently conducting windshield surveys to look for ash trees showing obvious signs of decline near the confirmed EAB outbreaks. If small trees on parkland that show signs of infection are found, they may ask the Park Authority's permission to remove the trees so that they can be stripped and inspected for EAB in fall 2008.</p> | <p>Department of Public Works and Environmental Services</p> |

Park Authority Quarterly Stewardship Update Natural Resource Management and Protection September 2008

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| <p>Board of Supervisors Environmental Agenda - Low Impact Development Design Project</p> | <p>This Environmental Agenda funded project is to design and install Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management features on parkland to provide stormwater benefits and incorporate an educational component to demonstrate different LID techniques to the public.</p> | <p>Maintenance work was completed on the Marie Butler Leven Preserve rain garden on August 19 to correct drainage problems. Columns were augered into the soils and filled with a high sand content material to promote drainage and additional hardwood mulch was added. The Invasive Conservation Corps interns worked with Natural Resource Management and Protection and Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District staff to weed at the Cub Run and Mt. Vernon rain gardens. Three bushes that died were replaced at the Mt. Vernon rain garden. Staff met and developed a maintenance list for the Wakefield rain garden. A contractor is scheduled to begin work on the Greendale Golf Course bioswale in fall 2008.</p> | <p>Park Authority</p> |
| <p>2004 Bond Stream Stabilization Plans</p> | <p>The 2004 Park Bond contains funding for stream restoration projects on parkland, including Turkeycock Run and Huntley Meadows Wetlands Restoration.</p> | <p>The Turkeycock Run project was released by the county inspectors on August 15. The final punch list items are being attended to by the contractor and site staff. There is a one year warranty period for the structures and plants. Park Authority staff met with Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) staff to discuss the possibility of exemption from the dam regulations for the Huntley Meadows wetlands restoration project water control structure. This issue must be resolved before final design and permitting efforts can move forward. Staff anticipates a final answer by the end of September 2008.</p> | <p>Park Authority</p> |
| <p>Wetland and Stream Mitigation</p> | <p>The Park Authority Board directed staff to look into stream mitigation banking, particularly in reference to the Northern Virginia Stream Mitigation Bank in Reston, for viability and revenue potential on parkland.</p> | <p>Park Authority staff have conducted research on mitigation banking, discussed the matter internally and prepared summary materials for the Park Authority Board. Mr. Bouie and Mr. Glasgow and six staff members attended a meeting on August 26, 2008, with Reston Association staff to learn more about their stream mitigation bank. Staff will report back to the Park Authority Board at the November, 2008 Resource Management Committee meeting.</p> | <p>Park Authority</p> |

**Park Authority Quarterly Stewardship Update
Natural Resource Management and Protection
September 2008**

| RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------|
| Board of Supervisors Environmental Agenda - Invasive Management Area Program (IMA) | This Environmental Agenda funded project is to remove invasive species from parkland. This program fits neatly with the goals of the Natural Resource Management Plan to educate the public about natural resource issues and to take management action with regards to invasive species. | The Invasive Management Area (IMA) program continues in 2008, with a total of 41 sites and 43 volunteer leaders. Regular workdays continue, with many sites scheduling many more than their required four workdays. | Park Authority |
| Invasive Conservation Corps (ICC) | ICC is a Park Authority-wide summer internship to remove invasive species from parkland. This Environmental Agenda funded project augments our volunteer Invasive Management Area (IMA) program. | Five undergraduate and graduate students joined the Park Authority for 10 weeks this summer to remove invasive plants. The Invasive Conservation Corps' second year provided support to 20 parks with identified priorities for managing invasive species. | Park Authority |
| Elick Natural Resource Management Plan | The Elick Natural Area Preserve, a 250-acre parcel of the rare diabase flatwoods community, was procured with help from the state almost five years ago. As part of management of the site, and as agreed upon in the deed, a Natural Resource Management Plan must be developed by June 2009. | Funding has been provided in the 2004 bond to procure contract services for development of a natural resource management plan for the preserve. Contracting will begin in late fall, with a final draft of the plan expected late spring. | Park Authority |
| Laurel Hill Natural Resource Management | A portion of the funds allocated for Laurel Hill from fund 303 were set aside for natural resource management services at Laurel Hill Park. The focus of those services will be to assess existing resources, develop a management plan for the meadow and old field areas covering much of the site, and begin implementation of the plan. | Park Authority staff are preparing a request for proposals to be sent out in fall 2008 with the intent of hiring a contractor by spring 2009 to provide natural resource management services at Laurel Hill. | Park Authority |
| Deer Enclosures Demonstration Project | This project, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Forestry, is to demonstrate the impacts of deer browse on our forests. Deer enclosures (fences) will be installed at Riverbend Park and Huntley Meadows Park. | Fencing has been installed at both sites and initial vegetative monitoring has occurred with assistance from Master Naturalists. A team will begin to develop an interpretation plan including signage this fall. | Park Authority |

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