



Reintroductions after a medical procedure



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African Painted Dog

- Separating this species is not ideal but we know they have to have exams
- Reintroducing your pack after an exam can be challenging, especially if you do not currently have a stable pack
- They may need to reestablish their hierarchy when reintroduced
- There may be fighting or trying to reestablish dominance

Steps to help with a smoother reintroduction



- Separate the entire pack for exams no matter who is having an exam
 - Mesh to mesh visuals of the pack is good
- Separating everyone out helps keep everyone on the same hierarchy level
- If these are routine exams- see if you can coordinate doing everyone the same day
- Know your pack to help determine the best order for exams
- Use their smelly bedding to rub on the dogs before they are reversed
- If dogs that are not having exams stress out easily talk with your vet staff prior to the exams about giving them medication to help reduce their stress

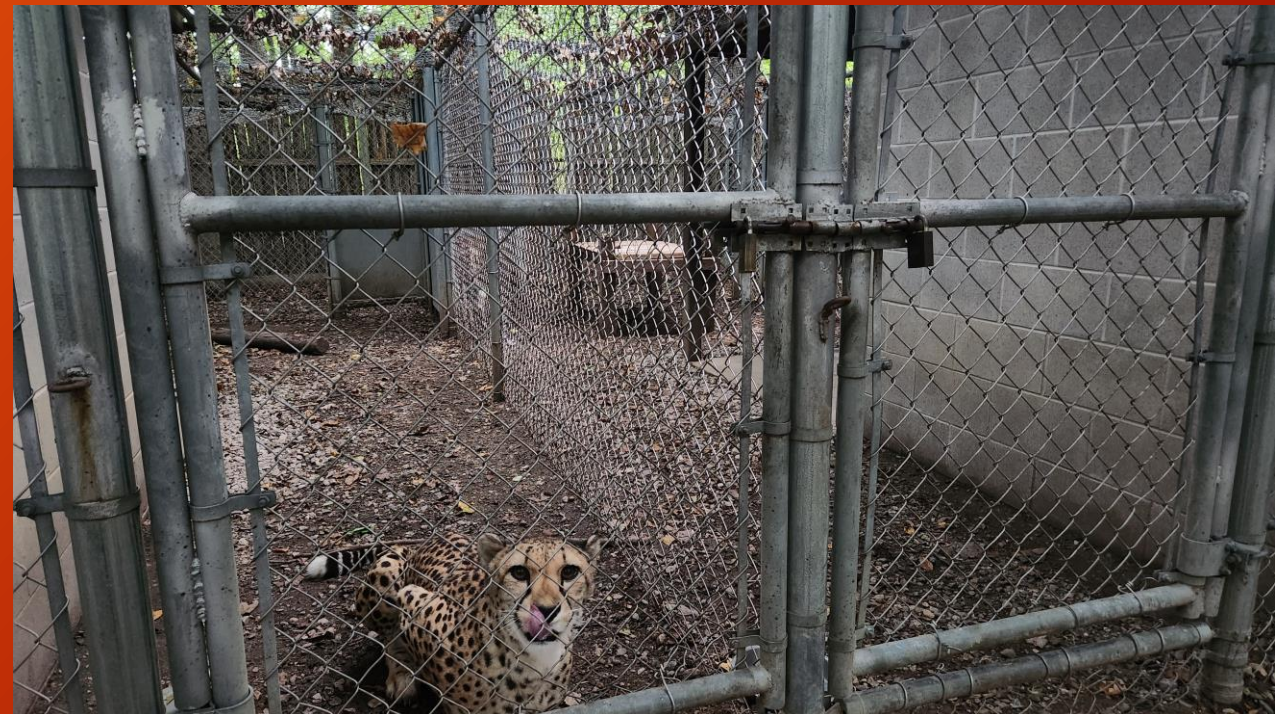
- Have the animal recover in a crate with more of their own used bedding
- Place dog back in stall by itself
- Once dog seems stable it is ok to reintroduce them
- Reintroduction should be done by more than one individual
- Have a conversation before hand on what is acceptable and unacceptable.
- Have a point person
- Open shift doors between all animals at the same time, if possible create a circle
- It is normal to see some dominance behaviors during a reintroduction
- Let the dogs be dogs, if pack seems unstable after the reintroduction group enrichment/ carcass feedings is a great way to help reestablish the pack



Cheetah aggression after exams

- Binder Park Zoo (BPZ) is home to three 10 year old cheetah sisters
- Lived at BPZ since 2015
- They all get along well
- Historically we would separate the one out who was having an exam and keep the other two together
- In the beginning we had no issues putting them back together
- In 2018 started to show increased aggression with each other after exams but nothing too alarming
- By 2020 the aggression had increased were it was taking days before they would move freely around each other and be back to “normal”

- It was time to think outside the box
- We came up with the plan to treat them like how we treat the African painted dogs during an exam
- We decided to try and separate all 3 even though only one was having an exam
- They were separated overnight due to the one still seeming groggy from her exam
- The next morning we were able to reintroduce them all and they went back together much better.



- In 2022 one of the girls needed to be moved to the vet hospital for 8 days
- We did keep the other two together since the one sister was going to be away
- During that time period we did switch straw between the girls
- All 3 were given a dose of gabapentin prior to putting them all back together
- The reintroduction went great no aggression observed
- Their annual exams are coming up this fall and will continue to use this process of separating everyone



Thank You



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