



## Filming with Drones

1. Different species react differently to drones. Animals that are not conditioned to drones can become easily frightened which can cause injury to them and crew.
2. Weather, wind gusts, other animals, flying debris, are potential hazards when filming animals with drones.
3. The noise produced by a drone is very similar to buzzing insects and can produce fear and the desire to escape in animals. Animals must be acclimated to both the sound and quick movements of drones.
4. A skilled drone operator should be used at all times.
5. A minimum distance of 25 ft should be maintained at all times.
6. When taking off/landing, always be at least 100 ft from the animal. The first push of wind when taking off and landing will result in a scared and startled animal. The further away you are from the animal, the less of a threat you present. If the animal has changed its location and is less than 100 ft from the landing pad during your flight, reassess your location and find a safe and clear location on which to land to avoid the 100' radius of the animal.
7. Drones should never interfere with animals. Their safety is a priority.
8. When flying at a location where animals are present, always fly at 25' AGL or above. This will keep you clear of the 25' radius of the animal at all times and clear from an animal's defense attack if the animal feels threatened. The only time the drone should drop below 25' AGL is when it is taking off/landing.
9. A discussion with Animal Trainer, MAP and drone operator is to be held before any flights begin, to discuss the filming. Topics to be discussed would be if the animal has dealt with a drone previously, what are the animal's characteristics, etc. If the Animal Trainer or MAP feels there needs to be more or less clearance (whether closer or farther), or gives direction to land the drone during a flight, their direction overrides the drone operator's in the best interest of animal safety & welfare.
10. When filming an animal a slow approach enables the animal to adapt to the drone a fast approach may startle the animals.
11. If an animal reacts negatively it may be necessary to disengage.
12. Clear communication with the Animal Trainer and or MAP in the event an animal reacts negatively where the drone may have to disengage.
13. Every animal is different and each drone sounds different which may trigger a different reaction.

<https://www.csatf.org/bulletin-36/>

FAA and other applicable laws and regulations .

\*\*The Federal Aviation Administration has announced the final set of rules for the use of unmanned aircraft, or drones, on the sets of movies and TV shows.