



# Inspection Report

Date of inspection:  Date report completed:

Name of applicant or current licence holder:

Name and address of zoo:

Tel no:  Licence Number:

Date of last formal inspection:  Type of last formal inspection:

Timing of next formal inspection:  Type of next formal inspection:

**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)
████████████████████	██████████
██████████	██████████
████████████████████)	████████████████████
	████████████████████

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

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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 inspection was made in accordance with the requirements of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended by the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002). In assessing the standards required of a Zoo, reference is made to The Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice (2012 Edition).

The operator was advised that the SSSMZP (2012) will be replaced by the SMZPGB in the near future and the new standards as written must be adhered to when formally issued and they will be the standard inspected to at any subsequent formal zoo inspections.

This is a medium-sized public aquarium on the seafront in the 'old town' part of Hastings, close to the Museum and the historic net sheds. Previously it had been known as Blue Reef Aquarium but is now known as Hastings Aquarium and is part of the ASPRO Pars and get benefit from funding security and group projects.

The current Licence had expired on 24th May 2024 but under 7.6 of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 Guide to the Act's provisions (2012) as the application for a fresh licence was made before the expiration of the existing licence, it was allowed to continued in force until the application has been processed or withdrawn.

Inspectors can only inspect and report on the information gathered on the day of the inspection. Records and record-keeping systems were sampled and interrogated. The annual stock records were checked to assess animal movements and mortalities with any unexpectedly high mortalities further investigated. Annual informal inspections have been done by the Local Authority.

This report is based upon the findings and information supplied in association with the formal inspection that took place on 23rd July 2024.

### Dispensations:-

Responsibility for granting dispensations lies with the Secretary of State. Inspectors have been asked to comment on whether an existing dispensation remains appropriate, but it is not the responsibility of the Inspector to carry out a detailed analysis or to decide on dispensation status. In England, such considerations and any decisions on dispensations are made by APHA on behalf of the Secretary of State.

It is considered that the current Dispensation of 14 (2) is appropriate.

\*\*\* Compliance with the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended) does not imply that the requirements of any other legislation have been met. The licence holder should ensure that he/she is aware of the requirements under CITES regulating the commercial use of specimens listed on Annex A of the CITES regulations. For further information and advice the zoo licence holder should contact the Wildlife and Licensing Registration Service of Animal Health on 0117 372 8774

\*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
<b>Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:</b> 1.1. Are animals provided with a high standard of nutrition?	Yes	The SOP on Invertebrates used as food needs amending
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	There are a number of water handling systems being used including stand alone for isolation
(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) if 'yes', is it properly controlled?	N/A	
<b>2. Provision of suitable environment</b>		
<b>Section 1A(c)(i) ZLA 1981:</b> 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	The displays are natural and well controlled
2.2. Are the following environmental parameters appropriate:		Records on environmental parameters were seen and show good compliance
(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	These were seen as were the service records
2.7. Is the cleaning of the accommodation satisfactory?	Yes	
2.8. Is the standard of maintenance adequate for: (a) the buildings?	No	The main roof is about to have major works which were delayed until after the inspection
(b) the fences?	N/A	
2.9. Is all drainage effective and safe?	Yes	
<b>3. Provision of animal health care</b>		
<b>Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:</b>		
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	
<b>On-site facilities</b>		
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?	No	No dedicated treatment room - See recommendation as to assessment of meeting the SSSMZP requirements

