



Inspection Report

Date of inspection:

14/10/2014

Date report completed:

28/10/2014

Name of applicant or current
licence holder:

Merlin Entertainments Sealife Ltd

Name and address of zoo:

WEYMOUTH SEA LIFE ADVENTURE PARK
Lodmoor Country Park
Weymouth, Dorset

Postcode: DT4 7SX

Tel no:

01305-761070

Licence Number:

Date of last formal inspection:

Type of last formal inspection:

Interim

Timing of next formal inspection:

2017

Type of next formal inspection:

Interim

Type of inspection Statutory composition of inspection team

Please tick appropriate box

Section 10 Periodical: 2 Defra/Welsh Government nominees; 1 LA vet; option of up to 2 more from LA.. ☐Section 11 Special: Any number of competent LA authorised appointees ☐Section 14(1)(b) dispensation renewal under section 6(1A)(a) (where a direction has been made that
section 10 shall not apply):Defra/Welsh Government nominee/s..... ☐

Section 14(2) dispensation Periodical:

Defra/Welsh Government nominee/s..... ☒For a licence inspection (Section 4(1A)(b)) and a significant change inspection (Section 9A(8)) please
use the inspection form at Appendix 11A of the Standards.

Name and designation of inspector(s)	Name of zoo representative(s)
Peter Scott FRCVS (Sec States Inspector)	
Coralie McGown (Weymouth& Portland BC)	

When this form has been completed and signed the original must be sent to the local authority.
If the zoo is owned by the local authority, the local authority must send a copy of the completed form
to Defra where the zoo is situated in England or to the Welsh Government, where the zoo is situated in
Wales.

Preamble to inspectors' report

Information and guidance about the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (ZLA) is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/species-protection> and <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/zoos/?lang=en>

Preamble to inspectors' report*, including any comments about the current dispensation status, if applicable.

This beachside aquarium has gone through interesting changes and developments which continue to keep it fresh. It is still at heart a small/medium sized aquarium with themed 'pods' but turtles, crocodiles, otters, penguins and seals have been added to show the diversity of the aquatic habitat. The displays were very well presented.

*this might include general background about the zoo (type of collection, size etc) and any relevant information or comments from the pre-inspection audit

Findings at inspection

Guidance note: Where possible a Yes, No or Not Applicable (N/A) answer should be given. Where not all criteria are met for a particular question, comments and clarification should be made indicating where any deficits occur. If appropriate, means of correction or improvement should be included as Conditions or Recommendations under 'Additional conditions' or 'Additional space' towards the end of the form.

1. Provision of food and water	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:		
1.1. Are animals provided with a high standard of nutrition?	Yes	
1.2. Is food and drink that is supplied appropriate for the species/individual?	Yes	
1.3. Are supplies of food and water:		
(a) kept hygienically?	Yes	
(b) prepared hygienically?	Yes	
(c) supplied to the animal hygienically?	Yes	
1.4. Has natural feeding behaviour been adequately considered to ensure that all animals have access to food and drink?	Yes	
1.5. Are feeding methods safe for staff and animals?	Yes	
1.6. Is feeding by visitors permitted?	No	A small amount of feed is available each day to scatter for the ducks in the pond/lake.
(a) if 'yes', is it properly controlled?	N/A	
2. Provision of suitable environment		
Section 1A(c)(i) ZLA 1981:		
2.1. Are the animals provided with an environment well adapted to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of the species to which they belong?	Yes	
2.2. Are the following environmental parameters appropriate:		
(a) temperature?	Yes	
(b) ventilation?	Yes	
(c) lighting?	Yes	
(d) noise levels?	Yes	
(e) any other environmental parameters?	Yes	

2. Provision of suitable environment (contd.)	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
2.3. Are there satisfactory measures in place to safely confine the animals?	Yes	
2.4. Do animal enclosures have sufficient shelter and refuge areas?	Yes	
2.5. Do animal enclosures provide sufficient space?	Yes	
2.6. Are backup facilities for life support systems adequate?	Yes	
2.7. Is the cleaning of the accommodation satisfactory?	Yes	
2.8. Is the standard of maintenance adequate for: (a) the buildings?	Yes	
(b) the fences?	Yes	
2.9. Is all drainage effective and safe?	Yes	
3. Provision of animal health care		
Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:		
3.1. Are the animals provided with a high standard of animal husbandry?	Yes	
3.2. Do animals on display to the public appear in good health?	Yes	
3.3. Are observations of condition and health made and recorded?	Yes	
3.4. Do animals receive prompt and appropriate attention when problems are noted?	Yes	
3.5. Are enclosures designed and operated in such a way that social interaction problems are avoided?	Yes	
On-site facilities		
3.6. Are catch-up and restraint facilities adequate?	Yes	
3.7. Is darting equipment satisfactory?	N/A	
3.8. Are on-site veterinary facilities adequate?	Yes	

