

NEWS RELEASE

Zoological Disaster Response, Rescue, and Recovery (ZDR3)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM FROM MONTEREY ZOO RETURNS ANIMALS TO APPLGATE PARK ZOO

MERCED, California - Applegate Park Zoo's animals have returned home from the Monterey Zoo.

A team from the Monterey Zoo, in Salinas, CA, evacuated more than a dozen animals on January 13, when Applegate Park Zoo was under threat of flooding. The evacuated animals included bears, bobcats, coyote, foxes, monkeys, deer, and raccoons. Monterey Zoo housed and cared for the animals for three weeks, which allowed Applegate Zoo to recover and perform necessary repairs.

Zoological Disaster Response, Rescue, and Recovery (ZDR3) coordinated the evacuation.

"ZDR3 is the largest zoological response organization in the United States and is uniquely qualified to manage zoological disaster response, rescue, and recovery," says Christopher Jensen, director, Parks & Community Services, City of Merced. The organization's team has extensive experience working with exotic animals during an emergency. Their network of facilities was prepared and responded safely and effectively to our call for assistance. This organization assisted with transporting animals safely back to their home at Applegate Zoo. Our team is extremely appreciative and thankful for the ZDR3 team, the Monterey Zoo, our local sanctuaries and numerous volunteers who have worked on this project."

The value of this operation is roughly \$20,000. Monterey Zoo donated most of those costs. Such generosity is often required for zoological peer-to-peer response operations.

This was the Monterey Zoo's first response with ZDR3. Their founder, Charlie Sammut, has strong feelings about the benefits of participating.

“It was educational, fulfilling, and exciting at times. At the end of the day, I wouldn’t hesitate participating in future similar missions—nor do I believe any zoo should. When time allows in the future, I hope to author a description of all we learned.”

“Every response offers all of us an opportunity to learn and improve—and to demonstrate that, in the zoological community, we take care of our own,” says Julia Wagner, ZDR3 Executive Director. “The Monterey Zoo’s response team exemplifies our motto: we are stronger together.”

About ZDR3

Zoological Disaster Response, Rescue, and Recovery (ZDR3) is the largest zoological response organization in the United States. As an industry-led effort, ZDR3 provides support to zoos, aquariums, sanctuaries, and other non-domestic animal businesses before, during, and after significant incidents.

Learn more: zdr3.org

For current news: <https://www.facebook.com/ZDR3.USA>

About Monterey Zoo

Founded in 2012, Monterey Zoological Society is dedicated to providing an entertaining yet educational experience which fosters public awareness and respect for all wildlife.

