

Guzoo Animal Farm

Ongoing violations of
Alberta zoo regulations?



March, 2011

A Review of Guzoo Animal Farm – March 2011

Background

Guzoo Animal Farm is owned and operated by Lynn Gustafson with help from his son Bill and daughter-in-law, Irene. The facility is open daily, year round and boasts being the home to more than 400 animals. Guzoo has been at the centre of controversy for many years due to poor conditions for the animals. In addition to the zoo animals, Guzoo also operates a cat and dog adoption centre. The conditions for these animals has also been of concern to people visiting the facility.

Zoocheck Canada is a national animal welfare charity established in 1984 to promote and protect the interests and wellbeing of wildlife in captivity and in the wild. For the past twenty-six years, Zoocheck has carried out assessments of captive wildlife husbandry and housing conditions in a wide range of facilities; evaluated and addressed public safety and security issues related to wildlife in captivity; and evaluated the effectiveness of live animal-based education and conservation programming.

Zoocheck has conducted numerous investigations of the conditions at Guzoo including a joint assessment with the World Society for the Protection of animals in the summer of 2007 wherein we evaluated the facility in relation to the *Government of Alberta Standards for Zoos in Alberta*, more than one year after the standards came into effect. At the time of that investigation we reported more than 100 violations of the zoo standards. Sadly little has changed in the 4 years since that report was written.

Recent events

Recently a number of concerned citizens have expressed renewed concerns about animal welfare and public safety at Guzoo. Some people have posted their concerns and photos on social media web sites which generated a widespread call for action to be taken by the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development to relieve the animals distress.

Zoocheck Canada has also received an increased number of complaints about Guzoo Animal Farm over the past few months and in response contracted Alberta veterinarian, Dr. D. Zimmermann to inspect Guzoo to assess the facility and the condition of the animals. During this investigation it became evident that little has changed since the 2007 investigation. Dr. Zimmerman's findings form part of this report and all photos in this report were taken by her on the day of the inspection.

Relevant Alberta Legislation

In Alberta there are three pieces of legislation designed to protect animals in zoos and control the operation of these facilities. These are the *Animal Protection Act*, *Wildlife Act* and the *Alberta Standards for Zoos in Alberta*. In addition, the Criminal Code of Canada has provisions that address cruelty to animals, but they are outdated and generally only used when animals are subjected to especially heinous incidents of physical abuse and neglect

The *Alberta Animal Protection Act* is Alberta's primary animal cruelty legislation and gives peace officers the authority to relieve the distress of animals and lay charges where appropriate. The *Wildlife Act* is designed to protect native wildlife, but also has a zoo licensing provision (a full copy of the *Wildlife Act* can be found at Exhibit II of this report). The *Government of Alberta Standards for Zoos in Alberta* are regulations designed to define how animals in zoos must be housed and cared for. These standards are regulations under by the *Animal Protection Act* (for animal care) and the *Wildlife Act* (for the administrative and public safety aspects).

The *Animal Protection Act* states that it an offence to cause or permit an animal to be in distress. Distress is defined as a state of being deprived of adequate shelter, ventilation, space, food, water or veterinary care or reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold; injured, sick, in pain or suffering, or abused or subjected to undue hardship, privation or neglect. The Act also states that in order to provide proper care for animals, people in Alberta must ensure that the animal has adequate food and water; provide the animal with adequate care when the animal is wounded or ill; provide the animal with reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold, and provide the animal with adequate shelter, ventilation and space. A full copy of the *Animal Protection Act* can be found at Exhibit I of this report

In addition, a regulation of the *Animal Protection Act* known as the *Alberta Animal Protection Regulation* requires that a person who owns or controls a zoo for which a zoo permit is issued under the *Wildlife Act* must comply with the *Government of Alberta Standards for Zoos in Alberta*, prepared by the Alberta Zoo Standards Committee of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, published September 30, 2005.

The zoo standards were enacted in 2006 and are some of the best in Canada. These regulations require that anyone wishing to keep controlled species, as defined in the *Wildlife Act*, have a zoo permit. All animals held on the zoo premises, including wildlife and controlled animals, as defined under the *Wildlife Act*, as well as all other animals, will be considered as zoo animal under the *Animal Protection Act*. As such, all standards relating to the *Animal Protection Act* will apply. The purpose of the zoo standards is to outline proper care and containment for animals as well as ensuring public safety. A full copy of the *Government of Alberta Standards for Zoos in Alberta* is included as Exhibit III to this report.

The agency primarily responsible for enforcing the *Animal Protection Act* and the animal care portions of the standards in Three Hills Alberta is the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Additionally, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development has authority to enforce the other aspects of the standards via the *Wildlife Act*. This authority includes the ability to revoke a zoo's permit if the facility is not in compliance with the standards.

Ongoing Violations of the Alberta Zoo Standards at Guzoo

Food & Water: Section III. E. General Animal Care Standards states that "Animals must be provided with nutritious food as set out in the veterinary written agreement and a potable water source must be available to all animals at all times" and "Feeding and watering containers must be kept clean and self-feeders and watering devices must be checked daily."

In 2007 we reported unclean water was observed in a number of the animal enclosures including the capybara, Siberian lynx, tiger, lion, goat and pig enclosures. By 2011, little has changed except the weather. Our recent investigation was done in March, of 2011 while the weather was extremely cold. We found that none of the animals outdoors had access to potable water, many had water sources that were frozen and were covered in weeks (if not months) of bird feces and other contaminants.

Animal food storage and preparation also seemed unchanged in that food continues to be stored in unclean areas and in piles where free roaming domesticated animals are able to rummage through it freely. We have not been unable to access dietary information regarding the animals at Guzoo however, it is evident that the diet of many animals is inappropriate and the public is still able to feed certain animals within the zoo.

Lack of cleanliness of cages

Section III. E. General Animal Care Standards states that "Buildings and substrates to which animals have access must be kept clean as follows:

Washable surfaces must be washed clean and disinfected regularly to prevent potentially dangerous accumulations of organic and inorganic materials and organisms.

Substrates which cannot be washed must be cleaned of gross waste (e.g., perishable food and animal waste) on a daily basis (enclosures smaller than 0.5 acres) and less frequently for larger enclosures. The animal care protocol may indicate longer cleaning intervals for some species to reduce psychological stress. To facilitate cleaning all areas of the enclosures must be accessible to keepers.

Substrates such as loose bedding material must be changed if soiled with feces and urine and any bedding provided must be kept dry and changed on a regular basis.”

In 2007 we reported a build up of animal waste in the budgie, rabbit and pigeon cages, as well as excessive feces in the Barbados sheep enclosure. In 2011, we found piles of feces that were bleached (indicating it had not been cleaned in recent days or weeks) in the enclosures of tigers, lions, raccoon, foxes and many other animals. In some cases there was more feces than bedding in the enclosures.

Overcrowding and enclosure size

Section III. B. 1. General Exhibit Standards state, “Exhibit enclosures must be of a sufficient size to provide for the physical well being of the animal. All animal exhibits must be of a size and complexity sufficient to provide for the animal’s physical and social needs and species typical behaviours and movements” and “Enclosures must be of a sufficient size and design to allow individual animals the opportunity to avoid or withdraw from contact with other animals in the enclosure or remove themselves from the view of visitors using topography (e.g. large earth mounds, large rocks), fixed features (e.g. fences, walls screening, shelter boxes), moveable fixtures (e.g. brush piles, root balls) or other design methods.”

