

Draft Decision Matrix November 2006

Species under consideration _____

Questions are not in priority order - treat each question individually.

Presumes an adult animal of the species in question.

Comments in *red italics* are informational only.

Point value	0	1	2	3	4	Score
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Environmental & Economic Impact

1. What is the likelihood of introduction through escapes and/or releases sufficient to establish a self sustaining population?	zero (vanishingly small) OR MOOT for native species <i>no available diet in FL, sensitive to local climate, etc.</i>	possible but unlikely <i>rare, costly, not held in groups</i>	moderately likely	significantly likely <i>cheap, common "impulse buy" pet</i>	highly likely to occur <i>suddenly outlawed species</i>	
2. If a self sustaining population was established, would this be irreversible? <i>can it be shot, trapped, poisoned, etc.</i>	easy to eradicate OR MOOT for native species	possible to eradicate at low cost and/or effort <i>even rhinos can be shot</i>	moderately difficult to eradicate, some cost and/or effort <i>most cats of any size</i>	significantly difficult to eradicate, high cost and/or effort <i>monkeys?</i>	impossible to eradicate <i>too small, too secretive, too fecund</i>	
3. If a self sustaining population was established, what level of threat would be posed to native wildlife species through predation, competition, disease transmission, or other factors?	zero (vanishingly small) OR MOOT for native species	little threat	moderately threatening	significantly threatening	high probability of devastating effects	
4. If a self sustaining population was established, what level of threat would be posed to native habitats and/or ecosystems? <i>in addition to or separate from Question 3</i>	zero (vanishingly small) OR MOOT for native species	little threat	moderately threatening	significantly threatening	high probability of devastating effects	
5. If a self sustaining population was established, what level of direct threat would be posed to agriculture (crops, livestock, etc.) through feeding, breeding activities, predation, disease vector, etc?	zero (vanishingly small) OR MOOT for native species	little threat	moderately threatening	significantly threatening	high probability of devastating effects	

Point value	0	1	2	3	4	Score
6. What level of threat would be posed to agriculture (crops, livestock, etc.) through transmission of disease by isolated escapees of this species?	zero (vanishingly small) OR MOOT for native species	little threat, not known to commonly carry problematic disease	moderately threatening, known to carry common disease(s)	significantly threatening, known reservoir of rare disease(s)	carrier of rare disease(s), high probability of devastating effects	
7. What <i>increased</i> level of threat through transmission of disease would an established population of this animal pose to agriculture? (above the threat posed by isolated escapees)	zero - no additional threat	little additional threat	moderately threatening, population may become reservoir of disease(s)	significantly threatening, populations are a known reservoir of rare disease(s)	high probability of devastating effects	
8. If a self sustaining population was established, what level of threat would be posed to non-agricultural economics (tourism, real estate, etc.)?	zero (vanishingly small) OR MOOT for native species	little threat	moderately threatening	significantly threatening	high probability of devastating effects	
					Section Total	

Public Safety

9. If a single individual of this species escapes, what is the likelihood of it being encountered? <i>a realistic assessment is necessary-- many escapees simply disappear</i>	zero (vanishingly small possibility) <i>e.g., most snakes, most small birds</i>	possible but unlikely <i>e.g., most small animals</i>	moderate possibility of encounters <i>e.g., medium size animals, human imprinted animals</i>	high probability of encounters <i>e.g., larger animals, hooved stock</i>	certain to be encountered <i>hard to miss an elephant</i>	
10. If a single individual of this species escapes and is <i>forced into a physical confrontation</i> , could this animal take an adult human life? <i>not allergic or idiosyncratic reactions, not a squirrel that by chance bites through an artery on an unconscious person's neck</i>	no (vanishingly small possibility)	possible but unlikely	moderate possibility	high probability	could easily kill an adult human	
11. If a single individual of this species escapes and is <i>forced into a physical confrontation</i> including attempted capture, could it inflict serious injury and/or permanent disfigurement on an adult human?	no (vanishingly small possibility)	possible but unlikely	moderately likely	significantly likely	could easily disfigure an adult human	

