

A Review of Zoos in Ontario

Has Anything Changed?

2010

Produced by

Zoocheck Canada
(in association with the
World Society for the Protection of Animals)

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INTRODUCTION

The uncontrolled keeping of wild animals in zoos, animal menageries and as pets by private individuals has been an ongoing issue in Ontario for many years. Back in 1980, Member of Provincial Parliament Ronald Van Horne introduced Bill 79, *An Act to Licence and Regulate Wild Animal and Reptile Sanctuaries*. Unfortunately, his bill was never passed.

2010 marked the 30th anniversary of the introduction of Mr. Van Horne's bill, but the problems that led to his bill remain largely unaddressed.

Today, almost anyone, regardless of experience, expertise or financing can still start a zoo in Ontario. This lack of control has resulted in a proliferation of substandard zoos and zoo-type displays, and the neglect and abuse of thousands of wild animals. As a consequence of the province's lax regulations, Ontario has more wild animals kept in zoos or in private possession as pets, than any other province. Past investigations conducted throughout the years suggest that in many cases, these animals are kept with only basic regard to animal welfare and, in some cases, with little regard for public safety.

There are more than 60 captive wildlife facilities in Ontario, and many of them are "roadside zoos," facilities characterized by poor housing and care conditions. Many of these zoos are staffed by self-taught caretakers and keepers with little or no training or experience in professionally operated facilities.

A number of "professional" zoos also operate in the province. These facilities also lack any independent oversight and are free to operate at a standard of their own choosing.

In addition there are thousands of private animal owners, including many that are housing dangerous animals such as tigers, lions and venomous reptiles. Since there is no provincial licence, there are no records to tell us precisely how many exotic animals are presently being kept in Ontario and where they are located. However it has been estimated that there could be as many as 500 exotic cats (lions, tigers, jaguars, cougars, lynx etc.) kept as pets in the province.

In March 2009, the Ontario government passed *Bill 50, An Act to Amend the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*. Incorporated into this Act are general standards of care for all animals and various standards of care for the keeping of wildlife in captivity. These measures are complimentary to several animal provisions contained in Ontario *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* that was passed in 1997.

In an effort to determine whether anyone is paying attention to the new standards, Zoocheck Canada and the World Society for the Protection of Animals decided to review a representative sampling of zoo facilities in the province in 2010. The findings are concerning.

While the standards exist on paper, little seems to have changed on the ground in Ontario's zoos and animal displays. The Ontario government itself shoulders most of the blame for the current situation because they have failed to act in a decisive and comprehensive fashion. They now have yet another chance to do so.

In November 2010, Member of Provincial Parliament, Dave Levac introduced a private member's bill entitled *Bill 125, An Act to amend the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act 1997*. If passed, this bill would require, among other things, that non-native exotic wildlife be listed under the Act (they are not presently) and it would require anyone wishing to keep wildlife in captivity to acquire a licence (currently a licence is only needed for the keeping of certain kinds of native wildlife).

Throughout the years tens of thousands of animals in captivity have suffered unnecessarily in Ontario because no government has bothered to take the relatively simple actions required to change the situation. It's time they did. It is our hope that this report will encourage whoever is elected in the fall 2011 election to finally deal with the problem.

Sincerely,

Rob Laidlaw
CBiol MSB
Executive Director
Zoocheck Canada

CAPTIVE WILDLIFE: A PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In Canada, the provincial and territorial governments are responsible for regulating the keeping of wild animals kept as pets or in zoos and other captive wildlife facilities, while the federal government is responsible for controlling the import and export of certain species that are deemed threatened by trade according to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Most Ontarians are shocked to learn that the law provides very little protection for wild animals housed in Ontario's zoos and private animal collections. In fact, Ontario is the only province that doesn't have adequate, proactive measures to control the possession and proliferation of exotic wildlife or to inspect the conditions in which animals are kept.

Even though the exotic wild animal problem has been recognized for more than 30 years, while Ontario has stood still, other provinces have moved forward to control the keeping of wild animals in their own jurisdictions.

In 2005, the Alberta government introduced a zoo licensing system which effectively phased-out the keeping of wild animals as pets. Doug Slatnik, Head of Enforcement for Alberta Sustainable Resources & Development says "The days of people owning wild animals for their own purposes, just for the fun of it, are over. Now, owners of captive wildlife must have either a conservation and/or an education purpose." Wild animals can only be kept in one of the province's four zoos and they must be kept in accordance with professional animal welfare and public safety standards.

In response to the tragic death of a woman who was mauled by a captive tiger, the B.C. government recently amended their *Wildlife Act* to regulate the possession, breeding, transport and release of exotic animals. Now, anyone who owns exotic animals that are on B.C.'s designated list of animals that pose a risk to human health and safety, require a permit and only accredited zoos or educational facilities are allowed to breed the animals. The new regulations are effectively phasing-out the keeping of dangerous exotic animals like tigers as pets.

Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) issues licences for keeping certain native wildlife through regulations under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*; however, there are no minimum qualifications required to obtain this licence so there is no guarantee that those keeping these animals have any professional training in their humane and safe handling. Very few conditions are attached to these licences and MNR enforcement officers say they are unenforceable. The keeping of native species as pets is generally prohibited in Ontario but anyone can keep a tiger in their backyard, provided there is no municipal by-law banning these types of pets. No licence at all is required to keep exotic animals which represent approximately two-thirds of the animals kept in Ontario zoos.

Ontario SPCA Act

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) is responsible for the *Ontario SPCA Act*. In March 2009, legislation was passed to amend the Act. The Ontario SPCA now has the authority to inspect zoos and other facilities where animals are “used for animal exhibit, entertainment, boarding, hire or sale” to ensure that no animals are in distress and that the animals are kept in compliance with new captive wildlife standards. While these changes were welcome and long overdue, the SPCA is a charitable organization that, for the most part, can only address issues in a retroactive manner and in cases where they have tangible evidence that animals are in distress (as defined by law).

ONTARIO ZOO INVESTIGATION 2010

Zoocheck Canada and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) have been investigating conditions in Ontario zoos for more than two decades. Since the mid-1980s the two organizations have produced a series of investigative reports revealing the appalling conditions in roadside zoos in Ontario. Sadly, very little has changed since the findings of the first investigation were publicized. All past reports identified significant animal welfare and human safety concerns that remain unaddressed today.

In the summer of 2009, just months after the Ontario SPCA Act was amended to better protect captive wildlife, Zoocheck visited a number of zoos to see if they were meeting the new legal requirements. Unfortunately, there were few if any improvements at any of the zoos visited so complaints were submitted to the Ontario SPCA and MNR. We remained hopeful that orders of improvement had been issued and decided it was still too early to judge the effectiveness of the new legislation and the enforcement effort.

During the summer of 2010, nine zoos were visited to see whether anything had changed. Once again the animal enclosures were reviewed to see whether they were in compliance with the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and the standards contained in *Ontario Regulation 60/09*. Since all of the standards with this regulation apply to captive wildlife, all four sections of the standards were reviewed. These include:

1. *Basic standards of care for all animals,*
2. *Standards of care for captive wildlife,*
3. *Standards for enclosures for captive wildlife and*
4. *Standards for primates in captivity*

Zoo Investigations



**Compliance with
Ontario's standards
for wildlife in captivity**

Springwater Provincial Park Wildlife Compound

June 4, 2010

SUMMARY

Springwater Provincial Park, located in Midhurst is operated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The park's wildlife compound houses a variety of native wildlife species, including a single black bear, wolves, coyote, red fox, lynx, bobcat, raccoons, raptors and waterfowl, in an assortment of cages and enclosures.

While Springwater Provincial Park has the space and environment to provide expansive, natural conditions for the native wildlife species it currently houses, most of the animals are housed in inadequate, unimaginative displays that should have been removed long ago.

Over the long-term, the wildlife compound should be redesigned and reconstructed or phased out altogether. In the short-term, the existing cages and enclosures should be substantially upgraded to make them more acceptable for the animals. Many of the necessary improvements are cheap and easy to implement. Interior spaces must be made far more complex. The vertical space in each enclosure is underutilized and should be enhanced and accessible to all animals. More complex furnishings should be provided and changed on a regular basis and objects and materials added as part of an enrichment program. Privacy and rest areas must also be added and the animals' diets should be reviewed to ensure they are receiving nutritious, species-appropriate food that encourages normal food acquisition activities.

As a provincially operated facility Springwater Provincial Park should serve as a benchmark for the housing and husbandry of native wildlife in captivity in Ontario. Instead, it is a substandard facility that is not in compliance with many of the province's own rules. At the present time, overall conditions are lacking and are comparable to those found in many of Ontario's roadside zoos.

Basic standards of care for all animals

2. (1) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate food and water. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (1).

It was difficult to determine whether this criterion was being satisfied. In most exhibits, food was not observed. However, commercially-prepared dog chow (kibble) was observed in the food bowls in the coyote and red fox enclosure. If dog chow is the main diet item for the carnivores, the diet should be modified, because it fails to address the fact that animals eat a diversity of food in the wild and that they spend a considerable amount of time engaged in food acquisition activities. In fact, for many animals, food acquisition activities dominate their daily routine. If dog chow is a main component of the bear's diet, it should be changed. Dog chow is excessively fattening and too high in protein. High protein levels may play a role in the development of cancer in captive bears. Feeding bland diets on fixed schedules

substantially reduces or eliminates food acquisition activity and leaves a huge activity gap in the lives of captive animals. It can be a major factor in chronic frustration and boredom. Staggered feeding schedules, the introduction of live food items, hiding or placing food in hard to reach locations, painting food treats (jam, honey) on structures and furnishings, and providing whole carcass feeds for carnivores are just a few of the ways in which food can be used to enrich the lives of captive animals.

(2) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate medical attention. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (2).

Not determined.

(3) Every animal must be provided with the care necessary for its general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (3).

Overall, animal accommodation is rudimentary and inadequate and care seems more geared to satisfaction of survival needs than to properly addressing the full range of each animal's biological and behavioural needs. Cage designs were simplistic and interior complexity was lacking. The white-tailed deer pen and waterfowl ponds stood out as superior to the other exhibits as they provided more complexity. In most cases, substrates were barren and shelter, privacy and enrichment (including structural enhancements, furnishings and objects) was poor. Obvious signs of compromised welfare were the stereotypic behaviours displayed by the American black bear and one wolf. The bear was observed engaged in repetitive pacing along in the inside perimeter of its cage, while one wolf was observed pacing in a rapid figure 8 pattern in the rear portion of their pen. Deep, circular troughs had been worn into the substrate at each end of the figure 8, a clear sign that the wolf has been engaged in the behaviour for quite some time (this pattern was also observed in 2006 by representatives of the World Society for the Protection of Animals). Most other animals were inactive, often an indication of boredom and/or frustration.

(4) Every animal must be transported in a manner that ensures its physical safety and general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (4).

Not determined.

(5) Every animal must be provided with an adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping area. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (5).

Many animals are not provided with adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping areas, particularly in their on-exhibit space. Most had to retreat to a wooden box (either on the ground or elevated) to obtain privacy (bobcat, lynx, wolf). The only appropriate rest/sleep area available to the bear was the recessed concrete pipe embedded in the rear wall of the exhibit. The bear had no materials for the construction of day beds. Multiple privacy and sleeping opportunities should be available to all animals. This is easily accomplished through the use of visual

baffles, furnishings, landscaping, etc. No bedding materials were noted, although the interior of some sleeping areas could not be observed.

(6) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate,

(a) space to enable the animal to move naturally and to exercise;

A significant number of cages were undersized and did not allow engagement in a full range of normal movements and exercise, such as running at speed, climbing and jumping. (raccoon, bobcat, lynx, black bear). Vertical space was poorly utilized in a number of exhibits (raccoon, bobcat, lynx).

(b) sanitary conditions;

No issues.

(c) ventilation;

No issues.

(d) light, and;

No issues.

(e) protection from the elements, including harmful temperatures. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (6).

No issues.

(7) If an animal is confined to a pen or other enclosed structure or area,

(a) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any structures or material in it, must be in a state of good repair;

(b) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any surfaces, structures and materials in it, must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(i) safe and non-toxic for the animal, and

(ii) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animal; and

No issues.

(c) the pen or other enclosed structure or area must not contain one or more other animals that may pose a danger to the animal. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (7).

No issues.

Standards of care for captive wildlife

4. (1) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with adequate and appropriate care, facilities and services to ensure their safety and general welfare as more specifically set out in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and in sections 5 and 6. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (1).

(2) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with a daily routine that facilitates and stimulates natural movement and behaviour. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (2).

There was no evidence of any kind of daily “routine” for any of the animals. Several exhibits had one or two “enrichment” items (ball in bear and wolf cage, kong toy in coyote exhibit), but nothing else was observed. There was no evidence of food or sense-based enrichment programming.

(3) Wildlife kept in captivity must be kept in compatible social groups to ensure the general welfare of the individual animals and of the group and to ensure that each animal in the group is not at risk of injury or undue stress from dominant animals of the same or a different species. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (3).

No issues.

Standards for enclosures for captive wildlife

5. (1) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be of an adequate and appropriate size:

(a) to facilitate and stimulate natural movement and behaviour;

Several cages did not provide sufficient space to allow and encourage natural movements and behaviours including, but not limited to, running at speed, jumping, climbing, digging and foraging. In particular, the raccoon, lynx, bobcat and black bear cages were grossly undersized. While the animals could move a short distance across their respective cages or enclosures, there was little opportunity for them to engage in normal movements and behaviours (exploratory, foraging, climbing, running, swimming). As well, vertical space usage in a number of the enclosures was minimal or inadequate, particularly in the raccoon, bobcat, lynx and black bear cages.

(b) to enable each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area to keep an adequate and appropriate distance from the other animals and people so that it is not psychologically stressed; and

Not determined.

(c) to ensure that the natural growth of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area is not restricted. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (1).

No issues.

(2) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must have,

(a) features and furnishings that facilitate and stimulate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

Few of the cages were sufficiently equipped to facilitate and stimulate natural movements and behaviours. Structural enhancements are poor and furnishings are deficient or lacking. Overused stumps, branches and/or logs that should have been replaced long ago were in a number of cages and enclosures. A few exhibits (raccoon) contained elevated wooden platforms. The bear exhibit contained an inflexible climbing structure that has been in place for many years. Overall, the environments were bland, inflexible and lacking in complexity.