In 2007, we reported a number of Guzoo’s enclosures that were poorly designed, undersized and did not allow the animals to express a full range of their natural movements and behaviours. Including the following:

- tiger enclosure that was too small for adequate exercise and is not provided with proper furnishings or pool large enough to swim in;
- primate enclosures that did not allow for natural locomotory behaviours;
- foxes confined in a small cage without sufficient space for exercise;
- several birds that were not provided with enough space to achieve flight;
- lion enclosures that were too small and prevented the animals from achieving adequate exercise;
- New Guinea singing dogs without adequate space to run or walk more than a short distance;
- reptile cages that did not allow for normal movements and behaviours.
- overcrowding in many enclosures including goats, rabbits and other small mammals.

Without exception, all of these situations continue to be of serious concern 4 years later.

Inappropriate social grouping of animals

Section III. B. 1. General Exhibit Standards state, “All animals must be maintained in numbers sufficient to meet their social and behavioural needs”.

In the 2007 report we noted that Guzoo housed a number of animals in inappropriate social environments, including the primates and other species. By 2011, all indicators would show that these animals still are not being provided appropriate social structures to meet their basic needs.

Lack of shelter from the elements

Section III. B. 1. General Exhibit Standards state, “Animals must be protected from injurious heat and cold associated with ambient outdoor conditions or any other weather conditions that are detrimental to their health.”

In 2007 we reported a number of Guzoo’s enclosures that did not have adequate shelter to protect all animals, at the same time if necessary, from heat, cold, sun, rain, wind and snow. These included goats, waterfowl, capybara, Siberian lynx, tiger, New Guinea singing dogs, coyote, timber wolf, black bear, sika deer, fallow deer, elk, musk ox, bison, yak, dromedary camel and Himalayan tahr.

In 2011, some of these species are no longer being kept at Guzoo, however the ones that are still there have not been provided sufficient shelter from the elements as is required by the Alberta zoo standards.

Lack of enrichment for animals

Section III. D. Animal Behaviour Husbandry Standards state, “The purpose of these standards is to facilitate development of animal enrichment that improves the psychological well being of the animals. Enrichment consists of a range of measures, including fixed exhibit features, non-fixed features and novel objects that attempt to provide a more stimulating environment for the animals.” And that “there must be a written document outlining an enrichment program for each species, species group or species assemblage (if appropriate) at the exhibit level that may include fixed features, non-fixed features and how food is made available.”

At the time of the 2007 investigation we found numerous animals without sufficient enrichment and furnishings to keep the animals physically and psychologically engaged or to encourage species typical movements and behaviours. They included primates, foxes, coatimundi, skunk, raccoon, coyote, New Guinea singing dog, wolf-dog hybrid, wolf, bear, deer, elk, coyote, Barbados sheep, elk, yak, Himalayan tahr, tiger, lion, Great horned owl and the animals in the petting areas of the zoo. The lack of enrichment resulted in most animals being inactive or lethargic because they had nothing to do.

Once again, by 2011 little, if anything has changed for most animals at Guzoo. There is still a lack of meaningful enrichment for most animals. Some cages contain junk that may be intended to provide some enrichment (an example is the macaque enclosure that is full of scrap metal and old wood) however these items pose a risk of physical harm to the animals and do not provide any meaningful enrichment benefit.

Safety risks to animals

Section III. B. 1. General Exhibit Standards state, "All equipment, fixtures and vegetation must be installed in such a way that they do not present a hazard to the animals and must be maintained in good working condition" and "Fencing must be of a design and strength suitable for the particular species and must be attached to posts firmly fixed into the ground in a manner that prevents animals from detaching the material or dislodging the posts."

In 2007 we found that many enclosures were in a state of disrepair, posing physical risk to animals and also many contained junk items that may also pose a risk to the animals. In our 2011 investigation, we found that there continues to be broken fencing and barriers, as well as junk that place animals at significant risk of injury.

Other issues of concern

At the time of our 2007 investigation we also noted that children were in some enclosures without supervision, domesticated dogs were able to run throughout the zoo, many enclosures lacked education materials and various potentially unsafe situations were noted. Most constitute violations of the Alberta Zoo Standards. The same issues continue to be a problematic in 2011, four years later.

Recommendation

Given that the owner of Guzoo Animal Farm has not been in compliance with the Alberta Standards for Zoos since they were developed in 2006 and since neither the APSCA, nor ASRD has the necessary, inhouse expertise for assessing zoological facilities , a team of qualified, outside experts should assess the Guzoo facility to determine compliance with the Alberta Zoo Standards.

The Alberta Zoo Standards reference the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) *Minimum Husbandry Guidelines for Mammals* for minimum acceptable animal care and management standards. Therefore, it would be prudent to request that the AZA provide a list of members who are familiar with the species held at Guzoo and who are qualified to assess zoological operations, so they can be solicited to take part in an expert assessment team and to report their findings to the ASPCA and ASRD. If it is determined that Guzoo is not in compliance with Alberta's zoo standards, charges should be laid under the APA and the zoo permit should be revoked.

OBSERVATIONS AT GUZOO ANIMAL FARM in Three Hills Alberta ON MARCH 12, 2011 2:30 -5:30 PM

By Dr. Debi Zimmermann B.Sc., D.V.M.

Primates

Lemurs

There was no visitor access to the indoor area behind the lemurs therefore there was no ability to assess these areas. The indoor quarters appear to be smaller than the outdoor area. Since Lemurs have evolved to live in tropical climate areas, the space available inside should be large, diverse, and climate controlled appropriately for temperature and humidity. Lemurs are highly social animals that naturally live in large groups. The outdoor enclosures are too small to accommodate an appropriate social group and given the size of the building it is unlikely that the indoor area can either. In addition, there was very little enrichment in the enclosure and it also lacked appropriate climbing opportunities.



Ring-tailed lemur exhibit – There was a hand-written sign on this enclosure that merely said: Ring-Tailed Lemur "Boo" and "Foo". The sign implies that there are 2 animals in the enclosure, but there were no lemurs in the outdoor area the day of the investigation therefore I was unable to determine how many animals are in the exhibit or the condition of the indoor portion of the enclosure.

Black and white ruffed Lemur exhibit – These animals were also not in the outdoor area and so I was unable to determine how many animals are in the exhibit or what the indoor area is like. However, Guzoo's web site notes that they have at least one Black and white ruffed Lemur named Tim.

Given the relatively small amount of space, it is unlikely that Guzoo has an appropriate social group of lemurs.

Monkeys

All of the monkey species displayed at Guzoo are highly social animals. The enclosures at Guzoo are too small to accommodate appropriate social groups for any of these species and all enclosures lack adequate enrichment and space to accommodate the physical needs of these animals.

With the exception of the Japanese Macaques, the species of monkeys at Guzoo have evolved to live in warm climates. The indoor monkey enclosure areas were not observable so I was unable to determine if these areas provide appropriate temperature and humidity for the animals. However it should be noted that in some cases the doors to the indoor areas were not covered, which may compromise the heated area. This should be investigated by the Alberta SPCA during an investigation of the entire facility.

Capuchin monkey exhibit – There were no animals in the outdoor area of this enclosure on the day of this investigation so I was unable to determine how many animals live in this small enclosure. Capuchin monkeys are highly social animals that live in groups of 10 – 35 members. The enclosure at Guzoo is not large enough to accommodate an appropriate social group. The natural range of capuchin monkeys is in Central and South America, therefore they are not acclimated for Alberta's cold climate and should have carefully climate controlled indoor accommodations of a sufficient size and complexity to accommodate their needs.

Savanna baboon exhibit - Again, there were no animals in the outdoor area of this enclosure on the day of this investigation so I was unable to determine how many animals live in the enclosure. These baboons live in troops of 15-150 individuals in Africa. The enclosure was not large enough to accommodate an appropriate social group. In addition, these animals live in warm climates. There was no cover on the opening to the indoor area, which allows cold wind to compromise any potential climate control inside the building.

