



FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT



CAPTIVE WILDLIFE INJURY BITE ESCAPE FORM

County: Orange Incident: FWNE15OFF009829 Type: ESCAPE IBE#: 15-030
 Reporting Investigator: R. K. Brown, #0028 Incident Date: 09/01/2015
 Complaint Officer(s): Invs. R. K. Brown, #0028, S. McDaniel, Date Reported: 09/02/2015
D. Saunders Report Date: 09/04/2015

Witness Name: Mike Kennedy (Owner)
 Address: _____

 City State Zip

Phone Number: _____

Location of Incidents/Escape/Release: 4858 N. Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando, FL 32818
 Lat/Long: N28° 36.1325' / W81° 29.8193'

Owner/Permittee Name: Michael Wesley Kennedy
 Address: 4858 N. Apopka Vineland Road - Dragon Ranch, Inc. Phone Number: [REDACTED]
Orlando FL 32818
 City State Zip

Animal Involved: 1.0 King Cobra, 8' in length
 Threat to Public? Yes No N/A
 Animal Captured? Yes No N/A

Victims Name: N/A DOB: _____ Age: _____
 Address: _____ Injuries: _____

 City State Zip Medical Details: _____
 Medical Reports Attached? Yes No

Incident Narrative: On 09/02/2015, at approximately 1625 hrs, I received a telephone call from Mr. Mike Kennedy. He was calling to inform me that he has had a male, King cobra escape and he hasn't been able to find it. He told me that when he got home yesterday afternoon, (09/01/15), around 3:00 PM, he went to check on his snakes in the unattached garage and discovered that the cobra was gone. He further explained that he, (Mike), had been gone for the past two days and during that time a large tree limb had struck the roof of his unattached garage and damaged the roof vent. This damage allowed rain water to penetrate into the attic. The water pooled on the attic floor leaving a mold stain on the garage ceiling and dripping onto the cobra cages below. When Mr. Kennedy arrived home, he entered the garage from the side entrance and immediately opened the large, aluminum door to the garage. He left this door open as was his habit. He then walked to the back of the garage to check on his inventory of venomous snakes. He did not discover that the male, king cobra was gone until he had difficulty locating the snake within its hide box. Mr. Kennedy said that normally this animal is very shy and typically remains hidden in its hide box. When he could not see it from outside, he cracked open the access door and lifted the hide box with a snake hook. This is when he realized that the snake had escaped its cage. Mr. Kennedy then conducted a search of his garage, but with the large, garage door left open, it is possible that while Mr. Kennedy was walking towards the back of the garage to check on his venomous reptiles, unbeknownst to him, the cobra had already escaped its cage and was hidden in some spot along the garage wall close to the open door. Mr. Kennedy said he never saw the snake. Mr. Kennedy then searched the garage and the area around the garage. He looked without assistance for the next 24 hours or so until he called me the next afternoon to make the report and notify the FWC of the escape.

1720 hrs, I arrived at Mr. Kennedy's location. The two of us searched the garage again and then conducted an

area search immediately around the outside perimeter of the garage. We did not locate the snake. Investigators S. McDaniel and D. Saunders arrived to assist with the search of the property. The Chain of Command was notified. Capt. C. Roszkowiak and Lt. J. Hudson responded as well as Officers N. Douglas & M.Tavano.

An inspection of the caging disclosed the following:

1. The cage is made of painted Melamine.

<http://www.homedepot.com/p/Unbranded-Melamine-White-Panel-Common-3-4-in-x-4-ft-x-8-ft-Actual-750-in-x-49-in-x-97-in-461877/100070209>

Melamine is particleboard laminated with a thermally fused paper/resin coating to provide a durable hard surface. Great for making cabinet carcasses because it wipes clean easily. Use it, as well, for shop fixtures or to make an economical router-table top. Melamine is resistant to scratches, chemicals and staining.

2. The cage has been in use for more than 14 years.
3. There are locked, glass doors on the front.
4. There are hardware-cloth covered side vents. The hardware-cloth is stapled and “pinched” within a wooden frame to the cage.
5. Water damaged the Melamine and softened the material so that the cobra was able to push against the screen and cause a break to its attachment to the cage. This part of the cage was pushed up into the corner of the garage and this vent was approximately 1 ½” from the garage’s back wall.



Male cobra was in the far middle cage



Water damage



Gap created by cobra

Action Taken/Disposition: Property has been searched using FWC staff and private, venomous reptile qualified individuals invited by Mr. Kennedy. (5 hours on 09/02/15 & 10 hours on 09/03/15); Immediate neighbors adjacent to the property have been contacted and advised of the escape. FWC Herpetologist have been consulted and reviewed the terrain to check for suitability of using a drift line and box traps. Drift line is not advised. 4 box traps will be built by Mr. Kennedy and inserted on the property. Animal has not been recovered as of 09/04/15 @ 1100 hrs.

Comments: Citation # 239278C issued for failing to immediately notify the FWC upon discovery of the escape.
FAC68A-6.0072(5)

Warning # W802155 issued for failure to use approved materials for venomous reptiles.

Apparent Illness/Disease: N/A

Notification and
Comments:

Signature: Submitted Electronically

Region: Northeast

Miles: _____

Time: _____

Investigator: R. K. Brown

Reviewed By: _____