(b) shelter from the elements that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time;

(c) surfaces and other materials that accommodate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

Furnishings tend to be simplistic, old, overused, hard and do little to facilitate natural movements and behaviours. Most exhibits had smooth hard stumps, branches or logs. The bear exhibit was equipped with an immovable wooden climbing apparatus that has not been modified in many years. Parts of the structure were heavily chewed, an indication that the bear is bored and looking for something to do.

(d) one or more areas that are out of view of spectators; and

Many cages did not provide any opportunity for the animals to remove themselves from public view. Visitors could surround the entire raccoon cage and most of the bear exhibit. Since being viewed may negatively impact animal welfare, visitors should never be able to observe animals from all sides. Visitors were able to look down into the bear exhibit from one side, another major flaw in the exhibit as animals should never be viewed from above. Both of these situations can be rectified by restricting visitor viewing only to specific viewing stations. Most animals at Springwater Provincial Park had to retreat into a box or an off-exhibit area to obtain privacy. This is unacceptable. All animals should have multiple privacy opportunities that allow them to completely remove themselves from public view in their on-exhibit space. There are many ways to accomplish this, including artificial visual baffles, ground vegetation, landscaping, etc. The raptor exhibits did not contain sufficient privacy areas for the birds in their on-exhibit space.

(e) one or more sleeping areas that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time and that are accessible to all the animals at all times. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (2).

There were not sufficient areas out of view of spectators in which animals could sleep comfortably.

(3) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(a) safe and non-toxic for the animals kept in the pen or other enclosed structure or area; and

(b) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animals. O. Reg. 60/09, s. (3).

Hardpan floors and hard perching areas may be uncomfortable and, over the long term, physically damaging.

(4) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and locked or otherwise secured to prevent,

(a) interaction with people that may be unsafe or inappropriate for the wildlife;

(b) animals escaping from the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means; and

Not determined.

(c) animals or people (other than people who are required to enter the enclosure as part of their duties) from entering the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (4).

No perimeter fence surrounds the wildlife compound. There is easy access to some of the carnivore pens from the park roads.

(5) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that presents no harm to the wildlife. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (5).

Ideally all sliding doors and gates should move horizontally instead of vertically as there is always a chance that a vertically operated door can drop and injure an animal who happens to be underneath. This is a periodic occurrence in zoos. The vertically moving door to the bear exhibit shift area could be a hazard.

Elmvale Jungle Zoo
June 4, 2010

SUMMARY

Elmvale Jungle Zoo is a privately-owned facility located in Elmvale that houses a broad range of primarily exotic wildlife species in an assortment of enclosed cages and open top enclosures.

Space, substrates, shelter and privacy are minimal for many animals at this facility and should be dramatically improved. Enrichment, including structural enhancements, furnishings and objects, are lacking in most cases and there is no evidence of sense-based or temporal enrichment of any kind. Most of the interior animal living spaces were relatively barren and, when materials were present, they often appeared old and in need of replacement. Hoofstock pens, while proportionately larger than cages housing other species, were primarily flat, lacking in landscape features, with grass or dirt substrates.

While it appears there has been some upgrades and/or repairs made to existing barriers and animal housing in several enclosures, for the most part conditions remain the same as in previous years. While the accommodation and care seem to provide for the basic physical, survival needs of the animals, in many cases they do little to encourage normal movements, behaviours and social interactions. For example, a mandrill (a highly social, very active, medium sized member of the baboon family) was observed being kept alone, and had been observed in that situation in 2009. This kind of long-term social isolation of a primate is entirely unacceptable from a welfare standpoint and needs to be addressed by moving the animal to more appropriate accommodation in another facility.

Of particular concern is the state of animal care and housing during the winter. Presumably animals that are not cold tolerant are moved into service buildings or barns, which most likely means less space and poorer conditions than summer quarters.

Basic standards of care for all animals

2. (1) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate food and water. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (1).

Some of the food containers in the bird cages were coated with excrement (barn owl, Double Yellow-headed Amazon parrot) and filled with old seed casings (Double Yellow-headed Amazon parrot). Uneaten food material was observed on the substrate in several cages (Mandrill) suggesting that it had been tossed through the barrier. Bananas and pellets were sold in the entrance building. Visitors were observed feeding animals in an unmonitored, uncontrolled way, particularly the primates and the giraffes. Uncontrolled feeding can disrupt normal food intake and diets, facilitate the development of begging behaviours and may pose a risk of disease transmission, particularly to primates.

(2) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate medical attention. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (2).

Not determined.

(3) Every animal must be provided with the care necessary for its general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (3).

Some of the animal accommodation is spartan and inadequate. A variety of species with varying biological and behavioural needs are kept in the same kinds of enclosures, something often referred to as cookie-cutter caging because it all seems to have come from the same mold. Many cages and enclosures are poorly designed (box-like), simplistic and lack interior complexity, shelter, privacy and enrichment (including structural enhancements, furnishings and objects). Sleeping boxes did not appear to be equipped with any kind of heat source, bedding, and/or door flaps to retain the heat generated by the bodies of the animals inside.

(4) Every animal must be transported in a manner that ensures its physical safety and general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (4).

Not determined.

(5) Every animal must be provided with an adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping area. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (5).

Many animals were not provided with adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping areas. Many of the psittacine and raptor cages did not provide sheltered perch areas, visual baffles or nest boxes that would allow the birds to remove themselves from public view or the view of each other. A number of other cages were deficient in this regard as well. For example, some of the big cats (white tiger, African lion), African crested porcupine and reptiles had no on-exhibit privacy areas. All animals must be provided with comfortable, secure areas to retreat to, for resting and sleeping in their on-exhibit living space.

(6) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate,

(a) space to enable the animal to move naturally and to exercise;

A number of cages were small and only allowed a limited ability to engage in normal movements and exercise (jaguar, African crested porcupine). Animals were able to make normal postural adjustments and simple movements, but other natural movement and exercise was severely restricted.

(b) sanitary conditions;

Food items were tossed onto the floor of the Mandrill cage. Some of the psittacine food trays were caked with excrement and in need of cleaning.

(c) ventilation;

Most cages were outdoors. Unable to determine ventilation situation in reptile exhibits.

(d) light, and;

The reptile exhibits were photo-invasive and thermally simplistic. They were equipped with a few decorative, largely functionless, furnishings but they did not appear to provide adequate dark areas for resting or sleeping.

(e) protection from the elements, including harmful temperatures. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (6).

Sleeping boxes did not appear to be equipped with any kind of heat source, bedding, and/or door flaps that might trap heat generated by the animals.

(7) If an animal is confined to a pen or other enclosed structure or area,

(a) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any structures or material in it, must be in a state of good repair;

(b) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any surfaces, structures and materials in it, must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(i) safe and non-toxic for the animal, and

(ii) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animal; and

Several of the primate exhibits were equipped with free hanging ropes affixed to the roof at one end only. This poses a possible entanglement/hanging hazard to the animals. There have been a number of incidents in North American zoos of animals hanging themselves.

(c) the pen or other enclosed structure or area must not contain one or more other animals that may pose a danger to the animal. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (7).

Not determined.

Standards of care for captive wildlife

4. (1) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with adequate and appropriate care, facilities and services to ensure their safety and general welfare as more specifically set out in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and in sections 5 and 6. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (1).

(2) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with a daily routine that facilitates and stimulates natural movement and behaviour. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (2).

There was no evidence of any kind of daily “routine” (enrichment) for any of the animals. A number of suspended ropes have been added and a small assortment of other objects (hanging tires) were observed, but they were few in number and did not constitute enough to be called an enrichment program or routine.

(4) Wildlife kept in captivity must be kept in compatible social groups to ensure the general welfare of the individual animals and of the group and to ensure that each animal in the group is not at risk of injury or undue stress from dominant animals of the same or a different species. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (3).

Several highly gregarious species (Bare Eyed Cockatoo, Mandrill) were socially isolated. The Mandrill was particularly problematic as the same animal was observed alone during inspections in previous years. While male Mandrills in the wild may live alone at times, multi-male/female groups are common, as are dominant males leading troops of females and young. Long term social isolation of primates is unacceptable. This animal should be moved to another facility with appropriate social contacts.

Standards for enclosures for captive wildlife

5. (1) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be of an adequate and appropriate size:

(a) to facilitate and stimulate natural movement and behaviour;

Several cages did not provide adequately and appropriately sized spaces to facilitate natural movements and behaviours. For example, the African crested porcupine exhibit did not allow the animals to move more than a few meters and the floor surface and covering did not allow them to burrow. The jaguar and white tiger cages did not allow the animals to run at speed, while the snake exhibits at the front of the zoo severely restricted normal movement and did not even allow some reptiles to extend to their full length, a posture that they occasionally achieve in the wild.

(b) to enable each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area to keep an adequate and appropriate distance from the other animals and people so that it is not psychologically stressed; and

A number of birds and mammals were positioned as far back from the visitor pathways as they could get, a possible indicator that they were uncomfortable in the other areas of their living space. Sheltered areas, visual baffles and more space would provide additional comfort and security to the animals.

(c) to ensure that the natural growth of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area is not restricted. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (1).

Not determined.

(2) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must have,

(a) features and furnishings that facilitate and stimulate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

Few enclosures appear sufficiently equipped to facilitate and stimulate a broad range of natural movements and behaviours. Structural enhancements are poor, furnishings are deficient (being few in number and/or old and/or minimally functional). For example, thick, old, smooth, overused branches and logs that are long overdue for replacement are standard fare in most of the cages, while a few ropes are present in the majority of the primate cages. Big cat exhibits are equipped with a raised wooden platform or two. Few other furnishings of any kind are present in any of the cages and many cages were barren. The ungulate exhibits, while larger than other exhibits, were primarily flat, grassy areas that lacked landscaping, structural enhancements or species-specific furnishings, such as high browse racks for the giraffes.

(b) shelter from the elements that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time;

Not determined.

(c) surfaces and other materials that accommodate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

The furnishings appear simplistic, old, overused, hard and do little to facilitate a full range of natural movements and behaviours. Some exhibits had hard floor surfaces (hardpan, gravel) that restricted ground-centered behaviours. Many bird cages were equipped with smooth, oversized, hard perches that caused some birds to sit flat-footed.

(d) one or more areas that are out of view of spectators; and

Many cages did not provide any opportunity for the animals to remove themselves from public view, including most of the birds and the reptiles. The big cats did not have any on-exhibit privacy areas and had to retreat to their interior accommodation to remove themselves from public view. The primates had a similar situation, with ground level or raised sleeping boxes being available (several were open to public view), but little or no privacy in their on-exhibit space. Most ungulates did not have dedicated privacy areas, but the size of their paddocks allowed them to achieve an acceptable distance from public viewing stations.

(e) one or more sleeping areas that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time and that are accessible to all the animals at all times. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (2).

Most of the bird cages did not have vegetation or enclosed, sheltered perching stations for resting and sleep. A number of the birds were positioned as far back in their cages as they could get from the visitor pathway, a likely indication that the birds need more space and/or sheltered areas to feel comfortable and/or secure.

(3) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(a) safe and non-toxic for the animals kept in the pen or other enclosed structure or area; and

Not determined.

(b) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animals. O. Reg. 60/09, s. (3).

Not determined.

(4) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and locked or otherwise secured to prevent,

(a) interaction with people that may be unsafe or inappropriate for the wildlife;

Feeding of animals is encouraged. In fact, food items are sold in the entrance building for visitors to disperse as they see fit. There are no controls and no apparent monitoring of visitor feeding. Numerous visitors were observed trying to feed animals, including birds, primates and ungulates. Despite signs asking visitors not to feed the giraffes, they were largely ignored and more than two dozen visitors were observed feeding and petting the giraffes.

(b) animals escaping from the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means; and

The Bengal tiger enclosure was not secure. As stated in last year's review submitted to the Ontario SPCA and MNR, the main gate into the enclosure did not properly fit the gate frame leaving substantial gaps. The height of the main barrier fence was estimated at 12 ft (3.65 m) or less with no overhang. Fence height at the sides of the exhibit were lower. A double strand of hotwire was situated at approximately the 8 ft (2.43 m) level on the main fence. It is unlikely to serve as a deterrent since cats attempting to jump out of the enclosure could easily clear that height. The top section of the main fence, estimated at about 3 ft (.91 m) in height, is a makeshift add-on that has been attached to the existing, rather flimsy appearing original fence. It is doubtful that the upper portion would hold back a tiger jumping into it. Based on incidents in other facilities and the known physical abilities of tigers and big cats, there seems little doubt that the cats are quite capable of jumping out of the enclosure should they be sufficiently motivated to do so.

(c) animals or people (other than people who are required to enter the enclosure as part of their duties) from entering the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (4).

Not determined.

(5) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that presents no harm to the wildlife. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (5).

Not determined.

Standards of care for captive primates

6. Every primate kept in captivity must be provided with:

(a) daily interaction with a person having custody or care of the primate;

Not determined.

(b) a varied range of daily activities, including foraging or task-oriented feeding methods; and

There was no evidence of a varied range of activities being provided for the primates.

(c) interactive furnishings, such as perches, swings and mirrors. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 6.

Furnishings were simplistic, often old and overdue for replacement. Some of them, such as the free hanging ropes may pose a potential entanglement or hanging hazard to the animals. Newer items (hanging tire, hanging wood blocks) are few in number. Current furnishings should be replaced, so that internal environments are more flexible, complex and interactive.

Papanack Park Zoo
June 11/ June 24, 2010

SUMMARY

The Papanack Park Zoo is a privately owned facility located in Wendover. A number of issues were identified during an inspection of the facility in 2010; most are the same or similar to problems identified during previous visits to this zoo over the last nine years. They include, but are not limited to, space allocation, a lack of structural enhancements, furnishings and other forms of enrichment and poorly constructed barriers. While the zoo has made some changes, such as expanding their American black bear exhibit, there are still animal welfare and public safety issues that need to be addressed.

The exhibits are relatively simple and do not appear to be designed according to the species-specific needs of each animal species. Cage and enclosure sizes range from very small (jaguar) to relatively large (bison). Some could be improved through additional structural enhancements, better utilization of vertical space, the inclusion of temporal and sense-based enrichment in the daily management regime; and the addition of diverse furnishings and objects; dry rest areas, bedding materials, shelter and privacy areas including visual baffles that allow animals to remove themselves from the view of each other.

During this investigation a zookeeper said the hoofstock were out early this year (May) but normally they would be kept off-site in a large barn (winter quarters) on the owner's property until early June due to the fact that the ground is usually wet and spongy. When asked what date the animals were put inside for the winter she indicated that it was typically sometime in October. While those times may fluctuate from year to year depending on the weather, if the keeper's statements are accurate, it means the hoofstock (and presumably other cold-sensitive species) are kept in winter holding facilities for substantial periods (possibly up to –six to eight months) each year. Winter quarters are almost always entirely indoors, so animal living spaces are generally far smaller and less stimulating. Since the biological, psychological and social needs of animals don't shift with the weather, moving them to winter quarters for extended periods is concerning.