3. Provision of animal health care (contd.)	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Veterinary care Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981: 3.9. Are the animals provided with a documented and maintained programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition?	Yes	
3.10. Is there a system for the regular review of clinical and pathological records?	Yes	This is now extremely good allowing excellent data storage, retrieval and most importantly review.
3.11. Are appropriate veterinary records kept?	Yes	
3.12. Are medicines kept and disposed of correctly?	Yes	
3.13. Are controlled drugs used and recorded satisfactorily?	N/A	
3.14. Are appropriate antidotes available?	N/A	
3.15. Are <i>post mortem</i> examination arrangements satisfactory?	Yes	
Isolation and containment 3.16. Is adequate reserve accommodation available for isolation of animals for: (a) assessment?	Yes	
(b) treatment?	Yes	
(c) recovery?	Yes	
(d) quarantine (where required)?	Yes	
Sanitation and control of disease Section 1A(e) ZLA 1981: 3.17. Are satisfactory measures in place to prevent the intrusion of pests and vermin into the zoo premises?	Yes	
3.18. Does it appear that general sanitation and pest control are effective?	Yes	

4. Provision of an opportunity to express most normal behaviour	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
4.1. Do the accommodation and management regimes encourage normal behaviour patterns and minimise any abnormal behaviour, taking into account current enrichment and husbandry guidelines?	Yes	
4.2. Are animals of social species normally maintained in compatible social groups?	Yes	
5. Provision of protection from fear and distress		
5.1. Are the animals handled only by or under the supervision of appropriately experienced staff?	Yes	
5.2. Is physical contact between animals and the public consistent with the animals' welfare?	Yes	
5.3. Are interactions between the animals such that they are not excessively stressful?	Yes	
6. Transportation and movement of live animals		
6.1. Can the zoo demonstrate a knowledge of, and compliance with, the regulations covering transportation of animals, and provide copies of certificates to show compliance when transportation has occurred?	Yes	
6.2. Can the zoo demonstrate that:	Yes	
i) transport and movement equipment is in good order?		
ii) facilities suitable for lifting, crating and transportation of all the types of animals kept within the zoo to destinations both inside and outside the zoo are readily available?	Yes	
iii) catching and transportation techniques take account of the animal's temperament and escape behaviour in order to minimise injury, damage and distress?	Yes	
iv) adequate provision is made for the animal's and the public's safety and well-being while the animal is being transported or kept away from the zoo?	Yes	

7. Conservation, education and research	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(a) ZLA 1981: 7.1. Is the zoo participating in at least one of the following: (i) research from which conservation benefits accrue to species of wild animals?	Yes	
(ii) training in relevant conservation skills?	Yes	
(iii) the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals?	Yes	
iv) where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity?	Yes	
(v) where appropriate, the repopulation of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals?	Yes	
Section 1A(b) ZLA 1981: 7.2. Is the zoo promoting public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, in particular by providing information about the species of wild animals kept in the zoo and their natural habitats?	Yes	Some of the signage especially in the Rainforest pod is still old-style and needs updating. various equipment including ipad displays are used elsewhere and it is recognised that keeping interpretation fresh and up to date can be a difficult task. At the other end of the scale there was a superb video of the octopus which was an excellent exhibit.
7.3. Where appropriate are animals managed in a way consistent with the conservation needs of the species, (such as exchange between zoos, accommodation to encourage natural behaviour and breeding etc)?	Yes	
7.4. Are on-site education facilities adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	
7.5. Are the conservation efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	
7.6. Are the research efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	
7.7. Is captive breeding properly managed?	Yes	

8. Public safety	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(d) ZLA 1981:		
8.1. Are there satisfactory measures in place to prevent the escape of animals?	Yes	
8.2. Are there satisfactory measures in place to be taken in the event of any escape or unauthorised release of animals?	Yes	
8.3. Are escape drills carried out four times a year, recorded and regularly reviewed (at least two drills should include the escape of a Category 1 animal where present)?	Yes	
8.4. Will the perimeter deter unauthorised entry and aid the confinement of zoo stock?	Yes	
8.5. Do stand-off barriers appear adequate?	Yes	
8.6. Are adequate warning signs provided?	Yes	
8.7. Are prohibited areas appropriately signed?	Yes	
8.8. Are exits clearly marked and accessible?	Yes	
8.9. Do public areas, walkways and buildings appear safe?	Yes	
8.10. Are trees regularly inspected and appropriate remedial action taken?	Yes	
8.11. Have appropriate risk assessments for direct contact by the public with animals been carried out?	Yes	
8.12. Are the special safety requirements for walk-through or drive-through exhibits adequately met?	N/A	

