

## **Wildlife Summary**

**Issue:** Gray Fox in Building 967

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<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Activity</u></b>
3/18/03	<p>Environmental Operations first notified of fox in Building 967 by building occupant.</p> <p>Notified Johnny Ellison and Dave Brekke that consulting biologist, Joanne Sartor was available to assist in identifying how fox was getting in to building, etc.</p>
4/14/03	<p>Env Ops notified of damage in B967 conference room and several offices from fox. Fox apparently fell through ceiling tiles. Insulation above area was torn. Some chairs in conference room had been torn. Paper in some offices torn.</p> <p>County animal control service was contacted by Barbara Larsen. Animal control indicated that behavior was characteristic of pregnant female that was preparing a den. Animal control also stated that insulation could cause pups to go blind. Suggested sealing up access point so that female would move to a new location to give birth.</p> <p>Contacted Chris Armijo, Maintenance Supervisor. Passed along information from animal control. Maintenance agreed to check above ceiling tiles in all areas for evidence of a den.</p> <p>Joanne Sartor assisted with identifying access point and checking above ceiling tiles in building. A den was not located. The access point to the ceiling was found by Maintenance personnel inside the building soffit at the exterior wall of conference room. Access to the soffit was found under breezeway between B967 and B968. Building occupants had seen the fox climb up to the soffit. Entrance point to soffit was sealed with a piece of plywood.</p> <p>Mother observed outside of building. Followed to maintenance yard and garbage truck. Mother has visible pathways in brush outside of Building 967.</p>
4/28/03	<p>Monday morning, occupants noted that ceiling tiles in conference of B967 were on the floor again. Pieces of insulation also found on the floor. Later that morning, a fox pup was found on the floor in the conference room by personnel who had been meeting in the room. Joanne Sartor was notified.</p>

Environmental and Maintenance personnel visited the building. The pup had either fallen through the ceiling or the mother had been carrying it when the insulation and ceiling tiles gave way. Ceiling tiles in another office were found on the floor next to a tall bookcase. It is assumed that the mother returned to the ceiling by climbing the bookcase and pushing aside the ceiling tiles. Pup did not appear to be injured.

The Lindsay Wildlife Museum was contacted for advice. They suggested leaving the pup overnight in the building for the mother to retrieve. The pup was left in the conference room, inside a box with towels for warmth. A tall ladder was left in the room, positioned at the point where the ceiling tiles had fallen with the hope that the mother would retrieve the pup and return to the ceiling via the ladder.

In the afternoon, Robert Holland explored the opening in the ceiling and insulation with the Peep-A-Roo video system. The fox had created a tunnel through the insulation that led from the opening found in the soffit. The end point of the tunnel could not be found. While using the probe, the mother was disturbed in the tunnel.

That afternoon, the mother fox was seen entering the building through the roof. Environment and Maintenance personnel checked the roof for access points. Several spots were identified. Personnel determined that the fox had been reaching the roof through the adjacent mechanical building. She uses the stairs, runs underneath the equipment and out through a hole in the wall surrounding several pipes, runs along a narrow strip of roofing between buildings to reach Building 967.

4/29/03

Pup was still in the conference room, had not been retrieved by the mother. The pup was taken to the Lindsey Wildlife Museum. Wildlife doctor evaluated the pup: Pup approximately 3 to 4 weeks old, female, and in good health. Lindsey also noted that the pup had been fed recently. (Mother apparently had entered the conference room during the night, but was unable to carry it out.) Lindsey suggested that we try a second time to return the pup to its mother.

Animal Damage Control called-in to evaluate. They recommended trapping the mother and then locating the pups in the ceiling as they begin to cry. Three traps were set around the building. Upon return of the pup from Lindsey, the traps were tripped so that the mother would not be caught before retrieving pup.

Joanne placed a call to Gary Beeman, a wildlife biologist and animal relocation expert, referred by Lindsey Wildlife Museum. Several methods that he suggested for locating the den included infrared equipment or use of his Terrier. He also recommended simply leaving them in place until they were old enough to follow the mother outside.

Pup was put in a plastic crate and left on the building roof at one of the

access points that had been identified the day before. Crate was mostly covered by plywood to protect the pup from rain. A small opening allowed for space for the mother to get into the crate and retrieve the pup.

4/30/03 The crate that had been left on the roof was checked in the morning. The pup was gone, assumed that it was retrieved by the mother. Barbara Larsen placed a second call to Gary Beeman to discuss methods for locating the den. Both methods (previously mentioned) were ruled out due to the possible den location above the insulation.

5/2/03 Mother fox heard running across the ceiling and entering through an office located along the west side of building. Door was shut and ES&H hotline was called. Robert Holland responded to the hotline call to help in getting her out of the building. Security was called to unlock the office door where occupants had believed they had shut in the fox. When the door was opened the fox was not inside and found to have exited through a corner ceiling tile.

5/5/03 Monday morning, building occupants hear cries of a pup in the ceiling. Barbara Larsen is called to evaluate. Pup sounds to be trapped somewhere in ceiling. Maintenance is called to assist. Steve Collie crawls into ceiling above the janitorial closet. Pup observed between two walls, close to floor level. The walls were open at the top and pup had fallen in. Wall was cut open and pup retrieved by Gary Weese and Steve Collie. This pup, a male, was almost twice as big as female pup found previous week.

Gary Beeman contacted again and requested to evaluate the situation. Scheduled visit for May 6. Gary requested that the pup be kept overnight so that he could see the size and determine age. Pup was moved to B922 for the night and given non-fish, wet cat food and water (per Gary).

Mother fox observed entering soffit from the roof along cross beams.

5/6/03 Pup had eaten through the night and was given additional food. Gary Beeman arrived at 11:45. His evaluation was that pup was about 5 weeks old. They are still about too young to be evicted from their den. About two more weeks needed before they can follow mother outside. Gary evaluated the building and access points. He suggested closing off all but one access to the soffit. In a few weeks, a one-way door can be installed at the access point so that when mother and pups leave, they will not be able to return. If some pups are left in the building, mother fox will call for them from one-way door. Gary also suggested making it easy for the pups to follow mother fox outside. This would entail putting up a ramp so that pups could easily get down from the soffit. Ramp was installed by Maintenance.

A temporary corral was set-up on the ground near the building stack. A box and towel was placed on its side in the enclosure. The pup was placed inside the box for the mother to retrieve. Food and water were left for the pup.

- 5/7/03 Morning check found the pup gone from the corral. Assume that mother retrieved it.
- Maintenance (Steve Collie and others) repaired several holes in the insulation where pups and mother had been falling through. Intent is to strengthen the tunnel, allowing an easy egress from the den. While in the ceiling making repairs, Steve Collie could hear pups whimpering.
- Floured the area around the base of ramp to collect paw prints.
- 5/8/03 No paw prints in flour in morning.
- 5/12/03 Building check done in morning. No fallen tiles or pups in office space. Flour shows several paw prints. Not clear enough to identify.
- Maintenance placed plywood in soffit, north of the access hole to the ceiling. This closes off all access except the ramp access.
- Request made to security to install video camera to watch ramp for fox activity.
- 5/13/03 Door to mechanical building closed and sign placed on it to keep door closed.
- Met with Herb Woelffer regarding camera.
- 5/14/03 Status of camera – time-lapsed VCR is not functioning properly. Security trying to fix.