Basic standards of care for all animals

2. (1) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate food and water. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (1).

There was very little food or food debris observed in the exhibits. This could be due to good housekeeping on the part of zoo staff or it may be an indication that the animals are fed on a schedule and consume whatever is presented to them quite quickly. A keeper was observed throwing meat over the barrier to a cheetah. He informed me that the carnivores were fed once a day and keepers have informed investigators in previous years that animals were fed once per day. If this is still the case, the practice is convenient for staff but it does not facilitate feeding being used

as an enrichment vehicle for keeping the animals occupied. Once they've finished their ration, they have nothing to else to do. In the wild, animals typically spend considerable amounts of their daily time in food acquisition activities (hunting, foraging). Alternative forms of feeding (staggered feed schedules, scatter feeds) would go a long way toward keeping animals active through food acquisition activity.

(2) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate medical attention. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (2).

Not determined. A keeper indicated that one cheetah had gone, but he would not say whether the animal had died.

(3) Every animal must be provided with the care necessary for its general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (3).

A number of different species representing a diversity of biological and behavioural needs are kept in the same kinds of enclosures. This is sometimes referred to as the "cookie-cutter" approach to cage design. For example, the hoofstock exhibits housed eland, nilgai, zebra, domesticated goats and burros, yet they were all essentially flat, barren fenced areas of grass even though these animals would frequent a variety of habitat types in the wild. A number of carnivores were housed in simple fenced compounds equipped with a wooden climbing structure (wolves, Bengal tiger, Siberian tiger), while other animals were kept in a range of smaller, enclosed cages that all contained essentially the same basic features. Most exhibits were relatively simplistic, lacked a high degree of interior complexity, privacy and enrichment (including structural enhancements, furnishings and objects) and, in most cases, did not appear to be designed with specific species in mind.

While the majority of animals were inactive, a number of animals (Bengal tiger, Siberian tiger, wolves) were displaying stereotypic behaviours (repetitive pacing). Stereotypies are always a sign of an abnormal interaction between animals and their surroundings and are considered an indicator of poor welfare. There was chewing damage to the wooden fence at the burro/domesticated goat pen, a possible indication that the oral stimulation required by these grazing animals is not being satisfied. In some of the hoofstock pens, there were small piles of branches (most appeared denuded of leaves and bark) that presumably had been placed there as browse.

(4) Every animal must be transported in a manner that ensures its physical safety and general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (4).

Not determined.

(5) Every animal must be provided with an adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping area. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (5).

Ground vegetation in some exhibits (Arctic wolf, African lion) was high enough that it provided animals with visually shielded areas for resting or sleeping (during dry

weather). Some other exhibits were sufficiently large that the animals could easily attain a distance from visitors at which they would feel comfortable. The bison and lion enclosure and monkey island are three examples that stand out in this regard. However, while most animals were provided with some kind of rudimentary shelter (small barn, shed, box, overhead structure) they tended to be limited in number and occasionally open to public view. The hoofstock pens abutting the parking lot provided few dedicated rest/sleep areas, usually just a single shelter in each pen, and few opportunities for the animals to remove themselves from public view or the view of each other. During the visit on June 24th, the enclosed holding/shelter areas for the large cats were closed off forcing the animals to remain in public view. All animals must be provided with comfortable, secure areas to retreat to, for resting and sleeping in their on-exhibit living space.

(6) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate,

(a) space to enable the animal to move naturally and to exercise;

Several exhibits are undersized and provide only a limited ability for animals to engage in normal movements and exercise (jaguar, cougar, wild boar, Arctic fox). While the animals were able to make normal postural adjustments and walk a short distance in one direction or another, other natural movements, such as running at speed and jumping, were restricted. Some other exhibits, while proportionately larger, still didn't allow for a full range of normal movements. For example, the wolf and cheetah exhibits did not allow the animals to run at speed. Vertical space was underutilized, except in a few of the primate and small mammal exhibits. One example is the American black bear exhibit which had one main climbing apparatus and a smaller secondary climbing structure, but much of the available space that could be used for the bears was empty. Many exhibits could benefit from the addition of aerial walkways, elevated platforms, ropes, ladders, hammocks and other materials that facilitate exploitation of available vertical space.

(b) sanitary conditions;

No issues.

(c) ventilation;

No issues.

(d) light, and;

No issues.

(e) protection from the elements, including harmful temperatures. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (6).

Sleeping boxes did not appear to be equipped with any kind of heat source, bedding appeared minimal, and/or door flaps that might trap heat generated by the animals were not in place. In the spring, fall and winter when temperatures drop, if animals

are kept outside, it is preferable that shelters be built so they retain an animals body heat or, alternatively, that they have some kind of other heat source. While a few animals (bison) may be comfortable without shelters most of the time, they should have the option of seeking shelter when they want to.

(7) If an animal is confined to a pen or other enclosed structure or area,

(a) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any structures or material in it, must be in a state of good repair;

(b) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any surfaces, structures and materials in it, must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(i) safe and non-toxic for the animal, and

(ii) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animal; and

Corroded metal objects in the raccoon exhibit, presumably serving a decorative function, appear to have sharp edges and may pose a potential hazard to the animals.

(c) the pen or other enclosed structure or area must not contain one or more other animals that may pose a danger to the animal. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (7).

Not determined.

Standards of care for captive wildlife

4. (1) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with adequate and appropriate care, facilities and services to ensure their safety and general welfare as more specifically set out in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and in sections 5 and 6. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (1).

See commentary in 2. (3).

(2) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with a daily routine that facilitates and stimulates natural movement and behaviour. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (2).

There was no evidence of any kind of daily “routine” (enrichment, training) that would facilitate and stimulate natural movements and behaviours. The only substantive interaction observed during this investigation was a keeper throwing meat over a barrier to a cheetah. Furnishings were generally basic (although more complex in several primate cages), object enrichment was poor and there was no sign of sense-based or temporal enrichment strategies being employed.

(6) Wildlife kept in captivity must be kept in compatible social groups to ensure the general welfare of the individual animals and of the group and to ensure that each animal in the group is not at risk of injury or undue

stress from dominant animals of the same or a different species. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (3).

Not determined.

Standards for enclosures for captive wildlife

5. (1) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be of an adequate and appropriate size:

(a) to facilitate and stimulate natural movement and behaviour;

See commentary in *Basic standards of care for all animals* 6. (a).

(b) to enable each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area to keep an adequate and appropriate distance from the other animals and people so that it is not psychologically stressed; and

Several animals (Arctic fox, lynx) were stationed as far back from the visitor pathways as they could get, a possible indicator of anxiety or insecurity.

(c) to ensure that the natural growth of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area is not restricted. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (1).

Not determined.

(2) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must have,

(a) features and furnishings that facilitate and stimulate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

Few of the animal enclosures are sufficiently equipped to facilitate and stimulate natural movements and behaviours. While some exhibits were relatively spacious (bison, African lion) and therefore inherently more complex by virtue of their size, the majority of exhibits were not. Structural enhancements are lacking in many exhibits and furnishings are minimal and/or old. Thick, old, smooth, overused branches and logs and a climbing platform or two are standard fare in many cages. While a few of the primate and small mammal exhibits were better equipped (although furnishings were mostly static, hard and in need of replacement), some cages were relatively barren (some hoofstock enclosures) and provided little for the animals to do.

(b) shelter from the elements that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time;

Not determined.

(c) surfaces and other materials that accommodate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

Not determined.

(d) one or more areas that are out of view of spectators; and

Some exhibits provided only limited opportunity for animals to remove themselves from public view (some hoofstock, American black bear). Several primates (hamadryas baboon, black and white ruffed lemur, brown lemur, Arctic fox) had a single sleeping box in their exhibit and no other privacy opportunities. The jaguar did not have any on-exhibit privacy areas and had to retreat to its interior accommodation to remove itself from public view. During the visit on June 24th, the enclosed holding/shelter areas for the large cats were closed off forcing the animals to remain in public view.

(e) one or more sleeping areas that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time and that are accessible to all the animals at all times. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (2).

Some exhibits contained only one shelter opportunity. This requires additional investigation as there could be situations in which shelter/rest areas are monopolized by dominant individuals.

(3) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(a) safe and non-toxic for the animals kept in the pen or other enclosed structure or area; and

Not determined.

(b) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animals. O. Reg. 60/09, s. (3).

Not determined.

(4) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and locked or otherwise secured to prevent,

(a) interaction with people that may be unsafe or inappropriate for the wildlife;

Stand-off barriers are present throughout the zoo and staff patrol on a regular basis, so potential contact with animals is minimized. The only area that poses a significant risk to visitors are the hoofstock exhibits abutting the parking lot. They

were not equipped with public stand-off barriers, so given the right circumstances (such as an unsupervised child) a bite is possible.

(b) animals escaping from the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means; and

As outlined in previous inspection reports, the upper angled portion of the white Bengal tiger barrier is sagging in places; the lion exhibit barrier was not equipped with an inwardly angled top section (although there were hot wires along the top) and sections were poorly constructed and/or in need of repair; and the upper section of the Siberian tiger exhibit fence could be improved. There did not appear to be a stand alone perimeter fence around the property that would act as a second barrier to discourage escaped animals from leaving the property.

(c) animals or people (other than people who are required to enter the enclosure as part of their duties) from entering the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (4).

The facility does not appear to have a stand alone perimeter fence surrounding the property. This allows easier access to the zoo property by feral/wild animals and humans.

(7) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that presents no harm to the wildlife. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (5).

Not determined.

Standards of care for captive primates

6. Every primate kept in captivity must be provided with:

(a) daily interaction with a person having custody or care of the primate;

Not determined.

(b) a varied range of daily activities, including foraging or task-oriented feeding methods; and

There was no evidence of a varied range of activities being provided for the primates.

(c) interactive furnishings, such as perches, swings and mirrors. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 6.

Furnishings were simplistic and due for replacement. For the most part, they consisted of relatively large, mostly inflexible branches devoid of bark. The lack of bark (and therefore texture) makes them less stimulating and precludes activities

such as ripping, manipulating or chewing the bark. A few cages (hamadryas baboon, capuchin monkey) contained hanging tires and/or ropes. The addition of aerial walkways, elevated platforms, a varied range of flexible furnishings and objects to manipulate would substantially increase the complexity of the primate exhibits. The primate environments could be more flexible and interactive.

Oshawa Zoo
July 3, 2010

SUMMARY

The Oshawa Zoo is a small private zoo featuring hoofstock, small mammals and birds. A red fox was the only mammalian carnivore in the zoo collection, but it was not observed. Presumably the fox was in the small shed-type structure adjoining the back wall of its cage. The front part of the zoo property is primarily flat open field, while the back portion incorporates an expansive gully. The various cages and enclosures are situated throughout and range in size from very small to large.

The simplistic cage and pen designs, lack of complexity, old furnishings, almost complete absence of enrichment, minimal privacy and shelter areas, empty water containers and damaged, bent and/or loose barriers are potentially problematic and do not appear to comply with provincial standards. Some of these problems can be easily rectified (the water containers can be secured in an upright position, basic furnishings can be replaced), while others (e.g. creating multiple species-appropriate shelters, repairing barriers) will require more time and commitment. The barrenness of the animal living spaces stand out as particularly problematic. While some of the cages and enclosures (particularly for hoofstock) are slightly larger than those found in other private zoos in the province there is little to encourage natural movements and behaviours and pacing pathways were noted in several ungulate paddocks. Many animals would benefit from the provision of structural enhancements, furnishings and objects (rubbing/scratching posts, rock piles, log/branch piles, pools, misters, mud wallows, suspended objects to push or pull, additional rest areas, bedding materials, visual baffles, landscape features such as berms and dips, boomer balls, horse toys), dietary enrichment (novel food items, browse, scatter feeding, hanging feeders) and other forms of enrichment. The primate exhibits are small, basic and inadequate and need to be substantially improved. Social animals (capuchin monkey, cockatoo) should not be kept alone. If an appropriate social environment isn't available, those animals should be placed in other facilities.

Winter housing may be a concern for the primates and other species that are unable to tolerate cold weather. In addition to several barns and service buildings on the property, many animals had interior accommodation in or adjacent to their living space. In some cases, these were older looking structures (sheds) that appeared to be in use because they were convenient and, presumably, already in place when the enclosures were constructed. Most were small, ramshackle and did not appear appropriate as winter housing.

Basic standards of care for all animals

2. (1) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate food and water. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (1).

A small number of food containers with commercially prepared, pelleted feed and hay were available in some of the hoofstock exhibits, but the majority of food containers were empty during this visit. Hay was either in racks, piled in troughs or placed on the ground. There did not appear to be any covered feeding stations that would prevent hay from becoming wet during rainy weather, creating a potential for harmful mould or bacteria. No browse or other food items were observed in the hoofstock exhibits. Most of the hoofstock exhibits were fenced pens on earth substrates with grass cover, although the grass in many pens had been grazed almost to ground level. Other areas of the pens were hardpan. There were few pasture areas, so substantive opportunities for the animals to engage in natural grazing or browsing activities were restricted or eliminated. A number of animals (miniature horse, pot-bellied pig) were observed trying to reach vegetation outside their enclosures. At the admission booth, popcorn was offered (for a fee) as animal feed and coin operated dispensers were situated throughout the zoo. There did not appear to be any monitoring of what was fed to the animals by visitors. Many animals were observed begging at the fence for food. Water containers were observed in every exhibit, but most were empty, some presumably due to tipping. All water containers should be heavy enough or secured to prevent tipping.

(2) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate medical attention. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (2).

Not determined.

(3) Every animal must be provided with the care necessary for its general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (3).

The majority of exhibits were basic and poorly outfitted. Shelter and privacy was minimal or lacking, enrichment (including structural enhancements, furnishings and objects) was poor or absent and numerous water containers were empty. Several of the exhibits (red fox, capuchin monkey) were undersized.

(4) Every animal must be transported in a manner that ensures its physical safety and general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (4).

Not determined.

(5) Every animal must be provided with an adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping area. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (5).

Adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping areas were not available to some animals. Most of the hoofstock exhibits (ungulates) had only rudimentary shelters, either three-sided, roofed shelters (pot-bellied pig, mixed hoofstock) or open shelters consisting of vertical support posts and a roof (fallow deer) that provided limited protection from the elements and no privacy for resting/sleeping. Whether or not all animals would even fit or would tolerate each other in these shelter areas could not be determined. The primates (Ring-tailed lemur, capuchin monkey), small mammals (red fox) and some birds (guinea fowl) had to retreat to a wooden sleeping box or their interior accommodation if they wanted a private rest or sleep area. A few

animals (mara) had reasonably spacious pens with relatively high grass that provided ample rest and sleeping areas. A lone wallaby baby at the front of the zoo did not have any shelter box or privacy area. Bedding materials were minimal or absent from most exhibits. All animals must be provided with comfortable, secure areas to retreat to for resting and sleeping in their on-exhibit living space.

(6) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate,

(a) space to enable the animal to move naturally and to exercise;

While some of the animal pens were relatively spacious (mara, adult wallaby), other cages were small (red fox, capuchin monkey, mixed hoofstock) and limited opportunities for animals to engage in normal movements and exercise. Animals (primates, red fox, llama) in small cages were able to make normal postural adjustments and simple movements, but other natural movements (running at speed, leaping) and exercise was restricted.

(b) sanitary conditions;

Hay had been placed on the ground in several cages and animals (goats) were observed standing and defecating on it.

(c) ventilation;

No issues.

(d) light, and;

No issues.

(e) protection from the elements, including harmful temperatures. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (6).

Most sleeping boxes did not appear to be equipped with any kind of heat source and/or door flaps that might trap heat generated by the animals during cold weather. While the basic shelters provide some shade, they may not provide sufficient relief in the form of genuinely cool areas away from the summer heat or adequate protection from winter cold for those animals that remain outside. Very few shelters had any bedding materials. As well, depending on the temperament of the animals (dominance behaviours), there may not be sufficient shelter areas to accommodate all animals at the same time. The pot-bellied pigs did not have a mud wallow or pool to cool off in.

(7) If an animal is confined to a pen or other enclosed structure or area,

(a) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any structures or material in it, must be in a state of good repair;

Many barriers are in a state of disrepair, with numerous damaged, bent and loose sections. All can pose a hazard to animals. These deficiencies are easily observable to anyone walking the grounds. In some cases repairs have been made, but some appear ad hoc and weak.

(b) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any surfaces, structures and materials in it, must be made of and contain only materials that are,
(i) safe and non-toxic for the animal, and
(ii) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animal; and

Bent, damaged and loose areas of fencing can pose a potential hazard to animals and should be repaired.

(c) the pen or other enclosed structure or area must not contain one or more other animals that may pose a danger to the animal. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (7).

Not determined.

Standards of care for captive wildlife

4. (1) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with adequate and appropriate care, facilities and services to ensure their safety and general welfare as more specifically set out in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and in sections 5 and 6. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (1).

See *Basic standards of care for all animals* 2. (3).

(2) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with a daily routine that facilitates and stimulates natural movement and behaviour. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (2).

There was no evidence of any kind of daily “routine” (enrichment, training, exercise) for the animals. Enrichment was generally absent in this zoo. There were a few hanging toys in the primate cages, but little else.

(8) Wildlife kept in captivity must be kept in compatible social groups to ensure the general welfare of the individual animals and of the group and to ensure that each animal in the group is not at risk of injury or undue stress from dominant animals of the same or a different species. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (3).

A single capuchin monkey was observed in a cage next to the visitor parking area. Capuchin monkeys are highly social and reside in groups of 10 – 40 individuals in the wild. If this monkey is socially isolated, he should be moved to a more appropriate social context and accommodation in another facility. A single cockatoo

was observed. This is another highly social species that should not be kept in isolation.

Standards for enclosures for captive wildlife

5. (1) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be of an adequate and appropriate size:

(a) to facilitate and stimulate natural movement and behaviour;

Several exhibits (red fox, capuchin monkey, Ring-tailed lemur) did not provide adequately and appropriately sized spaces to facilitate natural movements and behaviours (running at speed, climbing, leaping). There was little attempt to exploit vertical space for animals that may potentially use it (primates, goats, birds).

(b) to enable each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area to keep an adequate and appropriate distance from the other animals and people so that it is not psychologically stressed; and

Not determined.

(c) to ensure that the natural growth of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area is not restricted. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (1).

Not determined.

(2) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must have,

(a) features and furnishings that facilitate and stimulate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

The majority of the Oshawa Zoo exhibits are not sufficiently equipped to facilitate and stimulate a full range of natural movements and behaviours. Structural enhancements are poor, furnishings are deficient, being few in number and/or old and/or minimally functional (Ring-tailed lemur, guinea fowl, hoofstock exhibits) and vertical space is poorly utilized (Ring-tailed lemur, guinea fowl, goats). There has been no attempt to create complex environments for any animals. The hoofstock pens were primarily flat, grassy areas that lacked landscaping, structural enhancements and species-appropriate furnishings. In most cases, ground vegetation in the hoofstock pens was minimal and precluded natural foraging behaviours.

(b) shelter from the elements that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time;

Not determined.

(c) surfaces and other materials that accommodate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

The furnishings, where present, were simplistic and did little to facilitate natural movements and behaviours. Some exhibits had hardpan floor surfaces in which the grass and other ground vegetation was cropped at ground level or was absent.

(d) one or more areas that are out of view of spectators; and

Many of the animal cages and pens did not provide any opportunity for the animals to remove themselves from public view (rhea, fallow deer, llama). This could be easily rectified by the addition of visual baffles.

(e) one or more sleeping areas that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time and that are accessible to all the animals at all times. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (2).

Basic overhead, three-sided or wooden box shelters were present but may not be sufficient to accommodate all animals at the same time, particularly if there are situations in which a dominant animal tries to monopolize the space.

(3) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(a) safe and non-toxic for the animals kept in the pen or other enclosed structure or area; and

Not determined. However, some of the bent, damaged and loose fencing may pose a potential hazard to the animals.

(b) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animals. O. Reg. 60/09, s. (3).

Some of the bent, damaged or loose fencing may pose a potential hazard to the animals.

(4) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and locked or otherwise secured to prevent,

(a) interaction with people that may be unsafe or inappropriate for the wildlife;

Visitors are encouraged to feed the animals popcorn, which is offered for sale as animal feed at the admission booth. Food items are also available from coin operated dispensers located on the grounds. There did not appear to be any control or monitoring of animal feeding by visitors. Most cages did not have stand-off barriers and there were only a few signs (llama) indicating that animals may bite. A

child was observed with his hand being suckled by a calf. There was no information about the potential for zoonosis through contact with animals and no handwash stations were evident. There were few stand-off barriers of any kind in the zoo. Visitors could reach into the cages to feed, poke or harrass animals. Some animals (llama, camel, emu) are capable of delivering a nasty bite, so their exhibits should be surrounded by a public stand-off barrier.

(b) animals escaping from the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means; and

No issues.

(c) animals or people (other than people who are required to enter the enclosure as part of their duties) from entering the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (4).

No issues.

5. A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that presents no harm to the wildlife. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (5).

Some of the bent, damaged or loose barriers may pose a hazard to the animals.

Standards of care for captive primates

6. Every primate kept in captivity must be provided with:

(a) daily interaction with a person having custody or care of the primate;

Not determined.

(b) a varied range of daily activities, including foraging or task-oriented feeding methods; and

There was no evidence of a varied range of activities being provided for the primates. The cages were basic and poorly outfitted.

(c) interactive furnishings, such as perches, swings and mirrors. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 6.

Furnishings were simplistic and inadequate, consisting of a few old branches (capuchin monkey). The Ring-tailed lemur exhibit furnishings (including an old tire) were on the floor of the cage and appeared to have been there for quite some time.

The Killman Zoo
July 14, 2010

SUMMARY

The Killman Zoo, located in Caledonia, is a privately owned facility that has been reviewed numerous times during the past 15 years by Zoocheck Canada and the World Society for the Protection of Animals. A number of animal welfare and public safety problems were identified in previous years, most notably the lack of appropriate space and barren interior environments, and these, for the most part, remain unaddressed today.

The majority of the cages and enclosures are simplistic and are not designed according to the species-specific needs of the animals. A diversity of species are kept in cages of similar design (i.e., cookie cutter approach), construction is basic and some barriers appeared flimsy (main lion pen, jaguar, emu).

Some animals are kept in grossly undersized cages (e.g., big cats) and/or on bare, hardpan floors without adequate shelter and privacy areas. Enrichment, including structural enhancements, furnishings and objects, are lacking, as are food-based enrichment activities that, if instituted, could engage the animals at least some of the time. The materials and furnishings that were present (mostly wooden platforms and logs) appeared old and in need of replacement. Social animals, like primates, should not be housed alone.

The Killman Zoo has numerous species that cannot tolerate cold weather, so the conditions these animals are kept in during the winter is potentially an even greater concern. If summer conditions are rudimentary and deficient in many respects, presumably winter quarters will be even more so.

Basic standards of care for all animals

2. (1) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate food and water. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (1).

On arrival, the zoo staff were observed visiting each cage and refilling water containers. Some of the animals (African porcupine, pot-bellied pigs, lion head rabbits, doves, macaws, cockatiels, lovebirds, Bantam chickens, peacocks) received food, such as pellets, fruits, vegetables and seed. Feeding of the larger animals (primates, bear, and large cats) were not observed. However, in some of the carnivore cages (cougar, jaguar), chicken carcasses, presumably leftover from the previous feeds, were attracting excessive amounts of flies. After all the animals had received water, and the smaller animals had received food, zoo staff started to clean out the large carnivore cages. It seems the animals are fed on a schedule and that food is provided in containers placed in the cages. There did not appear to be any staggered feedings or forage-based feeding activities for any of the animals. This practice may be convenient for staff, but ignores the fact that feeding can be used as an enrichment vehicle. This is unfortunate because once the animals are finished eating, they have little to do for the rest of the day. By incorporating a variety of

different feeding activities into the daily feeding regime, the animals would be offered stimulation and enrichment. Also, visitors were allowed to purchase peanuts at the front of the zoo to feed the animals, which should not be encouraged. Wild animals in captivity should be fed specific diets that meet their daily, species-specific nutritional requirements. Allowing visitors to feed the animals makes it difficult to regulate the quantity of food consumed and may pose a zoonoses risk.

(2) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate medical attention. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (2).

A sign was posted on the caracal cage stating that the animal had a sore foot that was being treated. It appears this sign was posted because visitors were could observe the cat's condition and were commenting about it. It was not determined exactly what the injury was or how it was being treated. Some deer hooves appeared marginally overgrown and should be examined by a veterinarian to determine whether they should be trimmed.

(3) Every animal must be provided with the care necessary for its general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (3).

A number of different species were kept in the same basic kinds of enclosures, even though they had varied biological and behavioural needs. A juvenile cougar and juvenile tiger were kept in the same enclosure together – these were the same cats observed together as newborn cubs during a previous review in July 2009.

The majority of the cages were relatively similar, regardless of species. Many were simplistic square or rectangular cages that lacked complexity, privacy and enrichment. In most cases, the cages did not seem to be designed with a specific species in mind. For example, during a previous visit, a caracal cat had been located in a simple rectangular, wire fenced enclosure, and during the 2010 review, a Celebes ape occupied this cage, even though it is obvious that cats and primates have widely differing space and enrichment needs. Some animals were inactive while others (serval, bear) were displaying stereotypic behaviour (pacing, head bobbing).

(4) Every animal must be transported in a manner that ensures its physical safety and general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (4).

Not determined.

(5) Every animal must be provided with an adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping area. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (5).

The majority of the enclosures had at least one sleeping box, however many of the sleeping boxes were inappropriately sized. Many of the sleeping boxes were plastic dog kennels (cougar, fox, lemur, eagle owl, rabbit, dove, African porcupine, serval, caracal, call duck, young emu). Others were plain wooden boxes made from plywood, with little inside to provide comfort (pot-bellied pigs, primates, cougar, macaw, green parrot, juvenile tiger and cougar). The macaw and the green parrots had only a

single wooden sleeping box, which did not appear large enough for all the birds to fit inside at once. The juvenile lions (male and female) did not have an appropriate resting and sleeping area in their cage – these animals were in a small cage that seemed to be more of a holding area than permanent accommodation. An indoor off-exhibit holding area could have been available to the cats, but the access door was closed so the animals were forced to remain outside. There was no sleeping box in their outdoor area. The juvenile cougar and tiger had one wooden sleeping box in their cage, and it was not large enough to comfortably fit both animals at the same time.

(6) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate,

(a) Space to enable the animal to move naturally and to exercise;

Many of the enclosures were undersized and did not give the animals the proper space to move around and exercise naturally (juvenile lion, juvenile cougar and tiger, black bear, lemur, birds such as duck, green parrot, chicken, turkey, Celebes ape, caracal, serval, swamp cat, fox, cougar). While the animals were able to walk a short distance in their exhibits, or lay in various parts of their cages, other natural movements, such as running, jumping, flying or foraging, were severely restricted. A few exhibits were more spacious and did provide increased opportunity for the animals to move around (deer, elk, goat, emu), but these enclosures were relatively barren and simplistic and offered the animals little in the way of stimulation. Many of the enclosures for the cats (caracal, serval, swamp cat, cougar) and primates (olive baboon, snow monkey) partially exploit the available vertical space through the use of simple walkways or platforms for the animals to walk or rest on. However, many of these spaces could benefit from additional aerial walkways, elevated platforms, rope systems, ladders, hammocks or other materials.

(b) Sanitary conditions;

See next provision (Ventilation).

(c) Ventilation;

The exhibits were outdoors and ventilation generally was not an issue. However, the ferret cage had a very strong odour. The cage had mesh walls and was outdoors, but the smell was still overwhelming in the immediate vicinity of the cage. Better ventilation or drainage should be provided for the sleeping/nesting box in the cage and/or the bedding needs replaced on a regular basis.

(d) Light, and;

No issues noted.

(e) Protection from the elements, including harmful temperatures. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (6).

The sleeping boxes did not appear to have heat sources. The owner said that many of the animals (tropical birds, ducks, chickens, primates, pigs) did not remain in their exhibits during the winter or colder months and were moved to a barn on the property. While the barn was not observed, in all likelihood, the animal spaces are more compressed and less complex than summer quarters. An inspection of winter quarters is warranted. The larger enclosures (emu, elk) did not have many trees to provide shade from the sun during the summer. The black bear enclosure was open to the elements and contained a dilapidated sleeping box.

