
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TITLE: Escaped Primate Emergency Procedures, Non-Human Primate Module, West Valley Building, University of Western Ontario

SOP NO.: WV 473-01

REVISION: 01

EFF. DATE: DRAFT

SUPERSEDES: NA

APPROVALS

Prepared by (print name): _____ Dept.: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed by (print name): _____ Dept.: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved by (print name): _____ Dept.: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To outline the procedures for primate escape in the Non-Human Primate Module (NHPM), West Valley Building, University of Western Ontario.

2.0 SCOPE

- 2.1 This SOP applies to all approved ACVS and Research personnel working within the Non-Human Primate Module (NHPM).

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 ALL APPROVED NHPM STAFF

- 3.1.1 All personnel involved with primates are responsible for understanding and following the contents of this document. Failure to do so will result in retraction of privileges for work within this unit, based on the criminal liabilities held by management through Bill C-145 legislation.

3.2 ACVS AND RESEARCH TECHNICAL STAFF

- 3.2.1 If you see an escaped primate, report escape to an ACVS Veterinarian, and follow veterinary instructions.
- 3.2.2 Produce a follow up report to facility manager within 24hours post capture.

3.3 ACVS VETERINARIANS (VETERINARY SERVICES)

- 3.3.1 At least one ACVS Veterinarian must be in charge for escaped primate recapture.
 - 3.3.2 Authorize personnel procedures that will be used to capture escaped primates
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3.3.3 Document the details of primate capture within 24hours post capture.

3.4 FACILITY MANAGER

3.4.1 File all individual copies of reports detailing primate escape and recapture to analyze with veterinarians and biosafety on what improvements can be made, if any, to reduce the circumstances of the escape from being repeated in the future. Staff who consistently make errors that allow primate escape will be re-evaluated as approved personnel for work within the NHPM.

3.5 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

3.5.1 Have the Tranquilizer Blow gun or CO2 pistol available in West valley office room 101B ready for use in the event of primate escape.

4.0 PROCEDURE

4.1 DEALING WITH AN ESCAPED PRIMATE

4.1.1 Primate escape is considered a serious risk to the health and safety of personnel. The safety of personnel is first and foremost when dealing with an escaped primate.

4.1.2 Always respect that a primate intelligent, unpredictable, quick and very strong for their size. They may also become aggressive at any time for any reason.

4.1.3 If a primate is seen loose within a holding room, do not enter. Contact ACVS Veterinarians immediately. An ACVS Veterinarian must be in charge of all capture procedures

4.1.4 If the primate escapes while you are alone in a holding room, carefully walk backwards toward the door and exit while facing the loose primate. Ensure the shark cage (if present) and room door is properly closed before contacting ACVS Veterinarians. In case of an escape into the central hallway, retreat to tech room 35A to report the escape.

4.1.5 Capturing a loose primate requires a minimum of 2 people, both of which MUST be full time staff experienced in primate behaviour and care. If possible, at least one of the individuals should be familiar with the escaped primate under ordinary circumstances.

4.1.6 Capture techniques vary with the size of the loose primate, circumstances and location of the escape. See 4.2 and 4.3.

4.1.7 Capture of escaped primates takes care and patience. Patience and calm encouragement to return to a cage is the most effective means of recapture.

4.1.8 Avoid direct eye contact with the primate, as this is interpreted as signal of aggression or challenge.

4.1.9 Always keep your attention on the loose primate. The people involved in the capture should act as diversions for each other, should the primate need to be distracted.

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- 4.1.10 All involved in the capture procedure must wear leather or Kevlar gloves, fruit and a capture net located in storage room 35Y. Refer to Attachment A
- 4.1.11 If the NHP still does not willingly enter into a clean cage after your best efforts to encourage, Person one should place the net over the NHP to trap it
- 4.1.12 Depending where the escaped NHP was trapped, place within the NHP the destination cage in a manner that frees it of the net and facilitates the closure of the destination cage door. If this is impossible, ask to have veterinary authorization of a tranquilizer prior to placement in its home cage
 - 4.1.12.1A suitable chemical agent, as determined by the Veterinarian, will be delivered by pole syringe, blow-gun, or CO2 pistol. Located in WV office 101B
 - 4.1.12.2The mechanism of delivery chosen will be the one that provides greatest safety to personnel, has the greatest chance of success, and minimizes trauma to the NHP
- 4.1.13 The escape of a primate and the details of the capture must be recorded in an individual report by each witness and participant within 24 hours of the event . Copies will be filed in the Facility Manager's Office.
- 4.1.14 Every escape situation is different. A Veterinarian may have to make informed decisions based on situations not described in this SOP.

5.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

- 5.1 Nonhuman primates (NHP's) present hazards related to naturally occurring zoonotic organisms which may be transmitted to people. People also transmit zoonotic agents to NHP's. NHP's also present unique hazards due to their intelligence, manual dexterity, strength and speed . Please refer to SOP WV611-02 " *Safety and Animal Handling Procedures for NonHuman Primates (NHP's) Non Human Primate Module, West Valley Building, UWO*
- 5.2 Direct contact with NHP's requires in depth training on risks and standard operating procedures, participation in a surveillance health program as well as documented proof of training and security clearance monitored by the facility manager. Please refer to SOP WV169 " *Non Human Primate Approval Policy, West Valley Building, UWO.*
- 5.3 All approved personnel must be enrolled, approved and monitored in the animal handlers medical surveillance program through workplace health, UWO
- 5.4 NHP housing facilities at West Valley , UWO are designed and operated at the standards required by Health Canada and Canadian Food Inspection Agency

6.0 REVISION HISTORY

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Revision	Reason(s) for Revision	Initiated by

7.0 REFERENCES / ASSOCIATED MATERIALS

- 7.1 *SOP 606-01 Non-Human Primate Approval Policy, Non-Human Primate Module, West Valley Building, University of Western Ontario*
- 7.2 *SOP 601-06 Procedures for Bites, Scratches and Mucous Membrane Exposure by Cynomolgous, Rhesus, or Other Macaque Monkeys, First Aid and NHP Sample to be Collected, Non-Human Primate Module, West Valley Building, University of Western Ontario*

8.0 ATTACHMENTS