Barbary macaque exhibit – During the investigation, only one individual was observed in this exhibit and I was unable to determine if there were any more macaques housed in the enclosure. Macaques are highly social animals that naturally live in groups of 10-100 individuals. The enclosure at Guzoo is not large enough to house an appropriate social group.





The macaque had access to the neighboring enclosure where one metal panel had peeled back leaving very jagged edges. This sharp metal poses a serious risk of injury to the animal.

Note re: Aberrant behaviour - Every 15 minutes or so, the macaque would suddenly emerge from the door to the indoor quarters, then forcefully bounce himself off the west wall, onto the front mesh, then sail at high speed through the opening between the two enclosures, throw himself off the far wall, then onto the front mesh, sail back through the connecting access hole and dive back into his indoor quarters. During this time the macaque would scream loudly. Only once did he/she stop during one of these episodes, to briefly stare vacantly into a corner, before resuming the manic display.



These two side-by-side enclosures were barren of appropriate enrichment. One side of the enclosure had piles of rusted piping and scrap metal as well as a small rubber tire on the ground. A small diameter metal pole leaning up against the wall was the only means provided for the macaque to reach the indoor area door located at the very top of this enclosure.

The other side of the enclosure had a pile of scrap wood, a log on a sawhorse, and another rubber tire on the ground. The sign on the enclosure accurately notes that these monkeys prefer high altitude cedar and oak forests, however the enclosure had no perches, trees or climbing apparatus.

Snow Macaque exhibit (aka Japanese Macaque) - In the wild, these monkeys live in troops of 20-200 members. The exhibit at Guzoo houses only 4 animals. The enclosure is not large enough to accommodate the animals' physical needs nor an appropriate social group. Although these monkeys evolved to survive in cold temperatures in Japan, they have multiple opportunities to thermoregulate, including natural hot springs. In captivity in Canada's cold climate, they must be provided reliable shelter from the elements. The only shelter in this enclosure is exposed on the West side and constructed of metal and wood that is not insulated. In addition there is no meaningful enrichment provided for these animals.



FELIDS

Tigers

Bengal tiger exhibit - Home ranges for Bengal tigers range from 10 to 1000 square kilometers. The enclosure at Guzoo is not sufficiently large or complex to allow for natural movements, behaviours or exercise.

Three sides and the roof are open to the elements. There are no windbreaks to stop the fierce winds that come across the section of open land and into the enclosures along the western perimeter of the zoo. The only escape was a small rock and aluminum shelter near the center of the enclosure. Bengal tigers evolved in India and Burma, and unlike Siberian tigers, do not naturally live in a cold climate. Given this, additional protection from the elements should be provided for this species.

The signage at Guzoo correctly states that Bengal tigers prefer dense thickets and grasses along riverbanks and are excellent swimmers. The exhibit at Guzoo provides none of these features or any comparable equivalent. The enclosure contained only a small shelter, a few rocks and a blue ball. There is nothing in the enclosure to encourage natural behaviour or movement.

The resting area for this animal was a raised concrete pad, which was snow-covered. While concrete has an advantage over dirt with respect to disinfection, laying on concrete is no warmer than laying on frozen earth.



This enclosure is on a corner, so visitors can observe from three sides. The animal has no ability to escape public view, except by going into the small sleeping box.

There were no provisions for any water in this enclosure.

Bird feces coated the cage bars on the west side

The animal was pacing the perimeter of the enclosure. Additionally, the wear patterns in substrate around perimeter indicates that the animal spends a great deal of time pacing stereotypically.

The remains of goat carcasses lay in the feeding zone of the enclosure and numerous piles of feces lay around the perimeter. Some extremely old feces (bleached) lay in piles in the corners suggesting this enclosure has not been cleaned in quite some time.



The Guzoo web site states that the Bengal tiger is an 8 year old female named Tee and is a “retired movie star” whose trainer gave her to the GuZoo because he wanted her to continue to have a good quality of life.

Siberian tiger exhibit – Like the Bengal tiger exhibit, this enclosure is of a similar small size and complexity, however this one had a roof. Home ranges for Siberian Tigers range from 500 to 4000 square kilometers. This enclosure is not of an adequate size to properly accommodate the tiger’s physical need for exercise or natural behaviour.

Guzoo’s web site notes the following regarding a Siberian tiger featured on the site: “Bridget, is one of GuZoo’s founding animals. She was here from nearly the beginning. She was born 1992 in British Columbia. She was purchased as a cub and hand raised by Gustafson family.”

There was a raised concrete pad similar to the one in the Bengal tiger enclosure and it was also snow-covered

The perimeter of the cage was covered in feces and urine and bird feces coated wire along west side of building. There were frozen meat and spinal columns in the enclosure, and pieces of what appears to be a calf carcass in the feeding chute.

It was evident that the enclosure had not been cleaned in many weeks .

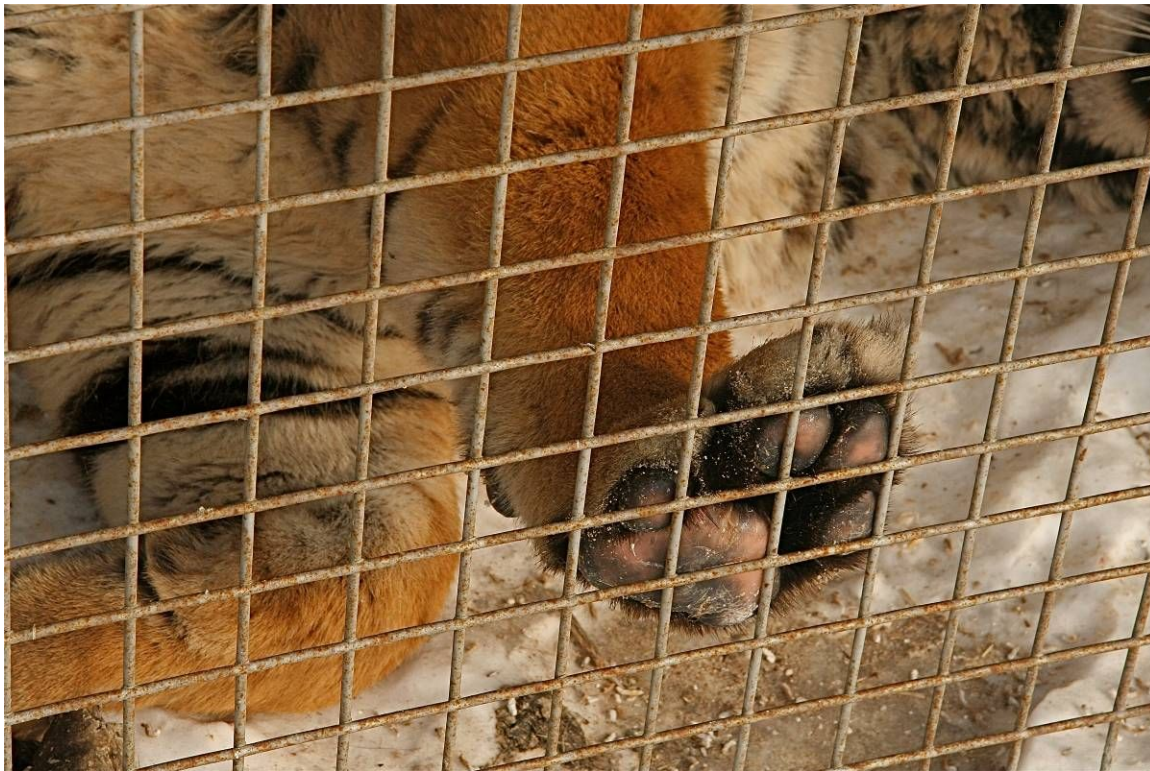


This animal was observed pacing at times and occasionally would throw themselves on the ground moaning, then roll from side to side, then jump up and resume pacing.