(7) If an animal is confined to a pen or other enclosed structure or area,

(a) The pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any structures or material in it, must be in a state of good repair;

In general, the primary fencing of most of the enclosures was in good condition, however, the kind of materials and simplistic construction left some of the enclosures, cages, fences and overhangs looking somewhat flimsy. In the emu enclosure, there was no stand-off barrier to keep visitors away from the main enclosure fence. There was a hole at visitor eye level large enough for a person to insert their arm through the fence or for the emus to stick their head through. The emus seemed aggressive and/or territorial and presumably posed a risk to visitors who might get too close. A metal shelter had siding that curled outward with what appeared to be protruding sharp edges that may pose an risk to the legs or feet of the birds. Some of the overhang sections of the large carnivore enclosure fencing (jaguar, main lion pasture) was constructed of deer fence that would presumably not withstand the animals' weight if the cats were to jump onto the fence or try to climb it. As well, the climbing structure in the black bear enclosure looked dilapidated.

(b) The pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any surfaces, structures and materials in it, must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(i) Safe and non-toxic for the animals, and

Many of the sleeping shelters for the animals were plastic dog kennels, and there was evidence that animals had been chewing the edges of the kennels. If these plastic kennels pose any kind of toxicity hazard, they should be replaced. There were also plastic juice and pop bottles placed in the jaguar enclosure, presumably as a form of enrichment, and the cats had obviously been chewing them. If they pose any toxicity hazard, they should be replaced.

(ii) Of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animal; and

The shed in the emu enclosure had metal siding curling at the bottom. This could pose a potential injury risk to the birds.

(c) The pen or other enclosed structure or area must not contain one or more other animals that may pose a danger to the animal. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (7).

Some of the male primates (snow monkey, olive baboon) were displaying aggressive and/or dominant behaviours toward the females in their cages. The females were staying away from the males and would retreat if approached. Both female primates were carrying babies, and they were, presumably, seeking a safe, private area away from the males, but were unable to do so given the small size and configuration of their living spaces.

Standards of care for captive wildlife

4. (1) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with adequate and appropriate care, facilities and services to ensure their safety and general welfare as more specifically set out in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and in section 5 and 6. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (1).

See commentary in 2. (3).

(2) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with a daily routine that facilitates and stimulates natural movement and behavior. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (2).

There was no evidence of a daily routine that would stimulate natural behaviours or movements. There was an enclosure (somewhat similar to a dog kennel) that the zoo called the “cougar run”, but no animals were observed in it. The cage did not appear secure enough to house cougars as it was not covered and the barrier looked to be about 8 ft (2.43 m) in height. The only interaction observed during this visit was staff cleaning out the enclosures (jaguar), feeding and watering the animals. Food was placed in a container in the enclosures and there seemed to be no attempt to provide a varied feeding routine (staggered feedings, scatter feed, etc) that would stimulate or encourage natural foraging behaviours or movements. One staff member did go inside the green parrot and macaw cage, and both green parrots were resting on her shoulders while she was feeding them, but this was the only indication of direct staff-animal interaction.

(3) Wildlife kept in captivity must be kept in compatible social groups to ensure the general welfare of the individual animals and the group and to ensure that each animal in the group is not at risk of injury or undue stress from dominant animals of the same or a different species. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (3).

One of the lemurs was housed alone in a small enclosure. Lemurs, and other primates, are highly social animals that should be kept in compatible social groupings. Similarly, a Celebes ape was kept alone in a small, ground level cage, with very little enrichment or stimulation. This primate was positioned between a serval enclosure and the turkey enclosure.

Standards for enclosures for captive wildlife

5. (1) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be of an adequate and appropriate size:

(a) To facilitate and stimulate natural movements and behaviour;

See comments from 2. (6.a.)

(b) To enable each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area to keep an adequate and appropriate distance from the other animals and people so that it is not psychologically stressed; and

While some of the animals had space at the back of their enclosure that allowed them to move away from viewing stations, visitors are encouraged to interact with the animals by purchasing items to feed them. The animals (bear, primates, fox, goat, deer, elk) are enticed by the food to come to the barriers. A few animals were observed at the back of their cages apparently attempting to distance themselves from visitors (cougar, elk, deer, caracal, serval, swamp cat, fox). Presumably, some these animals are agitated or made uncomfortable when visitors are in close proximity. There were numerous signs telling people not to throw sticks or rocks at the animals, not to poke them with sticks, suggesting that these animals have been harassed by visitors in the past. It appeared these signs were the main vehicle for stopping harassment as there did not appear to be any staff supervision. Some of the male primates showed signs of aggression and/or dominance toward the female primates, but adequate retreat areas were limited or absent.

(c) To ensure that the natural growth of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area is not restricted. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (1).

Not determined.

(2) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must have,

(a) Features and furnishings that facilitate and stimulate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

Many of the enclosures are not large enough to stimulate natural movements and behaviours. While some enclosures (deer, goats, elk, emu, main lion pen) are reasonably spacious compared to similar enclosures in other private zoos, the majority of the cages and enclosures are undersized, and structural features and furnishings are simple and minimal. Having said that, even though a few animals (hoofstock) had moderately larger enclosures, they were barren and provided little for the animals to do. While most of the primate enclosures contained elevated ledges, perches and simple walkways constructed from wooden boards, these furnishings could certainly be more complex and they could be changed/repositioned regularly to

give these intelligent animals more variety. Ledges and walkways were standard in most cages (cougar, serval, swamp cat, caracal, Celebes ape, bobcat, juvenile tiger, cougar), regardless of the type of animal housed. Most notably, the juvenile lion, tiger and cougar enclosures more resembled temporary holding cages, rather than permanent accommodation, being extremely small with cement floors and little in the way of furnishings. The Celebes ape enclosure was extremely small and there were few furnishings to stimulate natural behaviours. During the 2009 review, this primate was observed sitting on a wooden ledge for more an extended period. During this year's review, the monkey was in a smaller cage, which previously housed a serval, and was again observed in an inactive state, just sitting in the same location.

(b) Shelter from the elements that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time;

See comments from 2. (5).

(c) Surfaces and other materials that accommodate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

Most of the enclosures and cages had hard, packed earth floors (hardpan) with little natural soft substrate or materials for the animals to walk on, dig in or lie on. The juvenile lions, tiger and cougar cages had concrete floors with no natural substrate to provide comfort or stimulation. The cage that contained the ducks, cockatiels, love bird and small green parrot did not contain a bathing area for the ducks. They were attempting to swim in their water dish, which contaminated the water.

(d) one or more areas that are out of the view of spectators; and

Most of the enclosures contained at least one sleeping box for the animal(s), however the majority of the sleeping boxes were open to visitor view, so the animals were not able to obtain privacy. The only animals that were able to remove themselves from public view, due to the size of their enclosures, were the lions (in the large lion pen), deer, goats and elk. Many exhibits did not provide alternative opportunities (visual baffles, such as vegetation, logs, large rocks) for animals to remove themselves from view. The juvenile lion enclosure did not have a sleeping box as a privacy area – the off-exhibit holding area was closed, forcing them to remain outdoors and in public view.

(e) One or more sleeping areas that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time and that are accessible to all the animals at all times. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (2).

See comments for 2. (5)

(3) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be made of and contain only materials that are,

- (a) Safe and non-toxic for the animals kept in the pen or other enclosed structure or area; and**
- (b) Of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animals. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (3).**

See comments from 2. (7). (a) and (b)

(4) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and locked or otherwise secured to prevent,

- (a) Interaction with people that may be unsafe or inappropriate for the wildlife;**

While most of the enclosures had stand-off barriers to prevent visitors from contacting the primary enclosure barriers, there were some exhibits that did not have a stand-off (emu, goat/deer, elk, duck/cockatiel/lovebird, dove/rabbits, bantam chickens, eagle owl, pot-bellied pigs, peacock, turkeys). The fence on the emu enclosure had a hole at visitor eye level that was large enough for a person to put their arm through or for an emu to put their head through.. At one section of the jaguar enclosure, a corner of the stand-off fence meets up with the primary fence, creating a section where it is possible to contact the jaguar cage. A visitor could potentially stick their hand inside. It would also be easy to climb the low secondary fence that is surrounding the other sides of the enclosure.

- (b) Animals escaping from the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means; and**

Many of the inwardly angled upper sections of the fence barriers appeared loose, sagging and/or not securely attached to their support posts. Some of the fencing (lions, jaguars, tigers, black bear) consists of “deer” fencing – a potentially problematic barrier for animals with great strength, weight and jumping and/or climbing abilities. There was a significant gap between the fence and the ground in the black bear enclosure. Presumably, if suitably motivated, the bear could dig its way out, as there did not appear to be a ground level skirt to prevent digging at the fenceline. It is also possible that some of the larger cats could jump and/or climb out of their enclosures due to the nature and height of their enclosure fencing. For example, the jaguar at the front of the zoo was confined by a fence that was approximately 10 - 11 ft (3.05 – 3.35 m) high, including an overhang of 1.5 ft (.45 m) that was angled inward. Jaguars are known to be exceptionally good climbers and jumpers.

- (c) Animals or people (other than people who are required to enter the enclosure as part of their duties) from entering the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (4).**

There appeared to be a low, rather flimsy perimeter fence around a good portion of the facility. However, it did not appear to extend to some sections of the property, such as along the county road the zoo abuts.

(5) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that presents no harm to the wildlife. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (5).

Please see previous comments.

Standards of care for captive primates

6. Every primate kept in captivity must be provided with:

(a) Daily interaction with a person having custody or care of the primate;

Not determined.

(b) A varied range of daily activities, including foraging or task-oriented feeding methods; and

The primates appear to be fed at approximately the same time every day. They are also fed peanuts by visitors, who toss the nuts into a trough at the front of each cage. There did not appear to be any enrichment-based feeding activities, task-oriented feedings or foraging activities. The primates appear to have food given to them in a container by staff, except for the peanuts provided by zoo visitors.

(c) Interactive furnishings, such as perches, swings and mirrors. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 6.

Most of the furnishings in the primate exhibits are simplistic, such as wooden platforms or walkways. There is considerable room for improvement to the interior of cages and enclosures. The Celebes ape was alone, in an enclosure that had housed a serval cat the previous year, and nothing had been done, aside from adding a hanging rope and a hula hoop, to make the space more suitable for a primate. Most of the wooden boards and beams in these cages appeared old and smooth. Adding natural wooden branches and logs with bark would make the environment more stimulating and allow for activities such as ripping and chewing the bark. The addition of flexible furnishings and objects to manipulate would increase the complexity of these exhibits. At present they are deficient.

Guha's Tiger and Lion Farm
July 27, 2010

SUMMARY

Guha's Tiger and Lion Farm was reviewed by Zoocheck Canada and the World Society for the Protection of Animals in 2006, 2008 and 2009. In the past, it has been recommended that the facility be closed in the interest of animal welfare and human safety.

Cages at this facility are small, poorly constructed and barren. Some of the fencing, including the angled cage overhangs and other barriers are in a state of disrepair and many cages do not incorporate basic safety features. Some of the fencing appeared too low. There is no perimeter fence around the property to discourage escaped animals from leaving the zoo or to keep human trespassers and vandals out. There appear to have been few, if any, upgrades to the facility since the previous reviews.

Furnishings, features, privacy, and shelter areas were minimal for many of the animals and there was no evidence of any kind of enrichment program. Hygiene issues were evident, including enclosures with rotting carcasses leftover from past feedings.

Of particular concern were two enclosures housing five juvenile lions. They were devoid of structures and furnishings, did not contain shelters or private rest areas, and the animals did not have shade or other protection from the elements.

Basic standards of care for all animals

2. (1) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate food and water. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (1).

All of the cages appeared to have only a single container for water. The buckets were green with algae and it appeared they are just refilled, rather than being cleaned first. Fresh food was not observed the enclosures, but there were rotting carcasses in some of the cages (adult lion, cougar, jaguar). There were chicken feathers and bones in some cages, including a degraded deer carcass (spine, rib cage, skull, decomposing flesh and fur). Excess, uneaten food and detritus should be cleaned out regularly for sanitary and health reasons. Five or six freezers, with logs on the lids, were placed outside one of the main sheds. The proprietor said these freezers contained the chickens used as animal food.

(2) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate medical attention. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (2).

Not determined.

(3) Every animal must be provided with the care necessary for its general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (3).

Many of the enclosures were undersized and lacked complexity, furnishings and features to provide stimulation and enrichment for the animals. The cage housing the three juvenile lions was devoid of features and furnishings; except for one object, a small rubber ball. The ground was barren, hardpan with no soft substrate areas that might serve as comfortable rest spots. There were no climbing structures or perches for the cats to sit on or hide under, and no vegetation. Outdoor shelters or structures for the animals that would provide protection from the elements and the sun were absent. There was also no shade provided by adjacent trees, so the cats were forced to be in the direct sun. The small barren cage for two juvenile lions was similar. The cougar cage was divided by fencing into two sections – the access door between the sections was closed. In one section, there was a male cougar who did not have access to a shelter or indoor facility, and in the second section, a female cougar with cubs was observed in the interior shelter. There were two domesticated dogs on the property who were chained to rudimentary dog houses, one of them positioned in the direct sunlight, with no other accessible shaded area.

(4) Every animal must be transported in a manner that ensures its physical safety and general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (4).

Not determined.

(5) Every animal must be provided with an adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping area. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (5).

The cages with five juvenile lions (three in one cage, two in another) did not have an appropriate outdoor resting area or shelter. There was a small shed (off-exhibit holding area) attached to the cage, with an open access door, but this appeared to be the only area where the lions could obtain relief from the afternoon sun. The lions did not have appropriate resting areas, and there were no climbing structures or elevated perches for them to rest on. The male cougar did not have a sleeping shelter or shade/rest structure.

(6) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate,

(f) Space to enable the animal to move naturally and to exercise;

While many of the enclosures were inappropriately small, they did allow for the cats to walk a short distance. However, the cage housing the jaguar (a cat with excellent climbing abilities) did not have climbing or perching features. The two cages containing the juvenile lions also did not have climbing features or apparatus.

(g) Sanitary conditions;

The sanitary conditions at this facility were extremely poor. Many enclosures contained rotting carcasses with excessive odour and flies. There were chicken feathers and bones in several cages, and a rotting deer carcass, with the spine, skull, ribcage and decomposing flesh and skin visible to visitors, in another.

(h) Ventilation;

Even though these enclosures were outdoors, there were pungent odours in several areas, presumably from decomposing carcasses.

(i) Light, and;

No issues.

(j) Protection from the elements, including harmful temperatures. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (6).