3. Provision of animal health care (contd.)	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
<b>Veterinary care</b> <b>Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:</b> 3.9. Are the animals provided with a documented and maintained programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition?	Yes	There is a need for formal communication between the zoo vet and the local practice that provides support for the reptiles – see Condition 1
3.10. Is there a system for the regular review of clinical and pathological records?	Yes	
3.11. Are appropriate veterinary records kept?	Yes	
3.12. Are medicines kept and disposed of correctly?	Yes	This has now been changed to a commercial collection since the last inspection
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	Staff are trained in post mortem examination and specimen collection
<b>Isolation and containment</b> 3.16. Is adequate reserve accommodation available for isolation of animals for: (a) assessment? (b) treatment? (c) recovery? (d) quarantine (where required)?	Yes Yes Yes Yes	
<b>Sanitation and control of disease</b> <b>Section 1A(e) ZLA 1981:</b> 3.17. Are satisfactory measures in place to prevent the intrusion of pests and vermin into the zoo premises?	Yes	Pest control is monitored
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: i) transport and movement equipment is in good order?	Yes	
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
<p><b>Section 1A(a) ZLA 1981:</b></p> <p>7.1. Is the zoo participating in at least one of the following:</p> <p>(i) research from which conservation benefits accrue to species of wild animals?</p>	Yes	<p>The Aquaria is part of a larger international group and this centre organises the local beach cleans. There are also funding initiatives and we discussed the targeted projects with Zoo employees being involved</p>
(ii) training in relevant conservation skills?	No	
(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?	No	
<p><b>Section 1A(b) ZLA 1981:</b></p> <p>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?</p>	No	<p>The species signs are basic and do not contain much on biological characteristics or where the natural habitat is that would be easily understood by visitors - See Condition 4</p>
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	Future need for retrospective review were discussed
7.6. Are the research efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	A good relationship with local educational facilities
7.7. Is captive breeding properly managed?	Yes	

8. Public safety	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
<b>Section 1A(d) ZLA 1981:</b> 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	The recording of the escape drills information is below that required and should not be a "yes" / "No" tick box exercise – see Condition 2
8.4. Will the perimeter deter unauthorised entry and aid the confinement of zoo stock?	Yes	
8.5. Do stand-off barriers appear adequate?	N/A	Not needed as Aquaria and even terrestrial herptiles/ invertebrates are in closed vivaria/ terraria
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?	N/A	This is an indoor Aquaria with no Trees
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
<b>Section 1A(f) ZLA 1981:</b> 9.1. Are there up-to-date records of the zoo's collection, including records of: (i) the numbers of different animals? (ii) acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes of animals? (iii) the causes of any such deaths? (iv) the health of the animals?	Yes Yes Yes Yes	The stock records were up to date and accurate. Annual returns are being submitted to the LA
9.2. Are daily diaries maintained, and do they contain appropriate information?	No	Hand washing facilities (hot water) in Reptile. Handling area not check before the aquaria is open – see Condition 3
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	In a cloud backup (AWS currently)
<b>10. Miscellaneous</b>		
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	There is a local committee and a large company committee
10.5. Are public toilet facilities adequate and serviced?	Yes	
10.6. Are parking facilities adequate?	Yes	The aquaria is next to a large LA 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	the most recent inspection report of the electrical system (fixed installation inspection) when available needs to be sent to the LA - See Recommendation
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	
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

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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

We would like to thank the Zoo Management and Staff for their hospitality on this inspection. We were very impressed by this Aquaria which is classed as a small Zoo.

Zoos in the UK are granted a licence under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002 to comply with the EC Zoos Directive 1999/22/EC. In pursuance of section 9 of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, The Secretary of State has specified the Standards of Modern Zoo Practice . It is clear that this Zoo is mindful of, and compliant with, these Standards. They should be encouraged to continue to go beyond these.

In line with instructions from Defra, this report provides an accurate summary of the Zoo's compliance with the ZLA and SSSMZP and that any areas of non-compliance, no matter how small, have been highlighted to the Local Authority.