It appeared that a meager attempt had been made to provide enrichment in the form of a concrete pad, a carpeted roof to the shelter, rubber tire and a bowling pin suspended from the ceiling. These few items are insufficient and provide no substantive enrichment value to the animal.

The paws of this tiger had evidence of thinning pads likely due to the unyielding hard surfaces it is forced to walk on. These thinned areas can be tender and become ulcerated and severely debilitating.



African lion exhibit - One male and one female lion were observed in this enclosure during my investigation; they were observed mating on several occasions. However, Guzoo's web site indicates there are 3 lions, one male named Wallace and 2 lionesses. It also says Wallace has fathered many offspring and they are hoping for more, suggesting that Guzoo is not doing anything to prevent the cats from breeding.

The sparsely furnished pen had only a wooden shelter and a water tub. This water tub was fed from the eaves trough. The tub was half full of ice and icicles were hanging from the band in the pipe leading from the eaves. There was a crust of bird feces on the ice in the tub indicating that the water had not been freshened in some time. The lioness was observed at the water trough for several minutes licking the contaminated ice.



An elk skull and a dull brown wooly carcass, presumably from a sheep, were observed. In addition, large quantities of feces were scattered about the perimeter of the cage.





In addition, there were clear patterns of wear in the enclosure floor indicating that the animals are engaged in repetitive, pacing behaviours.

The Guzoo web site states that they had expected to build a new lion enclosure by 2008, "Plans are still in the works but the GuZoo hopes to provide their existing collection of four lions a new enclosure encompassing 2 to 3 acres of open space. The new lion habit will have a watering hole and cave with perhaps a rocky vantage point for the lions to survey the land and sun themselves."

Apparently, the owner of Guzoo realizes this enclosure does not meet the needs of the animals, but has been unable or unwilling to provide one that will.

Serval exhibit – There was no serval on display on the day of my inspection. However the web site indicates that the facility has at least one serval, named Moses, who is housed in heated quarters in the winter due to intolerance to cold.

Siberian Lynx exhibit - There was no water available to the cats in this exhibit and it lacks sufficient space to facilitate a full range of natural movements, behaviour and exercise.



The Lynx shelters were a piece-meal construction of weathered wooden boards and rusted wire mesh. I was unable to determine if they were properly secured at ground level, due to snow and ice cover.

Canadian lynx exhibit



The only water source in the Canadian lynx enclosure was frozen with a layer of snow on top. The enclosure is extremely small for the four individuals housed inside. The remains of a deer was still in the enclosure. Some areas of the enclosure showed signs of makeshift repair and the metal doors were markedly rusty.

There were no trees in the enclosure for shade in the summer and there were no warning signs around the exhibit indicating the animals may bite. A 3 foot high fence that visitors are meant to stand behind could easily be breached and there was no staff supervising zoo visitors.

Mountain Lion exhibit - No mountain lion was observed during this investigation, but the Guzoo web site indicates that a mountain lion named Jerry was given to the facility by a animal trainer who decided Jerry was lovable, but not suitable as a “movie actor”.

Bobcat exhibit – There was no bobcat on display during my visit however the website indicates that there is one at the zoo and is described as follows: “This is our resident Bobcat. We call him Bob. Bob has been with us since 1998. He was born in captivity and was raised by his mom, and therefore has no use for human contact. His favorite food is raw chicken.”

Domesticated Cat “Adoption Center” –

Nine cats, including three adults, were housed in a small, approximately 6' x 8' enclosure.

Only one litter box provided; it was full. (Normally require the equivalent of one litter box per cat) Feces scattered outside of box, some next to food and water bowls.

Kittens were in very thin body condition and 2 had mild conjunctivitis. The kittens were not behaving like healthy animals. Rather than playing, they were huddled in the corner of the cage crying.



There were two plastic bowls on the floor, one was empty and other had a small amount of contaminated water.

One gravity-fed self feeder was provided which can only offer one formulation of dry food regardless of the growth stage of the cats.

Two plastic single-serving sized Meow Mix containers (garbage) were inside the cage with tabs drawn only a quarter of the way down which limited access to the contents. One plastic container had been punctured with teeth.



There was no scratching post or other enrichment items present in the cage.

There was only one thin wooden ledge across the back wall and a small wooden corner shelf. Note: wooden surfaces cannot be properly disinfected.

BEARS

There were no bears on display during my inspection however the web site indicates Guzoo has a black bear that Alberta Fish and Wildlife gave to the facility as an orphaned cub in 1994.

Note: During past investigations Zoocheck did observe black bears at this facility, however I saw no indication that any remained at Guzoo.

CANIDS

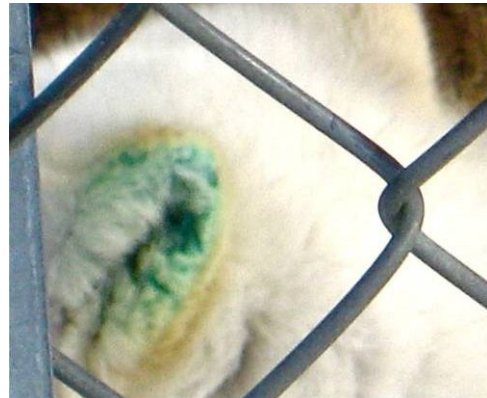
Arctic Fox – The enclosure which housed the arctic fox was labeled raccoon.



This small enclosure that housed at least three individuals was open to the elements on all four sides and the roof. There was no visual security for the animals, except for the small wooden shelter and a few tree stumps.

The left ear on the white arctic Fox had an unidentifiable green colouration on it.

There were a lot of feathers throughout the pen as well as piles of feces indicating the cage had not been cleaned recently.



No warning signs on cage that these animals may bite.

NOTE: Foxes, coyotes, raccoons and skunks are rabies vectors. It is imperative that these animals be inoculated for rabies.

Coyote exhibit – The coyotes were nervous and skittish, restless and pacing when people came near the enclosure. Since it's a corner exhibit, visitor viewing is available on three sides. There was no ability for the animals to escape public view, outside of the small wooden sleeping box in the center.



Other than the sleeping box, and a few planed wood pieces on a small portion of the fence, the enclosure was open to the elements.

The water tub in this enclosure was full of dirty ice and snow indicating the animals had not had fresh potable water recently.



There were skeletal remains on or near the brush pile as well as decomposing sheep and calf carcasses and a slightly fresher sheep carcass.



There was no shade for these animals in the enclosure which may be problematic in the warm summer months.

Guzoo's web site notes that at least one of the coyotes was hand-raised.

New Guinea Singing Dogs - These dogs originated below the equator north of Australia and therefore may have difficulty acclimatizing to the extreme cold temperatures in Canada's winter season.

The singing dogs at Guzoo were not provided adequate shelter from the elements. Their only opportunity to obtain relief from the weather would be inside their sleeping boxes, one of which was in a dilapidated state. The lack of shelter is a serious concern for these animals as any heat reserves they might generate in their bodies will be taxed from having to warm up the frozen meat and snow they ingest.



The water in these enclosures was frozen and covered in snow and contaminants. In addition the enclosure had large quantities of feces and remnants of old food items that had not been removed from the enclosure in many weeks.

The enclosures were too small to allow the dogs to exercise properly.

Red Fox exhibit - The red fox enclosure is also extremely small and limits the ability of the animal to express natural movements, behaviour and exercise. The only protection from extreme weather is a small wooden sleeping box. This species is extremely shy. When the fox emerged from the small wooden box they were extremely skittish. There was no other option for the animal to remove itself from public view.

The enclosure was littered with old food items including weathered spinal columns, fish remains and rabbit carcasses as well as feces and urine.



Many “acholic” feces (white to pale gray) were noted which may indicate that the fox suffers from a malabsorption disorder or disruption of the intestinal bacteria.