The juvenile lion cages were not equipped with structures or other furnishings that would provide comfortable, cool rest spots. The only option available to animals seeking relief from the sun was entering their interior off-exhibit holding areas. It could not be determined if these areas were properly ventilated.

(7) If an animal is confined to a pen or other enclosed structure or area,

(d) The pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any structures or material in it, must be in a state of good repair;

The edges of the fencing in the adult lion enclosure were not properly attached to the adjacent shed (and interior accommodation) leaving significant gaps. The metal shed inside the cage with two juvenile lions had metal siding that was curling outward, with sharp corners and edges, that may pose a potential injury hazard. The juvenile cougar cage at the back of the facility had a sagging roof that appeared to be in need of repair and/or reinforcement.

(e) The pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any surfaces, structures and materials in it, must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(iii) Safe and non-toxic for the animals, and

Not determined.

(iv) Of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animal; and

The cage containing the two juvenile lions had a metal shed with some outwardly curling edges that might pose a potential injury hazard.

(f) The pen or other enclosed structure or area must not contain one or more other animals that may pose a danger to the animal. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (7).

Not determined.

Standards of care for captive wildlife

4. (1) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with adequate and appropriate care, facilities and services to ensure their safety and general welfare as more specifically set out in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and in section 5 and 6. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (1).

See comments from s. 2 (3).

(2) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with a daily routine that facilitates and stimulates natural movement and behavior. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (2).

There was no evidence of a daily routine that would stimulate natural behaviours or movements. Some of the enclosures contained rubber balls or tires, presumably as play objects, but only the jaguar showed any interest in them. The juvenile lions were not provided with activities to promote natural behaviours and movement.

(3) Wildlife kept in captivity must be kept in compatible social groups to ensure the general welfare of the individual animals and the group and to ensure that each animal in the group is not at risk of injury or undue stress from dominant animals of the same or a different species. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (3).

Not determined.

Standards for enclosures for captive wildlife

5. (1) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be of an adequate and appropriate size:

(d) To facilitate and stimulate natural movements and behaviour;

See comments from s 2 (6 a.)

(e) To enable each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area to keep an adequate and appropriate distance from the other animals and people so that it is not psychologically stressed; and

Not determined.

(f) To ensure that the natural growth of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area is not restricted. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (1).

The lack of features and furnishings to stimulate and encourage normal movements and exercise in the younger cats may hinder their physical development as they grow.

(2) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must have,

- (f) Features and furnishings that facilitate and stimulate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;**

Many of the enclosures did not contain features or furnishings that would facilitate and stimulate the natural movement and behaviour of these animals. Of considerable concern are the two enclosures holding the 5 juvenile lions.

- (g) Shelter from the elements that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time;**

See comments from s. 2 (5)

- (h) Surfaces and other materials that accommodate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;**

Both juvenile lion enclosures had flat, hardpan floors and were not equipped with features or furnishings that would accommodate a broad range of natural movements and behaviours.

- (i) One or more areas that are out of the view of spectators; and**

Both juvenile lion enclosures did not provide private areas in the on-exhibit space.

- (j) One or more sleeping areas that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time and that are accessible to all the animals at all times. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (2).**

See comments from s. 2 (5).

(3) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be made of and contain only materials that are,

- (c) Safe and non-toxic for the animals kept in the pen or other enclosed structure or area; and**
- (d) Of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animals. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (3).**

See comments from 2. (7). (a) and (b)

(4) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and locked or otherwise secured to prevent,

(d) Interaction with people that may be unsafe or inappropriate for the wildlife;

The zoo property did not have a perimeter fence to discourage escaped animals from leaving the property or human intruders from entering. The juvenile lion enclosure did not have a public stand-off barrier. There were large gaps between the gate and the gate frame, which the animals could stick their paws through. The proprietor opened the gate through the adult lion enclosure stand-off barrier and invited visitors to walk up to the primary barrier, a potentially hazardous situation.

(e) Animals escaping from the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means; and

The primary fence of the adult lion enclosure appeared low and there were gaps between the edges of the fence and the adjacent shed. These gaps should be covered. The juvenile lion enclosure did not have angled overhangs but, instead, had rather flimsy looking vertical extensions.

(f) Animals or people (other than people who are required to enter the enclosure as part of their duties) from entering the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (4).

See comments from s. 5 (4a)

(5) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that presents no harm to the wildlife. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (5).

See previous comments.

Greenview Aviaries Park & Zoo
August 10, 2010

SUMMARY

Greenview Aviaries Park & Zoo is a privately operated facility in southwestern Ontario. It has been reviewed several times in the past by Zoocheck Canada and the World Society for the Protection of Animals. Various problems were identified and remain largely unaddressed today. They include, but are not limited to, a lack of space, inappropriate floor surfaces, lack of privacy, inadequate furnishings, inappropriate social groupings and possible safety issues.

A number of animals are housed in undersized and/or barren spaces that lack appropriate environmental enrichment, including structural enhancements, furnishings and objects. Other than an occasional object, there was no evidence that other kinds of food-based, sense-based or temporal enrichment strategies being employed. Most of the animal accommodation is simplistic and are not designed according to the specific needs of the species they hold. For the most part, it's a cookie-cutter approach to design in which a variety of different species with different needs are kept in more or less the same kinds of conditions. When materials and furnishings were present in the enclosures, they appeared old and in need of replacement. Many of the animals did not have adequate shelter and privacy areas, particularly some of the birds and reptiles. Some barriers did not appear particularly robust and several of the big cat enclosure barriers seemed dangerously low.

The living conditions for some animals (primates, small mammals, birds and reptiles) displayed in the main barn were inadequate and are, presumably poorer, if additional animals are brought into the same space during cold weather.

Basic standards of care for all animals

2. (1) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate food and water. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (1).

There was no evidence of food-based enrichment, such as scatter feeding or other forage-based feeding strategies being employed, and it appeared as though animals were fed once per day. Regimented feeding regimes may be convenient for staff, but, if not combined with food-based enrichment activities, may be boring for the animals.

Public feeding of the animals is encouraged and visitors can purchase Fruit Loops, a commercially prepared chow (presumably dog chow) and rabbit feed pellets from the entrance. Some cages and enclosures had signs telling visitors not to feed specific animals, but there were no staff or CCTV cameras to monitor visitor behaviour. Captive wild animals should be fed species-appropriate diets that meet their daily nutritional requirements so uncontrolled feeding of "junk food" may disrupt normal feeding behaviours, make it difficult for staff to ascertain how much each animal is

eating and it may facilitate unwanted, abnormal begging behaviours and inter-individual aggression.

Most animals were provided with water dishes, but many contained dirty water. A number of buckets and containers appeared to be in need of cleaning (bald eagles, African crowned cranes, various geese and ducks, cockatoo, reptiles). Several cages and enclosures had no visible water containers (lions, tigers, bears, miniature horses). One of the waterfowl ponds, for swans, geese and ducks, appeared stagnant with a layer of “scum” on the surface.

(2) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate medical attention. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (2).

Not determined.

(3) Every animal must be provided with the care necessary for its general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (3).

While some of the hoofstock enclosures were reasonably large, many cages and enclosures appeared undersized and were lacking in furnishings and enrichment. Some carnivore and primate cages were simplistic with only rudimentary furnishings and few privacy opportunities. Many cages for reptiles, birds and various small mammals in the main reptile/bird building were undersized. Some larger parrots were housed in small, barred floor cages with only a single, large, hard perch. They were unable to spread their wings, fly or engage in most normal movements or behaviours. Some reptile accommodation was equally small, as well as thermally simplistic and lacking in furnishings and enrichment. One alligator was kept in a cage barely twice its body length.

Substrates were problematic with many cages and enclosures having hardpan floors covered by a layer of pea gravel and/or wood chips. Few animals had opportunities to engage in ground-oriented behaviours. Some cages were equipped with inappropriate wire mesh floors (rabbits, guinea pigs, Dutch turbit pigeons, chinchillas) that presumably were uncomfortable, stressful and could be physically damaging over the long term. Some reptiles were forced to live on entirely hard concrete surfaces, which are potentially stressful and/or physically uncomfortable or damaging.

Shelter and privacy opportunities were restricted or not provided in some cages and enclosures, and were particularly problematic for birds and reptiles.

Many facets of housing and husbandry, including, but not limited to, space, substrate, shelter and privacy, environmental conditions, furnishings and enrichment are problematic.

(4) Every animal must be transported in a manner that ensures its physical safety and general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (4).

Not determined.

(5) Every animal must be provided with an adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping area. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (5).

A number of cages and enclosures did not have adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping areas (pot-bellied pig, kinkajou, rabbit, primates, birds, reptiles). While some provided a shelter box (often open to public view), there were few, if any, dedicated private areas in the on-exhibit space in which animals could rest or sleep. Burrowing animals (African crested porcupine) were unable to construct burrows to retreat to. Some birds (parrots) were in full public view without privacy areas or sheltered perches. The bald eagle cage did not provide any sheltered perching stations or privacy areas and visitors could view the birds at relatively close range from all sides. Many reptiles had no privacy areas for rest or sleep and were in photoinvasive conditions with nowhere to hide. Some hoofstock enclosures were equipped with simple three-sided shelters (alpaca, pot-bellied pigs, miniature horses, donkeys, goats, zebras) that were open to visitor view.

(6) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate,

(k) Space to enable the animal to move naturally and to exercise;

Many enclosures and cages were undersized and restricted natural movements and exercise (African crested porcupines, coatimundi, lemurs, snow monkey, Rhesus macaque, parrots, reptiles). The parrots housed in the main barn were kept in very small, pet store-style, floor cages that did not provide sufficient space for the birds to spread their wings or fly. The row cages housing monkeys and coatimundis were undersized and did not provide sufficient space for the animals to move, exercise and behave naturally. Most reptile cages were grossly undersized with the larger lizards, alligator and other reptiles in spaces that were barely twice their body length. Several snakes were in extremely cramped conditions. Most of the reptiles had no ability to engage in normal movements or behaviours.

(l) Sanitary conditions;

The raised wire-floored cage housing the Turbit pigeons required cleaning. One of the waterfowl ponds had a layer of “scum” on its surface and appeared to be unfiltered.

(m) Ventilation;

Not determined.

(n) Light, and;

Several of the reptiles were in photoinvasive environments with no privacy or hide areas. A number of birds were in full light with no opportunity to remove themselves to shaded or protected areas.

(o) Protection from the elements, including harmful temperatures. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (6).

Many cages and enclosures were not designed or equipped so that animals could engage in normal thermoregulatory behaviours. Some were observed panting. The bald eagle enclosure did not contain a shelter or private perching station that would provide protection from sun or inclement weather. Carnivores, such as the tiger, that should be provided with a pool for enrichment and thermoregulation did not have one. Some of the primates entered their drinking water containers to cool off, contaminating their drinking water in the process. Two pot-bellied pigs were jostling to cool off in a very small muddy depression in the substrate, but there was insufficient room for both. Some of the hoofstock enclosures had very limited opportunities for shade and shelter. In several enclosures (deer, miniature horses, lama, one donkey enclosure) there were a few trees, but in other enclosures (goat, camel, alpaca, 2nd donkey enclosure), there were no interior trees or adjacent trees to provide shade. The birds and reptiles were kept in thermally simplistic environments that did not allow them to engage in normal thermoregulatory behaviours. Most reptile cages had one hot spot (next to a heat source), but the rest of their space was of uniform temperature.

(7) If an animal is confined to a pen or other enclosed structure or area,

(g) The pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any structures or material in it, must be in a state of good repair;

(h) The pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any surfaces, structures and materials in it, must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(v) Safe and non-toxic for the animals, and

(vi) Of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animal; and

The hardpan substrates may be uncomfortable for some of the animals as their feet are not made for standing on hard surfaces for extended long periods. The wire-floored cages for the small mammals are entirely inappropriate. Not only are they uncomfortable, they are a potential source of injury if footpads or feet are caught. The lack of soft, flexible perches and padded perching stations for the birds may lead to foot discomfort, pain and bumblefoot. The lack of natural surfaces in the reptile exhibits create the potential for sores, abrasions and other skin problems.

(i) The pen or other enclosed structure or area must not contain one or more other animals that may pose a danger to the animal. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (7).

Not determined.

Standards of care for captive wildlife

4. (1) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with adequate and appropriate care, facilities and services to ensure their safety and general welfare as more specifically set out in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and in section 5 and 6. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (1).

See comments from s. 2 (3)

(2) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with a daily routine that facilitates and stimulates natural movement and behavior. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (2).

No evidence of a daily routine that would stimulate natural behaviours or movements was observed. The only interaction observed during this review was inadvertent and occurred when staff entered the bald eagle enclosure for cleaning. It caused considerable distress and anxiety in one of the birds, not only while staff were in the cage, but for at least 10 minutes after they had exited. Since food items were in containers or in single piles in the enclosures, it appeared staff had just completed their daily feeding regime. There was no evidence of staggered or scatter feeding to stimulate or encourage natural foraging behaviours or movements and there was no evidence of any kind of enrichment routine for any of the animals.

(3) Wildlife kept in captivity must be kept in compatible social groups to ensure the general welfare of the individual animals and the group and to ensure that each animal in the group is not at risk of injury or undue stress from dominant animals of the same or a different species. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (3).

In the main barn, an infant pot-bellied pig was kept alone in a small pen. Piglets should be kept with their mothers since this is a critical period in their social development. An olive baboon was kept in isolation away from the other baboons. If this baboon is being kept isolated because of bullying by a more dominant baboon, arrangements should be made to move him/her to more socially appropriate accommodation in another facility. Primates are highly social animals that should never be housed alone.

Standards for enclosures for captive wildlife

5. (1) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be of an adequate and appropriate size:

(g) To facilitate and stimulate natural movements and behaviour;

See comments from s. 2 (6.a.)

(h) To enable each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area to keep an adequate and appropriate distance from the other animals and people so that it is not psychologically stressed; and

Some cages and enclosures allow visitor viewing from all sides (bald eagle, African crested porcupines, cockatoo, tortoises). Visitor viewing, especially unrestricted viewing from all sides, can result in animals becoming anxious and stressed, particularly if they are unable to remove themselves from public view and/or achieve a distance from visitors at which they feel comfortable and secure. In many of the cages, even in cages where visitors only had access to one or two sides of the cage, the shelters for the animals did not provide privacy from public view. Some reptiles did not have a shelter or privacy area where they could retreat from public view.

- (i) To ensure that the natural growth of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area is not restricted. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (1).**

Not determined.

