

## 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

*Monterey Zoo Demonstrates the Value of Zoos Helping Zoos*

**SALINAS, California** - More than a dozen animals evacuated from Applegate Park Zoo in Merced, CA, which was under threat of flooding, arrived at Monterey Zoo at midnight on Friday, January 13. The evacuated animals included bears, bobcats, coyote, foxes, monkeys, deer, and raccoons.

Monterey Zoo founder, Charlie Sammut, says the animals are welcome to stay at his zoo as long as necessary.

Zoological Disaster Response, Rescue, and Recovery (ZDR3) coordinated the evacuation. ZDR3 Executive Director Julia Wagner says she was contacted by the zoo that required assistance days in advance of the evacuation.

“As the largest zoological response network in the United States, proactive zoo directors alert us when they realize they have a pending adverse event,” Wagner explains. “After talking to nearby ZDR3 Network zoos, we learned the Monterey Zoo was ready and able to assist. Thanks to the database of response assets we maintain, we were aware of the specialized equipment and experienced zoo professionals they had available to safely contain and transport potentially dangerous animals, such as bears.”

Sammut began preparing his transport trailers and staff as soon as he was alerted that they may be needed for an evacuation. The Monterey Zoo response team included lead keepers and specially trained veterinarians, since transporting non-domestic animals often requires sedation. Once sedated, these animals require close monitoring.

During the course of the operation, the involved entities maintained touch with appropriate regulatory and local officials.

“Our timing was vital because the Salinas River was getting ready to crest, and I knew our zoo could soon be an island,” Sammut explains. “However, we are completely safe from flooding within the zoo, have a generator system to assure food, water and climate control, and ample staff housed onsite to care for all of the animals.” Three Applegate Park Zoo staff members are spending a few days at the Monterey Zoo to help settle their animals in, and to work with the Monterey Zoo staff to ensure their unique needs are met.

“This is an excellent example of the value of our peer-to-peer network,” says ZDR3’s Wagner. “The zoological community has always stepped up to help one another. We founded ZDR3 to more effectively and efficiently coordinate all types of disaster responses. Responding facilities volunteer their equipment and their staff’s time to help their colleagues in distress. We are so proud of, and grateful to the Monterey Zoo for their generosity and professionalism.”

### 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](http://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.



(Top Left & Right)  
Monterey Zoo preparing  
transport trailers and  
cages

(Bottom Left) The two  
zoos’ keepers will be  
working together for a  
few days

(Bottom Right)  
Monterey Zoo  
transport trailers after  
arriving zoo requiring  
assistance