There was a second enclosure labeled raccoons nearby that had no animals in it however, it also had a lot of carcass remains and several huge piles of feces and urine soaked snow was noted.

Timber Wolf exhibit

There were two wolves observed in the enclosure.

There was no protection from inclement weather outside of a small dilapidate wooden sleeping box near the centre of the cage.



As is the case with all of the canid enclosures there was a lack of enrichment for the animals. In this enclosure there were only a few rocks, stumps and a wooden platform.

A note on the Guzoo web site indicates that at least one of the wolves was hand-raised and gentle.

Domesticated dogs – Domesticated dogs were observed on the zoo grounds. One of the Basset Hounds also entered the building on its own. This elderly Basset hound has a tumor on its right flank fold. Judging by the size of the mass, it has likely been growing for months. A tumor that is ulcerating is a source of pain and discomfort. This growth is in a location that is amenable to surgical removal. If this tumor is benign, removing it would be curative. If this tumor has been deemed the type that can spread to other parts, removing it in the early stages can buy the patient more time and provide a better quality of life.



UNGULATES

Camel exhibit - Having evolved in northern Africa and the Middle East, Dromedary camels are adapted for arid climate. Unlike their longer haired cousins the Bactrian Camels, Dromedaries are not well suited for our Canadian winters.

The two Dromedaries in the enclosure were provided only small, dilapidated, wooden shed with a dirt floor. The rest of their enclosure was completely exposed to the elements, with no natural or artificial windbreaks. This would not provide adequate protection from Alberta's cold climate in the winter.



The bars of this enclosure were rusting and in places broken which could pose an injury risk to the camels.



Food provision was poor. There was no loose hay provided. By 5:30 pm the only food I observed in the vicinity of the enclosure was a half cucumber still wrapped in plastic, and two partially eaten apples laying just outside the fence.



A camel's natural diet is relatively high in salt, so in captivity a salt block needs to be provided, but none was observed. If the animals were not receiving enough water, a salt block could exacerbate dehydration.

The camel's rusted water tank was filled with ice and snow.



Note: Although camels in the wild can extract enough water from native vegetation, camels in captivity seldom get enough. Camels may drink 30-40 litres of water every day.

The smaller of the two camels (Jacob, who according to the Guzoo web site is new to the facility) had runny eyes. He also had a wet face as a result of the common behavior of spitting their cud when agitated. This could lead to problems when accessing water from a frozen metal tub, or when resting his face on the frozen metal bars, which he demonstrated regularly while being observed



Jacob also displayed stereotypic behavior by running back and forth along the fence-line. This behavior intensified when he observed the goats were being fed across the way.

Tule Elk exhibit - All the elk in this pen had patchy hair loss on their necks, trunks and legs. As well, the red coloured elk had a naked patch on the left lateral thorax that was inflamed. This is not a normal shedding pattern, and is more representative of a parasitic infestation (ie: ticks, mange), or a bacterial or fungal infection.

All feed bins and watering devices in this enclosure were empty.

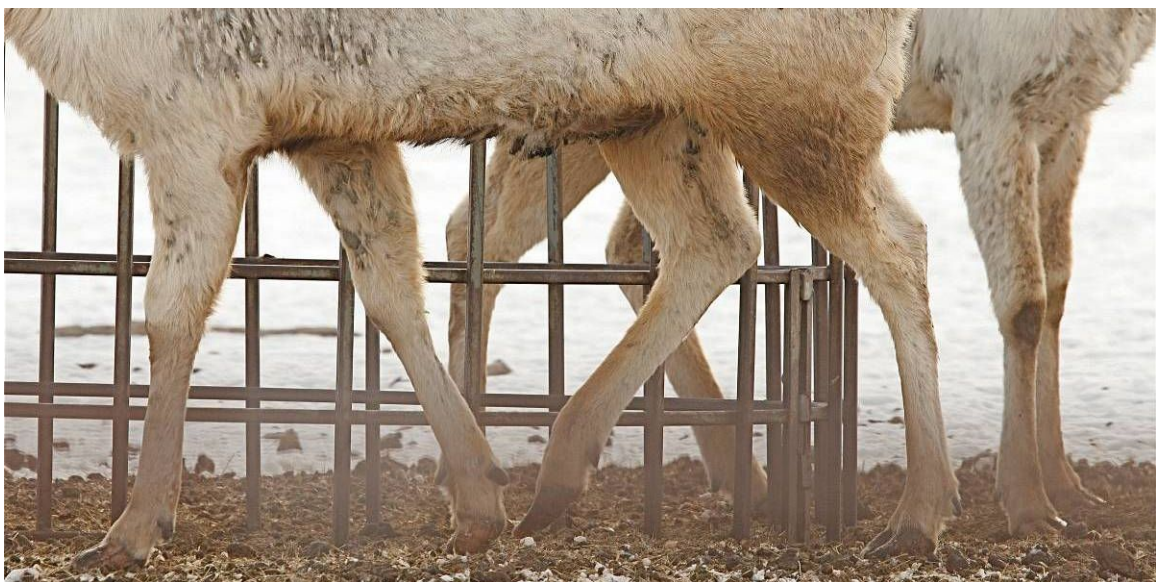


There was a rubber tire and a brush pile in the enclosure, neither of which provide meaningful enrichment for the animals.

There was no cover provided and no windbreaks from the fierce winds that sweep across the open land to the west. Only a dilapidated wooden shelter was provided which appeared too small to even accommodate a single animal..



One of the white elk had a right hind lameness, possibly associated with a splayed overgrown hoof on the left hind foot.



Reindeer: There were no reindeer observed during my investigation, although the Guzoo web site indicates that two reindeer were recently purchased from a breeder in Alberta.

Muskox - This enclosure was labeled Barbados Blackbellied Sheep, but only contained two juvenile musk ox and no sheep (except for an escapee, from an adjacent enclosure, that hopped through the fence at times).



Metal building had pieces falling off resulting in ragged edges and exposed insulation both of which may be a injury hazard for the animals.



The gravity fed feeder in the enclosure was empty.

There was also a large manure mound in this enclosure.



Tahr - This enclosure was labeled Mouflon Sheep however the paddock had no sheep but did house what appeared to be Himalayan Tahr or some hybrid thereof.



Like all of the other outdoor enclosures, the automatic watering devices were not in operation and were full of debris.



The aluminum/tin shelters offered to the ungulates do not insulate against temperature extremes as they conduct cold in the winter and heat in the summer. These “shelters” are open at both ends therefore provide little protection from inclement weather.



The few windbreaks did nothing to protect against the winds coming across the expansive fields across the road. The trees which were planted outside of the enclosure on the east side do not provide shade in the heat of the summers.

Highland Cattle – The highland cattle were housed with the Emu (see below) and there were some of the remains in the carnivore cages that may have been of this species.

Domesticated Goats – There were two pens containing domesticated goats. The first one also had Vietnamese Pot-bellied pigs and a few dark feathered ducks. This pen had a low 3 foot fence across the front, which a goat could easily climb over. A worker also hoisted her child over the fence of the first pen.

There was a large wooden spool inside the enclosure that provided little, if any enrichment value to the 30 plus animals in this pen.



Food distribution also seems to be a problem since the animals in the first pen received considerably more food than those in the second pen.



There were intact Billy goats, pregnant females and kids. Given that there were goat carcasses in most enclosures, it is likely the goats are being raised as food for the carnivores. There was no evidence of the methods used for slaughter of the food animals but this warrants further investigation.

At least one goat has severely overgrown hooves (slipperfoot) as shown in the photos below.



The goat in the photo to the right had hair rubbed off the bridge of the nose most likely from pushing it through the wire mesh.



By 5 pm, all visible food lay on the exterior side of the fence and a dog is observed roaming freely on the grounds (see photo to left).