- (2) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must have,**

- (k) Features and furnishings that facilitate and stimulate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;**

Most of the cages and enclosures did not contain features or furnishings to stimulate natural movements or behaviours. Structural features in cages were minimal; furnishings were mostly simplistic, old and inflexible, consisting largely of horizontal or angled wooden planks, thick, overused, smooth stumps or branches and assorted other materials. Some primate cages had wooden ledges and basic climbing apparatus. Virtually all stumps, logs and branches were denuded of bark and many were immovable. The hoofstock enclosures (lama, miniature horse, donkey, alpaca, fallow deer, zebra, buffalo, domesticated goat) were not landscaped and were not equipped with features or furnishings that would encourage natural movements and behaviours. Some bird cages and enclosures contained only rudimentary structures and minimal numbers of hard, wooden perches. There were no objects to manipulate or items to chew provided to the parrots and other psittacine birds. Several cages contained only a single perch. The reptile cages were essentially barren and contained little to stimulate natural movements or behaviours.

- (l) Shelter from the elements that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time;**

See comments from s. 2 (5)

- (m) Surfaces and other materials that accommodate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;**

The hardpan floor surfaces prevent some animals (African crested porcupine, peafowl) from expressing ground-oriented behaviours, such as foraging or digging. The hard smooth surfaces of the furnishings may restrict the arboreal animals from engaging in a full range of normal climbing movements. The wire floors in some cages impede normal movement and behaviour and may cause discomfort, injury and/or stress. Many of the parrots were only given one or two hard perches in their living space. Perching and climbing birds should be provided with a variety of perches and branches of varying thicknesses, lengths and textures to promote foot and joint health, to provide materials to manipulate and chew, and to allow for a full range of walking and climbing movements. Tigers in captivity should always be provided with pools for enrichment and as a way for the animals to cool off during hot weather, but there was no water feature provided. The floor surfaces in some of the hoofstock enclosures (donkeys) were barren and did little to facilitate natural foraging/grazing behaviours.

(n) One or more areas that are out of the view of spectators; and

While some cages and enclosures contained at least one shelter box that animals could retreat to, there were many that were unable to remove themselves from spectator view in their on-exhibit area. Many of the hoofstock pens (donkey, goat, fallow deer, lama, pot-bellied pig, miniature horse) were equipped with three-sided shelter structures, with the open side being available to public view. The juvenile lion was not provided with a sheltered privacy area. Many reptiles had no privacy and had to remain in full view of spectators in photoinvasive environments.

(o) One or more sleeping areas that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time and that are accessible to all the animals at all times. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (2).

See comments from s. 2 (5)

(3) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(e) Safe and non-toxic for the animals kept in the pen or other enclosed structure or area; and

(f) Of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animals. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (3).

See comments from s. 2 (7), (a) and (b)

(4) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and locked or otherwise secured to prevent,

(g) Interaction with people that may be unsafe or inappropriate for the wildlife;

Visitors are encouraged to feed the animals and are able to purchase Fruit Loops, rabbit pellets and a commercial chow (presumably dog chow). There are signs on some enclosures telling guests not to feed certain animals, but there did not seem to be any way to ensure compliance. People are allowed to feed various ungulates, raccoons, primates, as well as waterfowl and other birds. No hand-wash stations for visitors who have physically contacted animals were observed, except in the parking lot area. Visitors were observed knocking on the glass of several small animal and reptiles enclosures.

(h) Animals escaping from the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means; and

The lion and tiger enclosures had low primary barriers (approx. 10 ft /3.05 m high) with no inwardly angled upper sections to discourage climbing and/or jumping. The barriers were not topped with barbed wire or electric fencing (hot wires). Barriers for big cats should be robust, 16 ft (4.87 m) or more in height, and equipped with an inwardly angled top section to discourage climbing and jumping, as well as supplementary safeguards such as barbed wire and or properly designed and positioned hot wires.

(i) Animals or people (other than people who are required to enter the enclosure as part of their duties) from entering the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (4).

The stand-off barrier gate at the lynx and bobcat enclosures was not locked – the gate latch was at a height reachable by children and it was a kind of latch that could be easily lifted. Stand-off barriers are in place to keep the public a safe distance from the actual animal cages and enclosures, so stand-off barrier gates must remain locked at all times. The doors of some of the bird cages were not locked (cockatoos) and were accessible to any visitor. The fence into the waterfowl enclosure containing a pond was not locked, but was instead secured with a simple eye-hook and latch on the gates. This style of latch could be opened by any child. The stand-off barrier gate surrounding the bald eagle enclosure was not locked and was also a simple gate latch that any child could open. Some of the gates into the hoofstock enclosures were unlocked (goat, lama). In the animal barn, many of the stalls were unlocked and simply kept closed with a barrel bolt lock. Any visitor could open the stalls and release the donkeys, goats, emu or camel.

(5) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that presents no harm to the wildlife. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (5).

Not determined.

Standards of care for captive primates

6. Every primate kept in captivity must be provided with:

(d) Daily interaction with a person having custody or care of the primate;

Not determined.

(e) A varied range of daily activities, including foraging or task-oriented feeding methods; and

There was no evidence of a range of daily activities being provided or enrichment-based feeding activities, task-oriented feedings or foraging opportunities provided.

(f) Interactive furnishings, such as perches, swings and mirrors. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 6.

Many of the features and furnishings in the primate exhibits were simplistic, old and boring. Aside from the small enclosures holding the snow, java and Rhesus monkeys, which were equipped with only rudimentary furnishings, most of the primate enclosures had wooden logs and/or branches, boards, stumps and shelves/platforms. However, these items were typically immovable, smooth and need to be substantially improved. Most of the wooden boards and logs in these enclosures should be replaced. New intact, natural wooden branches and logs with their new smells and textures would make the enclosures more stimulating, create complexity and facilitate activities such as ripping and chewing the bark. The addition of flexible furnishings and objects, such as swings, ladders, hammocks, climbing apparatus, ceiling perches, puzzle feeders, etc. would substantially increase the complexity of the environment and stimulation of the animals.

Spruce Haven Zoo
August 21, 2010

SUMMARY

The Spruce Haven Zoo is located on a rural property approximately 10 minutes from downtown Sault Ste. Marie. The property also contains a dog boarding kennel, private residence, as well as several service buildings.

A number of the enclosures at this zoo are small, barren and simplistic in design. In particular, the carnivore enclosures are grossly undersized. The vertical space in many cages is underutilized and many animals live on barren, hardpan floors that lack soft rest areas, adequate bedding, have minimal privacy and limited shelter opportunities. The almost complete absence of enrichment and furnishings mean there is little to encourage natural movements and behaviours. In many enclosures, the water and food containers are inadequate. Some prey species were in cages that were far too close to predator enclosures, presumably causing some degree of anxiety, fear and stress. Some of the barriers were in need of repair –with bent or loose components..

The undersized carnivore cages and the spartan interior of some enclosures are among the primary animal welfare concerns at the Spruce Haven Zoo.

The enclosures could be significantly improved through landscaping (berms, hillside alcoves, gullies), structural enhancements, the addition of furnishings (rocks, logs & branches with intact bark, brush piles, climbing apparatus, aerial walkways, suspended hammocks, pools, misters, mud wallows, suspended objects to push or pull, platforms) and objects (boomer balls, horse toys, animal hides, barrels), dietary enrichment (novel food items, browse, scatter feeding, hanging feeders) and other forms of enrichment.

Basic standards of care for all animals

2. (1) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate food and water. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (1).

While the constraints of this investigation made it difficult to fully determine animal diets and presentation practices, enough could be observed to provide commentary. Food containers varied throughout the facility and ranged from dog bowl-sized metal bowls to plastic containers. A number of cages were not equipped with any food containers and food items were dumped directly onto the substrate (waterfowl, crow).

Makeshift wooden structures containing hay (presumably meant as a kind of hay rack) were present in some of the hoofstock enclosures but they were largely empty and/or in a state of disrepair and did not maintain the hay in a elevated position above the ground, so it was vulnerable to moisture and/or contamination. One yak was observed eating hay on the substrate in one of these structures. There did not appear to be any other properly covered feeding stations that would prevent hay (or

other food items for other animals) from becoming wet in the event of rain or snow, so there was a potential for harmful mould or bacteria to develop. No browse or other food items were observed in the hoofstock exhibits. Most hoofstock exhibits were simple fenced pens on earth substrates with minimal grass cover (one exception was a multi-acre enclosure housing a yak), presumably due to overgrazing and/or trampling by the animals. Mature, living trees were in or around the sika deer, yak and llama paddocks. Little effort has been made to satisfy the normal foraging behaviours (grazing, browsing) of ungulates.

Water containers were observed in most exhibits, but the majority (e.g. raccoon, coyote, African lion, waterfowl) contained dirty water. The lion's water container consisted of a horizontally positioned, metal cylinder that had been cut out to form a trough. This container was rusty. A bathtub embedded in the floor of the bear exhibit appeared to be the only water source for this animal.

All animals should be provided with fresh, clean drinking water at all times in species-appropriate receptacles. .

(2) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate medical attention. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (2).

Unable to determine.

(3) Every animal must be provided with the care necessary for its general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (3).

The majority of exhibits were undersized, poorly designed and insufficiently outfitted. Shelter and privacy was minimal or lacking, enrichment (including structural enhancements, furnishings and objects) was poor or absent. Numerous water containers were filled with filthy water, the metal water trough in the lion exhibit was rusty and the only water source observed for the black bear was the bathtub embedded in the concrete floor. Food items, when present, were basic and in some cases had been dumped onto earth substrates. Most of the animals were inactive (coyote, lion, red fox, black bear, chinchilla, ferret) or were engaged in repetitive, presumably stereotypic, behaviours (e.g. cougar, lynx). This is a sign of an abnormal interaction between the animals and their environments and is an indicator of poor welfare.

(4) Every animal must be transported in a manner that ensures its physical safety and general welfare. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (4).

Not determined.

(5) Every animal must be provided with an adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping area. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (5).

Adequate and appropriate resting and sleeping areas were not available to many animals. The carnivores were provided with rudimentary shelter boxes of various sizes. For the most part, they were ground level, wooden structures with a single

entrance, some of them open to public view. Parts of the black bear shelter box had been heavily damaged by chewing. The bear was observed sleeping on the open ground in the secondary containment area.

Most of the shelter boxes were positioned on the ground and it was difficult to determine whether their interior floor surfaces were raised to safeguard against flooding during times of heavy rain or spring snow melt. The doorways were not equipped with door flaps that would help to retain heat generated by the animals in their shelters during times of cold weather. Bedding material was largely absent but, when present, was sparse and stale. Many cages appeared to have no bedding material at all.

Most of the hoofstock enclosures were equipped with rudimentary, three-sided, roofed shelters that provide limited protection from the elements. In most, only one shelter opportunity was provided.

The waterfowl pens were equipped with wooden shelter boxes. Ideally, these birds should be provided with lean-to or roofed shelters protected from the wind with soft substrates and bedding materials present.

All animals must be provided with comfortable, secure areas to retreat to for resting and sleeping in their on-exhibit living space. Multiple shelter opportunities should be provided to prevent dominant animals from monopolizing shelter areas. .

(6) Every animal must be provided with adequate and appropriate,

(a) space to enable the animal to move naturally and to exercise;

The cages and enclosures at Spruce Haven Zoo range from undersized (carnivores) to moderately-sized (hoofstock). A single raccoon housed in a ground level wooden frame cage (measuring approximately 1.5m wide x 2.5–3m long x 1m high) in the carnivore area was particularly deficient. With a maximum estimated 48.4ft² (4.5m²) of floor space, it virtually eliminated opportunity for this animal to engage in normal movements and exercise. All other cages in the front carnivore section were also grossly undersized (the only exception being the cougar cage). The red fox cage was approximately 100+ft² (9.29m²), the lynx cage marginally larger, with the largest cages housing the coyote and African lions. The black bear cage was estimated at 400 – 600 ft² (37.16 – 55.74m²).

While animals could make normal postural adjustments (e.g., stand, sit, turn around), the lack of space severely restricted or entirely eliminated most normal locomotory behaviours, such as running at speed, leaping, climbing, swimming, as well as normal hunting, foraging and exploratory behaviours and movements. The previously mentioned exception in this first group of cages was the cougar exhibit. While still small it was sufficiently large for the animal to engage in at least some normal movement.

In all cases, available vertical space was underutilized or unexploited. Most animals could jump onto a shelf (red fox) or to the top of their sleeping box (lion, coyote), but other types of “arboreal” movements were not achievable.

All animals should be provided with sufficient space to allow for the expression of most normal movements and behaviours.

(b) sanitary conditions;

The small size of the carnivore cages, and their hardpan floors, may result in urine saturation of the substrate. The slick hardpan in the waterfowl enclosures appeared greasy and with the continued addition of food and excrement may be a reservoir for bacteria. The lack of clean food containers and/or clean water containers and clean drinking water is also problematic from both a maintenance and animal welfare perspective. The makeshift wooden hay racks did not elevate the hay off the substrate, but merely contained it on the ground in one location. This could result in contamination and harmful mould and bacteria from dampness. Throwing food items directly onto wet substrates also poses problems.

All animals should be fed nutritive, species-appropriate food in containers that are accessible, clean and, if food is left out, protected from the elements. Arboreal mammals and birds should be provided with elevated feeding stations. To prevent standing water on cage and enclosure floors and/or “greasy film” developing on the substrate (waterfowl), tilling of the soil and or introduction of sod would be of assistance.

(c) ventilation;

All on-display exhibit areas were outdoors.

(d) light, and;

All on-display exhibit areas were outdoors.

(e) protection from the elements, including harmful temperatures. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (6).

Most sleeping boxes did not appear to be equipped with a heat source and/or door flaps that would trap heat generated by the animals during cold weather. While the basic shelters provide shade, they may not provide sufficient relief in the form of genuinely cool areas away from the summer heat or adequate protection from winter cold for those animals that remain outside. Very few shelters had any bedding materials and when it was present, it was sparse. It was difficult to determine whether the interior floor surfaces of the shelters were raised to preserve dry areas in event of flooding by excessive rainfall or spring snow melt. The kennel cab in the small raccoon cage provided no relief from warm or cool conditions. The wooden shelter boxes for the waterfowl were inappropriate and would be best replaced with more suitable shelter arrangements.

All animals must be provided with species-appropriate shelters that provide a comfortable environment (e.g., warmth in winter, coolness in summer), safety and security. Arboreal mammals and birds should be provided with elevated shelter stations.

