

Zoo Zebra in Co-op Car Park Caper



Molly the zebra safely back at the zoo last

A runaway zebra caused chaos yesterday as it tried to avoid capture in the seaside town of Lindley in Dorset. The zebra had escaped at dawn from the nearby children's zoo in Briarley Wood.

The beautiful stripy mare was first spotted in the car park of the Co-op supermarket in Westray Street where it came to the attention of two local women; the pair had set out early to do their regular Friday morning shop. "At one point the zebra was coming towards us," said retired nurse Sally Stern. "When it reared up on its hind legs, my friend and I were scared its hooves would hit us in the face."

Once supermarket staff realised the animal was on their site, they quickly contacted the local RSPCA, who traced the animal to Briarley Wood Children's Zoo. The RSPCA rescue squad were at the Co-op within ten minutes of taking the call – only to find that their stripy quarry had disappeared.

The next sighting of the zebra was outside Claire's Gift Shop. Eyewitnesses say the animal looked as if she wanted to go inside. However, the loud noise of a nearby drill frightened her away – this time towards the park.

It was in Lindley's Memorial Park that the zebra was finally captured by the RSPCA rescue squad. Children and parents in the park were alarmed at the sight of the now panic-stricken animal, but police officers quickly sealed off the area so that RSPCA staff were able to sedate the zebra and return her to the zoo.

Local RSPCA Director Alf Crawley said that questions will be asked about the careless security arrangements at Briarley Wood Zoo. He expressed surprise that, until the RSPCA informed them, staff at the zoo were unaware the zebra had escaped. A spokesperson for the zoo was unavailable for comment.

Question sheet

- 1) How does the headline draw you in?
- 2) What picture is included? Is there a caption? What does the picture add to the story?
- 3) Does the first paragraph answer the questions: **Who? What? When? Where?**
- 4) In 2 or 3 words, what is each paragraph about?
- 5) Does the final paragraph bring the story up to the present or look to the future?
- 6) What do the following words mean: *quarry, panic-stricken, sedate, expressed surprise*? How can you work them out if you don't know?
- 7) Can you find some facts from the article? Can you find words which show the writer's opinion?
- 8) Who has been interviewed?
- 9) Are the interviews in direct or reported speech? How can you tell?
- 10) Can you find anywhere the writer has used a semi-colon?
- 11) Is the style chatty or formal?
- 12) Did you find the article a) informative and b) entertaining?