There was very limited shelter provided for the large number of animals in this enclosure and snow had drifted into the aluminum/tin shelter which significantly reduced the available space. In addition it should be noted that metal shelters do not insulate against extremes as they conduct cold in the winter and heat in the summer.



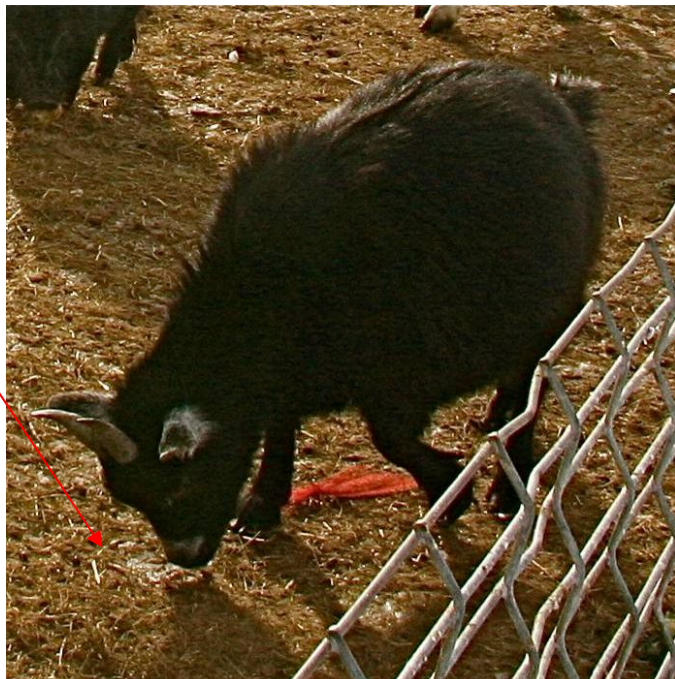
There was no potable water available in either of the goat/pig/duck enclosures. In one enclosure there was a large plastic blue tub was filled with snow and ice and a detached garden hose was tacked on the fence above it – see photo to the left.

Judging from the food remains along the fence line, the food offered to the goats, pigs and camels appears to consist of discarded fruit (primarily rinds), vegetables and buns. The following were identified: the tops, rinds and cores of pineapples, the rinds of cantaloupes, honeydew melons and grapefruits; cabbage leaves, broccoli stems, mushrooms, red pepper cores, chili peppers, potatoes, partially eaten apples, oranges (uncut), bread buns, hamburger patties still in plastic wrappers, and a half of a cucumber in plastic wrap.



Red and blue elastic bands, red plastic mesh for vegetables, plastic tabs and clear plastic containers for tomatoes and strawberries were also seen inside and outside of the enclosures. One young goat was observed eating plastic wrap.

The female worker said that the owner had gone to the local restaurants for food that day. When asked about the large amount of food laying outside of the fence, she commented, "The animals wouldn't be so hungry if they weren't so picky".



At 5:00pm, a young boy of about 10 or 11 years was seen adding more vegetable matter to the first pen and then smashed several bags of buns across the top of the fence.



The dilapidated gate was latched but not locked, and the protruding metal piece posed a hazard to people.

As is typical of most of the enclosures at this facility, the bedding in this enclosure was compacted straw with excessive amounts of fecal material.

Jacob & Barbados Blackbelly Sheep – There were no Jacob sheep seen during my visit however Guzoo's web site indicates that they have at least one Jacob sheep. There were Barbados Blackbelly sheep in the Emu enclosure (see description below) and one of the carcasses in the carnivore enclosures that may have been of this species.

Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs - These pigs evolved in Southwest Asia over millions of years, and are not adapted for Canadian winters. Their preferred temperature is 20 degrees Celcius and they need plenty of straw and blankets when temperatures approach zero degrees.



Although there were a few pigs in the open, most were huddled in the woodshed in the straw bedding. A worker hoisted her daughter of approximately four years of age into the pen saying, "you just can't keep her out of there". The child was observed going into the shed where the pigs were nestled in the straw. She was then seen kicking the pigs until they vacated the building. The child was only told to stop at my request.

Pieces of wood fence were missing at the bottom in first pig/goat pen. A rabbit had apparently found its way into the first pen, likely through such an opening.



Gaps in the fences and between the posts and fence are potentially hazardous to animal legs and the heads of baby animals.

Many of the pigs observed were obese, as indicated by the fat rolls over their eyes and bellies that almost touched the ground. The pig in the photo below also has overgrown hooves, a condition which in combination with obesity can lead to a serious orthopedic problem known as dropped pasterns.



VIETNAMESE POT-BELLIED PIGLET
(photo to right)

This individual was housed alone under a heat lamp in a small straw-covered pen. Unlike the other piglet in another cage, they were very listless and did not move or vocalize during the hour I spent in this building.



Young three-legged Piglet

(Photo on left) - This animal was missing the right forelimb. There was no signage on this cage.

The animal was housed in a small 2 x 6 foot pen located just to the left of the entrance door. The sides of pen were approximately 1 meter high. The door was latched but not locked, which may allow someone to remove this animal from the enclosure.

There was no food or water available to this piglet. He/she was observed rooting for food and nudging the overturned container.



The piglet's pen was stained by urine and fecal stained on the walls on 2 sides. The other walls of the pen were wire mesh which was covered in peeling paint, feces, urine and rust.

There was no enrichment provided.

The base of enclosure is wooden and therefore cannot be properly disinfected.

The bedding in the pen was thoroughly contaminated with feces and urine with bare spots of wood.

The piglet presented with a very thin body condition with the backbone palpable.

There was a sore on the right hip which is likely a pressure sore given that it is over a boney prominence. The piglet's left hind leg was urine-soaked, and there was abnormal drainage from the eyes.

There was no additional heat source provided for this very young animal.



Horses, donkeys, alpacas and llamas – The Guzoo web site indicates that they also have horses, donkeys, alpacas and llamas as part of their traveling petting zoo, but none were observed on the day of my visit

Zebu and Watusi Cattle – The Guzoo web site also indicates that they also have Zebu and Watusi cattle, but notes that they are housed indoors in the winter due to intolerance to the cold. I did not see these species on the day of my inspection.

SMALL MAMMALS

Raccoon



There was feces scattered throughout the raccoon enclosure, many of which were bleached, indicating that they had been in the enclosure for a long period of time.

The Guzoo web site notes the following regarding a raccoon featured on the web site: "This "Rocko", he was born at the GuZoo. He is currently off discovering his talent as a movie actor," which suggests he may be rented out for television or movie productions.



All sides and roof open to the elements—the only protection was a wooden shelter

Capybara - There was no capybara on display on the day of my visit however the web site indicates that this is one of a few species they keep indoors during the winter due to intolerance to cold temperatures.

Coatimundi – This outdoor enclosure was wire mesh on all four sides and roof with no protection from the elements.



The only cage furnishing was a tree stump in the center of the enclosure. It was unclear how many animals were housed in this enclosure. However, it should be noted that in the wild Coatimundi females and young males up to two years of age are gregarious and travel through their territories in loosely-organized bands made up of four to 25 individuals, foraging with their offspring on the ground or in the forest canopy. Males over two years become solitary due to behavioural disposition and collective aggression from the females, and will join the female groups only during the breeding season.

Rabbits – The rabbits in the outdoor cages had no provision for water . Any snow present was contaminated with feces and urine and the bedding was likewise fouled with enormous amounts of feces and urine soaked snow. The urine was extremely concentrated which supports dehydration.



At least two of the rabbits had a nasal discharge characteristic of a disease known as Pasteurellosis. This disease can cause anything from conjunctivitis, to nasal discharge (known as “snuffles”), to pneumonia to sudden death. Pasteurellosis cannot be cured, only managed. The disease is easily spread between rabbits especially when in high density situations.