The following are recommendations. These are not currently to be conditions but are made in order to maintain and improve standards. :-

### Recommendations

1. The Collection plan needs to be updated and expanded as to the species that are currently kept and the changes (if any) that are intended over the next six years. There should be defined time periods with better details as to the holding or changes to the individual and groups of species to include the max holding capacity and the future breeding plans where appropriate.
2. There should be an updated SOP detailing which staff are trained and signed off as considered as competent to undertake Euthanaisa with a list of the appropriate methods that would be used within the aquaria.
3. Update the SOP to reflect the practice that is being used for the gut loading of all invertebrates kept as food with an appropriate (named) supplement(s) such that their nutritive value is appropriate for the species to which they are intended to be fed. If dusting is continued to be used instead of gut loading, then a review and full assessment as to the suitability of that practice should be undertaken by your veterinary surgeon.
4. There should be a review and production of an SOP with regard to the current multipurpose area that is also used for veterinary examination and treatment to give good reason as to why it should not be changed/ improved to become fully compliant with the requirements in Appendix 5 (5.9) of SSSMZP that requires a Dedicated Treatment Room of sufficient size for the purpose available at all times with the minimum facilities of an examination table, hot and cold running water, heating, ventilation, lighting and power, have washable floor and wall surfaces.
5. Undertake a review of the Fire exit door (office corridor) that leads directly into the rear area where there is the main electrical cabinet (that was not locked). This should include if it should be alarmed or locked with an emergency override mechanism. The final review document should be sent to the LA.

## Additional space

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6. In order to comply with the Electricity at work regulations 1989, provide a copy of the most recent inspection report to the LA of the electrical system (fixed installation inspection) when this is available and if there are C1 or C2 faults identified then how and when they will be dealt with.

7. A copy of the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy should be obtained to help with the future conservation strategies of the Zoo.

## Inspecting team's recommendation to the local authority

Having inspected (name of zoo)

Hastings Aquarium

on:

23rd July 2024

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)

There are 4 (four) Additional Conditions that should be on the Licence:-

1. In accordance with Appendix 5 (5.4) of the Secretary Of State's Standards Of Modern Zoo Practice, the zoo must, in order to provide comprehensive veterinary care, establish a policy and make adequate provision for the early contact and discussion between the two Veterinary Practices (the Specialist Zoo Vet and the Local Practice) being used for animal welfare and care. This Condition to be met within three (3) months.
2. In accordance with 8.34 and 8.38 of the Secretary Of State's Standards Of Modern Zoo Practice, the zoo must ensure that all animal escape drills are recorded with full details of what happened including details of the staff involved, the escape scenario, details of recapture or kill and are regularly reviewed with any failings or proposed improvements noted and addressed in the written escape policy. This condition to be met within 1 (one) year.

Inspector(s) signature(s)

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

Date signed

25/07/2024

29/07/2024

[Redacted Date]

[Redacted Date]

[Redacted Date]

## Inspecting team's recommendation to the local authority

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### Additional Conditions (if appropriate)

3. In accordance with Appendix 6 (6.9) of the Secretary Of State's Standards Of Modern Zoo Practice, the Zoo must ensure there are adequate and working hand-washing and sanitising facilities in the reptile handling area, with a minimum of warm running water, soap and hand drying facilities. All facilities should be check and recorded each day, before the Aquaria is open, as working and if not then immediate remedial action undertaken (including, if necessary, stopping all contact until repairs have been completed). This condition to be met within 1 (one) month.
  
4. In accordance with 7.11 of the Secretary Of State's Standards Of Modern Zoo Practice all species exhibited must have accurate information displayed and this must include the species name (both scientific and common), its natural habitat, some of its biological characteristics (including if venomous) and details of its conservation status. This condition to be met within 6 (six) months.

## Inspecting team's recommendation to the local authority

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### Directions

Where there has been non-compliance with an existing condition on the current zoo licence the licensing authority **must** issue a direction indicating the steps required to be taken to ensure the original condition is met. The existing conditions on the zoo licence included the Section 1A conservation measures, the standard additional licence conditions, and any that may have been added as a result of previous zoo inspections.

The inspecting team recommends that the following directions are issued to the zoo:

There are no Directions to be issued to the Zoo

## **The Data Protection Act 1998 – Fair Processing Notice**

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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.