9. Records	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(f) ZLA 1981:		The recording system is now very good, their in house system HYDRA is in place, still being developed but able to do everything required.
9.1. Are there up-to-date records of the zoo's collection, including records of:		
(i) the numbers of different animals?	Yes	
(ii) acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes of animals?	Yes	
(iii) the causes of any such deaths?	Yes	
(iv) the health of the animals?	Yes	
9.2. Are daily diaries maintained, and do they contain appropriate information?	Yes	
9.3. Are animal stock records clear and up-to-date?	Yes	
9.4. Are annual stock records completed in the correct format and submitted to the local authority?	Yes	
9.5. Are animal source and destination records kept?	Yes	
9.6. Are archived records secure?	Yes	
10. Miscellaneous		
10.1. Do staff numbers and training of staff appear adequate?	Yes	
10.2. Is the management structure and organisation of staff adequate to ensure compliance with the Standards at all times?	Yes	
10.3. Are effective risk assessments carried out where appropriate?	Yes	
10.4. Has an ethical review process been established and implemented?	Yes	Good minutes kept
10.5. Are public toilet facilities adequate and serviced?	Yes	
10.6. Are parking facilities adequate?	Yes	adjacent to a large public car park
10.7. Is a First Aid policy and accident reporting and recording system in place?	Yes	

11. Associated legislation	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
11.1. Is electrical equipment routinely serviced?	Yes	
11.2. Have fire precautions been agreed and implemented?	Yes	
11.3. Is refuse and clinical waste disposed of correctly?	Yes	
11.4. Are the required needs of disabled visitors met?	Yes	The site is flat with wide walkways so is ideal for the disabled
12. Compliance check including licence conditions		
12.1. Is the current licence or a copy on public display at each public entrance?	Yes	
12.2. Is adequate Public Liability Insurance current?	Yes	
12.3. Have any Additional licence conditions been met?	Yes	

Additional space

The following space is provided for:

- additional notes and comments on the answers to the earlier questions
- recommendations (other than in respect of grant or refusal of a licence and any specific conditions recommended for a licence) including those based on comments already made to earlier questions
- any general remarks which the inspecting team may wish to record

The site is currently subject to a 14(2) Direction, I believe that this is still appropriate. The range of species displayed now includes mammals, birds and reptiles but the site is still primarily a medium sized aquarium and numbers of individuals are not high. The major linked facility which has supplied fish/exhibits to the other sites is being re-purposed into much more an exhibit development role and this is still consistent with the 14(2) given to the whole site.

There was a water-filled, non-stocked tank in the public area of the turtle section which should either be covered or drained.

Inspecting team's recommendation to the local authority

Having inspected (name of zoo)

WEYMOUTH SEA LIFE ADVENTURE PARK

on:

14th October 2014

the inspecting team make the following recommendation:

Please tick appropriate box

- it is recommended that a licence be refused ☐
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the ZLA 1981
subject to the conservation measures in section 1A ☒
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the ZLA 1981
subject to the conservation measures in section 1A and the following Additional Conditions
(N.B Additional Conditions must be clearly worded so as to be enforceable and a
timescale applied for compliance) ☐
- it is recommended that the following alterations be made to the above collection's
licence conditions ☐

Additional Conditions (if appropriate)

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Inspector(s) signature(s)



Date signed

1/12/2014

The Data Protection Act 1998 – Fair Processing Notice

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The local authority in England (or in Wales as the case may be) is the data controller in respect of any personal data that you provide when you complete this zoo inspection form. The information that you provide may be used by the local authority in its consideration of issuing or amending a zoo licence in accordance with the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (ZLA). The local authority may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). However, local authorities will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor act in contravention of their obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

Where the zoo, to which this inspection report applies, is owned by the local authority, the local authority must send a copy of the completed form to Defra (in accordance with section 13(2) of the ZLA) where the zoo is situated in England, or to the Welsh Government where the zoo is situated in Wales. Defra or the Welsh Government (as the case may be) may use the information contained in the form to ensure that local authorities are carrying out their duties correctly in accordance with the ZLA.

Defra and the Welsh Government are also subject to the EIRs and the FOIA and so may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request. However, as above, Defra and the Welsh Government will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor act in contravention of their obligations under the DPA.