The size of the wire mesh used for this rabbit enclosure is of the size that their heads could fit through predisposing to injury. Plastic containers from tomatoes and strawberries were in with the rabbits. Elastic bands and wire twist-ties were also noted. Plastics and rubber can cause intestinal obstructions. Feces on the outside of enclosure indicates that the animals are coming and going from the enclosure which could pose a risk for spread of disease to wild rabbits.



The indoor rabbit cages had walls splattered with urine and feces.



The only food available for the animals was a cracked corn/pea mixture.

A proper diet consists of predominately loose hay and mixed leafy greens, and only a small amount of grains. The diet offered here would lead to malnourishment, obesity, and malocclusion and is inappropriate, especially for a lactating doe.

The water in the bowls were contaminated with fecal matter and some had tipped over, leaving animals without water.

These rabbit enclosures are extremely small and there was no enrichment provided to the animals and only a scant amount of bedding was present in some pens and all was fecal contaminated. Many of the cages were unlocked and some had paint stripping off of the metal bars and mesh.



Additionally, the fact that the nests aren't hidden from human disturbance puts the babies at risk of cannibalism by the doe.

Sugar glider- Number of animals not determined as they were hidden from view

The vertical orientation of the cage does not promote natural gliding behaviour.

The water bottle on the cage was empty

The mesh walls were encrusted with old fruit and dust and the wooden floor covered with feces.

Apples were the only food item observed.



Degu – This enclosure was made of wood and wire mesh which was rusted and separating from the door to the cage. The water bowl contained dark-brown, fouled water and there was excessive amounts of feces mixed in with the bedding. Feces was also strewn all along the wooden resting shelf. In addition the climbing apparatus was badly chewed including the carpet, potentially toxic if ingested, which can cause mechanical obstruction of the intestines.



The cage was latched but not locked



Gerbil & hamsters – These animals were housed in 10 gallon aquariums with “gerbil” and “hamster” written in felt pen on glass. No other information was provided. There were few provisions in these cages and the animals had no ability to hide which is important for prey species.



Reptiles

Turtles – This cage was not labeled however it appeared to house 2 Red-Eared Sliders.

Water was a dark and murky green-brown, heavily contaminated with algae, feces and waste. One “feeder” goldfish seen briefly as it swam near the surface. I am unsure how any fish could survive for any period of time in this water as organic matter contamination depletes the water of oxygen and creates high nitrate concentrations.



The only provisions for the turtles were a few rocks and a heat lamp. No full spectrum lighting was observed. The 4-inch water depth and the space taken up by haul-out rocks did not permit normal movement or exercise.



Tortoise – There was no identification on this exhibit. The aquarium tank glass was filthy and no visual security was afforded this animal. The tortoise's shell was misshapen, a potential sign of disease. Environmental conditions were inadequate.

The food was fecal-contaminated hay and scattered bits of romaine lettuce. There was an empty bag of "Caesar salad mix" in the bucket on the food preparation table across from this tank. There were also some pellets on the tank floor, it was unclear if this was bedding material or food matter. The "bedding" covered only half of the glass bottom.



A tiny tippable ceramic water dish, with a thin layer of fouled water, was present.

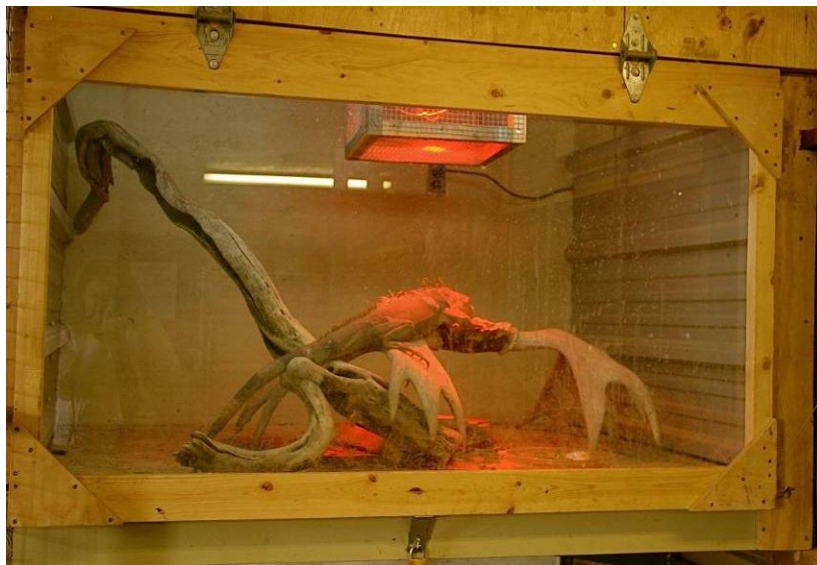
Snake – The snake in this enclosure was not identified, but appeared to be a constrictor species. The glass walls of the aquarium were dirty and a bowl contained contaminated discoloured water. The snake lay in corner of the sparsely furnished tank, under a heat lamp. The only cage furnishing was a twig.



Green iguana –

This animal was not identified on the display. The cage was made of wood and metal with a glass front (which is inappropriate for this species). There is little ventilation in this sort of display.

The cage was only twice as long as the animal and therefore does not provide enough space for exercise. There was no ability for the animal to hide in this cage and there was no bedding provided for the animal.



BIRDS

Blue and Gold Macaw and Amazon Parrot

This cage was constructed from wood and metal and the metal had peeling paint and feces splattered on it. Long thin wire feeding through top of cage pose a serious danger to the birds.

The floor was laden with feces and the Macaw's beak was overgrown due to a lack of adequate enrichment in the cage.



The vertical orientation of the cage restricts the birds' ability to fly and therefore they cannot obtain adequate exercise. The quality of air in the building was poor; birds are susceptible to poor air quality. In addition there was no ability for the birds to remove themselves from view.

Zebra finches mislabeled as African Lovebirds - This cage had twist ties holding door onto the rusted cage bars.



Contaminated drinking water and food bowls-bowls vulnerable to contamination and spillage as placed on the floor. The floor was feces laden.





Pigeon – A small, overhead, wood and wire cage labeled Archangel pigeon had only one bird in it. The cage was far too small to permit much more than a few steps back and forth let alone flight. The sign was attached with wire that protruded into cage and posed a hazard. As was consistent with the other bird cages, this one was also laden in feces.

Ring-neck doves – There were several birds in this enclosure, with access to an outside enclosure. The only perches were positioned next to the access door to the outdoors, forcing the birds to sit by draughty, cold door. The vertical orientation of the cage does not allow normal flight or exercise. There was a large artificial spruce tree which extended from the upper perches to the ground. This “tree” is encrusted with several layers of bird droppings. The artificial tree and solitary nesting basket in the outdoor pen is also encrusted with layers of fecal material. There is a gap in the door to the outdoor enclosure that would permit a weasel to get in which could decimate the flock.

A single water bowl containing a brownish fluid sits on the floor of the cage and had apparently been tipped.

Birds observed mating in this cage.



Conure and cockatiels - This unlabeled cage was constructed of wood and metal mesh. The enclosure had limited light exposure leaving it extremely dark. There were limited perching opportunities for the birds, forcing some to sit on their food and water bowls leaving them contaminated with feces while others had to cling to the mesh walls of the cage.



This was another vertically oriented bird cage that restricts the ability of the birds to fly or exercise. One of the perch covers had been chewed off and there was extensive dust and cobweb accumulation on the walls of the cage.

Peafowl – No peafowl were observed during our investigation, however Guzoo's web site indicates that there are some on the property.

Emus - This enclosure appears to be a feedlot set-up in an expansive open field with minimal shelters and windbreaks. There was a dilapidated wooden shelter and coils of unused fencing material inside enclosure.