Point value	0	1	2	3	4	Score
12. In a surprise encounter with an adult human, how would an escaped animal of this species be expected to react? <i>person walks around corner of building--cannot guarantee wild behavior, may be an imprint</i>	the only possible reaction is to flee	flee or attempt to go unnoticed <i>e.g., most snakes, venomous or not</i>	warily avoid contact but remain in area	may approach adult, perhaps aggressively or demandingly <i>e.g., hand</i>	highly likely to attack for predation or defense <i>hungry tiger?</i>	
13. If a single individual of this species escapes and is <i>forced into a physical confrontation</i> , could this animal take a human child's life? <i>toddler or child-- infants not relevant to "forced"</i>	no (vanishingly small possibility)	possible but unlikely	moderately likely	significantly likely	could easily kill a human child	
14. If a single individual of this species escapes and is <i>forced into a physical confrontation</i> , could it inflict serious injury and/or permanent disfigurement on a human child?	no (vanishingly small possibility)	possible but unlikely	moderately likely	significantly likely	could easily disfigure a human child	
15. In a surprise encounter with a human child, how would an escaped animal of this species be expected to react? <i>child walks around corner of building-, encounters animal</i>	the only possible reaction is to flee	flee or attempt to go unnoticed	warily avoid contact but remain in area	may approach child, perhaps aggressively or demandingly	highly likely to attack for predation or defense	
16. Might an escapee of this species actively attempt to predate an unattended human child? <i>toddler in sandbox, baby asleep on picnic blanket, etc.</i>	zero (vanishingly small risk)	possible but highly unlikely	moderately likely	significantly likely	highly likely to attack for predation	
17. What level of threat through transmission of disease would escapees of this species pose to humans? <i>should not over-penalize wildlife that carries diseases common in the environment, e.g. salmonella</i>	zero (vanishingly small risk)	little threat, not known to commonly carry problematic disease	moderately threatening, known to carry common disease(s)	significantly threatening, known reservoir of rare disease(s)	carrier of rare disease(s), high probability of devastating effects	

Point value	0	1	2	3	4	Score
18. In a chance encounter with a domestic companion animal, how would an escaped animal of this species be expected to react?	the only possible reaction is to flee	flee or attempt to go unnoticed, posing little threat	moderately threatening especially to small animals	significantly threatening, may predate	highly likely to attack for predation or defense	
19. What level of threat through transmission of disease would an escapee of this species pose to domestic companion animals?	zero (vanishingly small risk)	little threat, not known to commonly carry problematic disease	moderately threatening, known to carry common disease(s)	significantly threatening, known reservoir of rare disease(s)	carrier of rare disease(s), high probability of devastating effects	
20. Assuming normal standards of captive maintenance, does this species pose a risk of significant physical injury or death to its keeper while in captivity?	zero (vanishingly small risk) <i>e.g., small birds, non-venomous snakes under 10 feet</i>	highly unlikely	possible but unlikely <i>e.g., hand raised cats under 30 pounds, snakes over 10 feet</i>	significantly likely	certainly <i>e.g., large carnivores, venomous reptiles</i>	
21. Assuming normal standards of captive maintenance, does this species pose a significant zoonotic risk to its keeper while in captivity?	zero (vanishingly small risk)	highly unlikely	possible but unlikely	significantly likely	certainly	
22. How important is extensive space to remove this species from areas of dense human population? <i>assuming caging/ enclosure per regulations, is isolation by distance an additional public safety requirement</i>	no need (separation requirements minimal)	NO CHOICE	2.5 acres required	NO CHOICE	5.0 acres required	
Section Total						

Animal Welfare

23. What is the level of difficulty of housing this species to meet its physical needs in captivity?	easy and not costly <i>e.g., 10 gallon aquarium, small cage</i>	easy but moderate cost <i>e.g., simple larger cage</i>	moderate difficulty and cost <i>e.g., large cage, special construction materials</i>	difficult and costly <i>e.g., large enclosures with safety entrances, etc.</i>	virtually impossible <i>e.g., blue whale</i>	
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Point value	0	1	2	3	4	Score
24. What is the level of difficulty of providing for the social/psychological needs of this species in captivity?	none-solitary or equivalent	low; requires little social interaction	moderate; requires enrichment or conspecific interaction	high; requires moderate conspecific interaction	extremely difficult; requires significant conspecific grouping	
25. How important is extensive space to the physical, social, or psychological needs of this species? <i>assuming caging/enclosure per regulations, is isolation by distance an additional psychological requirement</i>	no need (spatial requirements minimal)	NO CHOICE	2.5 acres required	NO CHOICE	5.0 acres required	
26. What level of training and/or experience would be necessary for keepers of this species to attain before being capable of maintaining this animal? <i>to reasonable standards of safety for keeper, public, and the animal</i>	minimal - needs are simple and easily met <i>dog or cat owner could do it</i>	some training, no experience <i>anybody who can follow simple instructions, questionnaire</i>	moderate training, some experience <i>instruction plus hands-on mentoring</i>	significant training and experience is required for husbandry and safety	extensive training and experience is required for husbandry and safety	
Section Total						

Special Considerations

27. Is this a specially protected or "listed" species for conservation purposes?	no - common species	Species of Special Concern or equivalent	Threatened Species, or equivalent	Endangered Species, or equivalent	highly or critically endangered species	
28. Is maintenance of this species in captivity likely to encourage illegal trade or otherwise negatively impact wild populations?	no <i>captive animals may be sole representatives of species</i>	small likelihood of illegal harvest, and/or legal harvest is allowed	moderate threat of illegal harvest is encouraged by captive maintenance	significant threat of illegal harvest is encouraged by captive maintenance	captive maintenance is highly likely to result in illegal harvest	
Section Total						

Environmental & Economic Impact

Section Total

Public Safety

Section Total

Animal Welfare

Section Total

Special Considerations

Section Total

Grand Total

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