The emu numbered at least 30 individuals and were mixed with Scottish Highland cattle and Barbados Blackbelly Sheep. There was a transport trailer behind the residence to the property which advertised both the “Emu Palace” and “Odd & Unusual Management-Exotic Animal & Bird Sales” and made reference to the Innisfail Auction Mart.

The automatic watering devices were non-operational.

The access door on the north side had a gap at the bottom of at least a foot (likely more once the snow melts) which would allow access by other animals into the enclosure such as wild coyotes or domesticated dogs.



The signage on this enclosure made reference only to the Scottish Highland Cattle.

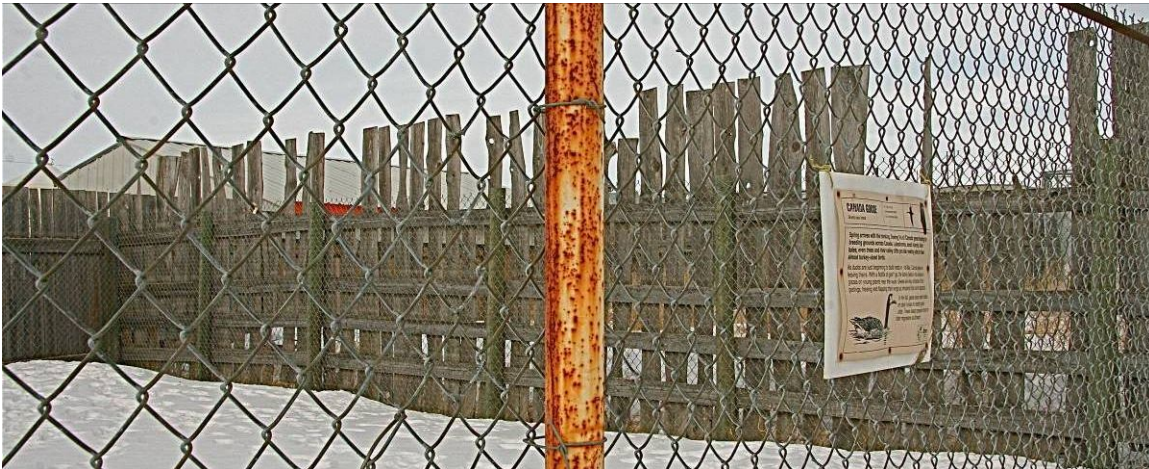
The fence along the west border was not very high and there were only fence posts with no secondary fence on this side. The fencing was piece-meal. There were exposed nails, loose wire and strapping holding it together at some points.

Emus evolved to live in semi arid grasslands and desert woodlands. It may be argued that their long, thick, double quilled feathers help maintain a constant body temperature, but this has only been demonstrated between the ambient temperature range of -5 to 45°C (Journal of Comparative Physiology B: Biochemical, Systemic, and Environmental Physiology Volume 164, Number 6, 464-472). Alberta winters are typically much colder than -5 °C and for extended periods. As well, the long naked legs of the emu are a source of heat loss when not tucked in beneath the birds.

Ducks – There were a few ducks in the snow inside of the domesticated goat enclosure. The birds were huddled next to a discarded clear plastic food container in the goat/pig enclosure.



CANADA GEESE – There was no roof on Canada goose enclosure indicating that the geese were likely pinioned. The only enrichment was a stump with artificial pine boughs wired to it. No water was provided



The fencing was in a state of disrepair missing numerous boards and the posts on the chainlink fence are were very rusty.

Geese fed off the ground and the feed mixed with feces.



Great Horned owl – There was no ability for this bird to escape from public view and he/she became extremely agitated when people were near the cage.

Guzoo's web site indicated that the bird was acquired from a rehabilitation center after he suffered a permanent injury to his wing that left him flightless.



Dilapidated equipment and related issues

There were two signs posted on door, the first read “Strongly recommended that hands be washed after contact with animals”, and the second, “CAUTION: dust in this facility may aggravate allergies”. First, there were no provisions for hand washing/disinfection anywhere inside this building and the disinfectant dispenser outside was empty; and second, there was only one small ceiling fan which was filthy, rusted and not in operation.



The poor air quality was due to lack of ventilation and several month's (at least) accumulation of feces, ammonia from bird droppings, urine, feather dust, house dust and dirt. This poor air quality is harmful not only to allergy sufferers, but to all humans and animals.

The older Reznor duct furnace located in the barn was rusted, dusty, cobwebbed and there were large gaps where it was piped into the ceiling. This equipment could pose a fire hazard and should be checked to determine if it is safe.

General Conditions

The flooring in the building is concrete and does not have drains or gutters. This floor was covered in dirt, feces and urine, including the alleyway and food preparation area included. Some of the feces on the floor appeared to be from the free-roaming cats which were not provided a litter in this building.

There were no water taps or hoses visible in this building. The water appears to be hauled in 5 gallon pails. One of the free roaming cats was observed having to use it's paw to access water.



Under and around the food preparation table was cat feces, some fluid leakage (possibly urine) and other dirt and debris.





This table was located just inside the door next to the Degu, and in front of the “Cat Adoption Center”. The bin which contained loose hay and a plastic bin labeled “Mixed Grains”, was located on the other side of the main corridor in front of the Macaw cage and next to a pen of rabbits.

The indoor area had very little natural light for the animals. The building has only two small windows on one wall to allow in sunlight. Other lighting consisted of a few banks of fluorescent lights.

The walls of both outdoor isolation pens were fecal and urine stained.

One pen contained a ewe and her triplets. There was an overturned bucket in with them. The door to this pen was held closed by a strap which allowed an opening large enough for a lamb to escape or an animal (ie: weasel, fox, cat) to come in.



The alley way and the second isolation pen were piled with junk (ie: old pails, plastic bins, chairs, crates, baskets, cat kennels, lumber)



In the corridor, a water bowl had been left out presumably for dogs and cats roaming the premises. A quarter of this bowl was filled with dark brown, contaminated water.

Domesticated dogs were observed running in the zoo

A pile of food (buns, etc) and garbage in front of the adjacent building had a cat and a dog rummaging through it at times



Handling wild animals at Guzoo

For many years the owner of Guzoo has hand-raised animals and offered the public opportunities to handle the babies, including tigers, lions, bears and other potentially dangerous species. Not only is this potentially dangerous, it also has animal welfare implications and can be a source of miseducation to zoo visitors.

It seems there is little regard for the incredible psychological distress that both the mother and the infant experience (and even other members of a social group) when the separation occurs. In addition to the initial trauma, the impact of hand-rearing can extend in to adulthood, and even affect future generations. *"It's well documented that hand raising has long-term behavioral effects,"* admits AZA director Michael Hutchins. He goes on to explain, *"animals become socially attached to human caretakers, and later on in life can develop a sociosexual attachment to the species that hand raised them. In a popular sense, you can say they are confused about their species identity. This can have a long-term effect on breeding."* In fact, hand-raised animals often reach sexual maturity earlier than their wild counterparts, they often do not respond appropriately in breeding situations, and they suffer from low fertility rates. Hand-raised animals do not have the opportunity to learn social behaviors which are normally imparted by their mother initially and then by interacting with their social group. It is understandable therefore that they would be confused about babies in general, let alone the process of delivering one, and then caring for one. It should come as no surprise that such an unskilled mother could reject, attack or even kill her offspring.

There is also evidence to suggest that having people interact with an imprinted animal devoid of any "wild" behavior, experienced completely out of context and under the control of humans, not only perpetuates the notion of man's dominance over animals, but it actually results in *mis*-education and *de*values the animal in the eyes of the spectator.

The practice of removing baby animals from their parents at a young age is outdated, cruel and clearly outlines that this zoo is more concerned about entertainment of visitors than education or animal welfare.