(7) If an animal is confined to a pen or other enclosed structure or area,

(a) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any structures or material in it, must be in a state of good repair;

A number of barriers at Spruce Haven Zoo were in a state of disrepair. The upper angled portion of the lion and cougar cage barriers appeared flimsy and inadequate. As well, damaged and bent fencing and gaps were noted in the cougar cage fencing. In the petting area and the bird pens, damaged, bent and loose fencing that could pose a hazard to the animals was observed. In some cases, barriers have been reinforced and/or repairs have been made, but these appear ad hoc and shoddy. Overall, construction is patchy and amateurish. The shelter box in the bear cage was damaged by chewing, as were two vertical posts.

All damaged, bent and loose barriers should be repaired. Damaged shelter boxes and other interior materials should also be repaired.

(b) the pen or other enclosed structure or area, and any surfaces, structures and materials in it, must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(i) safe and non-toxic for the animal, and

(ii) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animal; and

Bent, damaged and loose areas of fencing can pose a potential hazard to animals and should be repaired. The vertically sliding steel doors in the lion and bear cages pose a hazard to the animals if they fall. Other facilities have experienced incidents in which animals have lost tails, limbs or been crushed to death by vertically sliding doors.

All cage and enclosure defects should be repaired. As a precaution to ensure animal safety the heavy vertically sliding steel doors should be replaced with horizontally sliding doors.

(c) the pen or other enclosed structure or area must not contain one or more other animals that may pose a danger to the animal. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 2 (7).

No concerns noted.

Standards of care for captive wildlife

4. (1) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with adequate and appropriate care, facilities and services to ensure their safety and general welfare as more specifically set out in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and in sections 5 and 6. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (1).

A number of cages and enclosures were undersized, poorly designed, badly constructed (using a mishmash of materials) and insufficiently outfitted. Shelter and privacy was minimal or lacking, enrichment (including structural enhancements, furnishings and objects) was poor or absent. Defects in barriers pose potential hazards to the animals. Numerous water containers contained filthy water, the metal water trough in the lion exhibit was rusty and the only water source observed for the black bear was the bathtub embedded in the concrete floor. Food items, when present, were basic and in some cases had been dumped onto the earth substrates. Some cages and enclosures were not equipped with food containers. Most animals were inactive or engaged in repetitive, presumably stereotypic, behaviours (lynx, cougar), an indicator of poor animal welfare.

(2) Wildlife kept in captivity must be provided with a daily routine that facilitates and stimulates natural movement and behaviour. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (2).

There was no evidence of any kind of daily “routine” provided for any of the animals. The husbandry regime appeared minimalist, presumably consisting of daily feeding, watering and some perfunctory cleaning.

All zoological facilities should make environmental and behavioural enrichment programming a part of their daily animal husbandry regime.

(9) Wildlife kept in captivity must be kept in compatible social groups to ensure the general welfare of the individual animals and of the group and to ensure that each animal in the group is not at risk of injury or undue stress from dominant animals of the same or a different species. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 4 (3).

The raccoon cage was positioned on the ground next to the visitor pathway. Most animals are uncomfortable with being viewed from above, especially at close range. The proximity of visitors, including children, and the fact that they look down to observe the raccoon may be a source of chronic stress. The cougar cage was right next to the raccoon cage and the cougar could come within a meter of the raccoon, a potential source of chronic stress to the raccoon. The crow appeared agitated, even panicked, when its cage was approached. There were no visual baffles or private areas that the bird could retreat to feel comfortable and secure.

All animals must be kept in a species-appropriate social context and be provided with opportunities to remove themselves from the view of cagemates or animals in neighbouring cages and enclosures.

Standards for enclosures for captive wildlife

5. (1) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be of an adequate and appropriate size:

(a) to facilitate and stimulate natural movement and behaviour;

See 6. (a.).

(b) to enable each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area to keep an adequate and appropriate distance from the other animals and people so that it is not psychologically stressed; and

The raccoon cage in the carnivore section was positioned approximately 1m from the front of the cougar exhibit. In all likelihood, this situation is stressful to the raccoon because it is not able to retreat to a psychologically safe distance from the cat, nor can the raccoon climb to a height at which it would feel secure. The fact that the cage is positioned on the ground is also problematic. Most animals are uncomfortable with being viewed from above, especially at close range. The proximity of visitors, including children, and the fact that they look down to observe the raccoon may be a source of chronic stress.

The crow appeared agitated, at times panicked, when its enclosure was approached. The bird positioned itself on a perch next to a wooden shelter box at the upper left hand corner of the rear portion of the cage. The bird appeared reluctant to enter the shelter box and there were no other visual baffles or sheltered perch areas for the bird to retreat to in other parts of the cage.

All animals must be provided with privacy opportunities that allow them to remove themselves from the view of cagemates and/or the public when they choose to do so.

(c) to ensure that the natural growth of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area is not restricted. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (1).

Not determined.

(2) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must have,

(a) features and furnishings that facilitate and stimulate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

A number of Spruce Haven Zoo's exhibits are not sufficiently equipped to facilitate and stimulate a full range of natural movements and behaviours. Structural enhancements are poor, furnishings are deficient, being few in number and/or old and/or minimally functional and vertical space is poorly utilized. There has been no attempt to outfit exhibits in a way that stimulates even a modicum of normal movement or behaviour. The carnivore pens were essentially barren containing, at

most, a platform and one or more old, smooth branches or a stump on the floor of their cage. Animals that can climb, including the raccoons, lynx and black bear, were not provided with climbing materials or apparatus. Hoofstock pens were primarily flat areas that lacked landscaping, structural enhancements and species-appropriate furnishings and waterfowl were in barren, hardpan pens that lacked pasture and appropriate swimming areas.

All cages and enclosures should be equipped with species-appropriate features, furnishings and objects that encourage and facilitate natural movements and behaviours.

(b) shelter from the elements that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time;

Not determined.

(c) surfaces and other materials that accommodate the natural movement and behaviour of each animal in the pen or other enclosed structure or area;

The furnishings, where present, were simplistic and did little to facilitate natural movements and behaviours. No effort has been made to encourage normal locomotory movements and natural foraging and exploratory behaviours were severely restricted or eliminated.

All cages and enclosures should be equipped with species-appropriate features, furnishings and objects with different surfaces, textures and properties (flexibility) that encourage and facilitate natural movements and behaviours.

(d) one or more areas that are out of view of spectators; and

Many of the animal cages and pens did not provide any opportunity for the animals to remove themselves from public view in the on-exhibit area, their only opportunity for privacy was inside their shelter boxes (red fox, lion, black bear, lynx, waterfowl).

All animals should be provided with privacy opportunities (visual baffles) that allow them to retreat from public view.

(e) one or more sleeping areas that can accommodate all the animals in the pen or other enclosed structure or area at the same time and that are accessible to all the animals at all times. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (2).

While some form of rudimentary shelter was provided in each cage and enclosure, they were not necessarily species appropriate, nor inviting to the animals, especially since bedding materials appeared to be largely absent. The black bear did not have materials available to allow for the construction of daybeds. As well, there may be situations in some cages in which a dominant animal tries to monopolize preferred sleeping areas, although this could not be determined with any certainty. The shelter boxes for the waterfowl should be improved.

All animal should be provided with species-appropriate sleep/rest areas that can accommodate all animals at the same time, if necessary. .

(3) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity must be made of and contain only materials that are,

(a) safe and non-toxic for the animals kept in the pen or other enclosed structure or area; and

Some of the bent, damaged and loose fencing may pose a potential hazard to the animals.

All defects should be repaired.

(b) of a texture and design that will not bruise, cut or otherwise injure the animals. O. Reg. 60/09, s. (3).

Some of the bent, damaged or loose fencing may pose a potential hazard to the animals.

All defects should be repaired.

(4) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and locked or otherwise secured to prevent,

(a) interaction with people that may be unsafe or inappropriate for the wildlife;

Safety is potentially problematic at Spruce Haven Zoo. As mentioned previously, the upper inwardly angled portions of the lion and cougar cage barriers appeared flimsy and inadequate. Additional bent and damaged sections of fence, as well as gaps, were noted in the cougar cage. Some of the wire mesh on the big cat cages appeared to be light gauge and not entirely suitable for confining these animals. Throughout the carnivore section, there were numerous areas in which public stand-off barriers were inadequate or absent. For example, a low, damaged, wire fence was positioned in front of the raccoon cage, but any child could easily pass over it. At the red fox and lynx cages, the ad hoc stand-off barriers were either too close, did not extend the length of the cage or were not sufficiently robust to keep visitors from contacting the actual animal cages. Any visitor could put their hands through the wire mesh. Scrawled on one of the crossbeams of the lynx cage were the words, "Please keep hands out, will bite." The ground level raccoon cage was not locked. It's doorway was secured with a simple gate latch. Several of the hoofstock enclosures did not have public stand-off barriers, allowing visitors to reach through the barriers.

Public stand-off barriers should be present at all cages and enclosures to prevent human-animal contact. All cages and enclosures housing potentially dangerous

animal species should be properly constructed of materials that are sufficient to contain the animals even in exceptional “emergency” situations.

(b) animals escaping from the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means; and

See 4. (a). .

(c) animals or people (other than people who are required to enter the enclosure as part of their duties) from entering the pen or other enclosed structure or area by climbing, jumping, digging, burrowing or any other means. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (4).

No commentary.

(10) A pen or other enclosed structure or area for wildlife kept in captivity and any gates or other barriers to it, including moats, must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that presents no harm to the wildlife. O. Reg. 60/09, s. 5 (5).

Some of the bent, damaged or loose barriers may pose a hazard to the animals. The vertical steel sliding door between the two segments of the lion cage and another that separates the main bear cage space and the containment area are potential hazards to the animals. The doors appear to be manually operated and, if dropped while a lion or the bear was moving through, could cause injury. Incidents in which bones have been broken, tails chopped off or animals crushed to death from dropping doors have occurred at many other zoos.

All cage and enclosure defects should be repaired. As a precautionary measure to ensure animal health, the heavy, vertically sliding steel doors should be replaced with horizontally sliding doors.

Conclusion

The simplistic cage and enclosure designs, lack of space (particularly for the carnivores), poor utilization of vertical space, barren hardpan substrates, lack of complexity, lack of furnishings, almost complete absence of enrichment, minimal privacy and shelter areas, lack of bedding, ad hoc, often inadequate, water containers, filthy water, lack of food containers, inappropriate proximity of predators to prey and damaged, bent and/or loose barriers are all problematic and fail to satisfy provincial standards.

Many of the relatively minor problems (e.g. replacing water containers, repairing damaged fencing, providing basic furnishings, supplying bedding materials) can be addressed with minimal time and resources, but other changes, such as replacing entire cages and enclosures, may be more difficult for the proprietors of this facility to achieve.

The size of the carnivore cages and the Spartan interior of the majority of Spruce Haven Zoo’s cages and enclosures stand out as being of particular concern. The carnivores can engage in rudimentary movements, but the majority of other normal movements and behaviours cannot be achieved. They should be moved to more space appropriate accommodation.

Spruce Haven Zoo's animal cages and enclosures would benefit from landscaping (e.g., berms, hillside alcoves, gullies), structural enhancements, furnishings (e.g., rocks, logs & branches with intact bark, brush piles, climbing apparatus, aerial walkways, suspended hammocks, pools, misters, mud wallows, suspended objects to push or pull, platforms) and objects (e.g., boomer balls, horse toys, animal hides, barrels), dietary enrichment (e.g., novel food items, browse, scatter feeding, hanging feeders) and other forms of enrichment.

The positioning of the raccoon cage next to the cougar exhibit is unacceptable. The raccoon should be shifted elsewhere.

At the present time Spruce Haven Zoo is deficient in many respects. Major improvements are required to bring this facility up to a professional standard.

Appendix 1
Ontario Zoo Investigation Reports

Captive Animals In Ontario: An Informal Look (1987)

Zoos In Ontario: An Investigative Report (1995)

When Rome Burns: A Report into Conditions in the Zoos of Ontario (1998)

State of the Ark: Investigating Ontario's Zoos (2001)

Failing the Grade: A Report on Conditions in Ontario Zoos (2005)

Ontario Zoo Review Series (2006)

Ontario Zoo Review Series (2008)

**Wild Neighbours, The Safety and Security of Ontario's Wildlife in Captivity
Facilities (2010)**

Appendix 2

Ontario Legislative Initiatives

Throughout this time there have been a number of legislative initiatives brought forward to address the animal welfare and public safety problems associated with the unregulated possession and trade in wild animals in Ontario.

In 1980, Bill 79, *An Act to Licence and Regulate Wild Animal and Reptile Sanctuaries* was introduced by Liberal MPP, Ronald Van Horne.

In the mid to late 1980s, there were numerous government discussions and public consultations about the *Ontario Game and Fish Act*. Some of these focused on the need to control the keeping of wildlife in captivity. No substantive measures for the keeping of wild animals in captivity resulted.

In 1988, Bill 129, *An Act to Regulate the Care of Animals Kept for Exhibition or Entertainment* was introduced by NDP MPP, Ed Phillip. If passed, Bill 129 would have allowed the Government of Ontario to license zoological facilities and to set minimum standards for the care and housing of captive wildlife. In response to the private members bill, the Liberal government's Minister of Natural Resources, Vincent Kerrio committed to passing tough new regulations to protect exotic animals in zoos. Unfortunately, Mr. Kerrio never followed through with his promise and Bill 129 passed second reading and was forwarded to the Standing Committee on Resources Development where it eventually died on the order paper.

In 1989, Ontario's Solicitor-General, Joan Smith announced that her ministry had been appointed to look into the regulation of captive wildlife facilities among a number of animal protection problems and would introduce sweeping measures to address them. An inter-ministerial committee called the Animal Welfare Review Committee(AWRC) was established.

In 1994, after several rounds of public consultations, the AWRC produced a report which presented comprehensive recommendations for regulating captive wildlife and improving animal welfare in Ontario but none were implemented.

In 1997, Bill 159, *Exotic Animal Controls Act* was introduced by Progressive Conservative MPP, John Parker.

In 1999, the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* passed which regulated the keeping of native wildlife through a licensing system.

In 2006, Bill 154, *The Regulation of Zoos Act* was introduced by Liberal MPP, David Zimmer. It died on the order paper when the legislature prorogued for the provincial election.

In 2010, Bill 125, *An Act to Amend the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* was introduced by Liberal MPP Dave Levac.

In November 2008, the Ontario government passed Bill 50, *the Provincial Animal Welfare Act*. The bill introduced the first comprehensive changes to the *Ontario SPCA Act* since it was first enacted in 1919. The legislation was proclaimed on March 1 2009 and made it a provincial offence to cause or permit distress to any animal with the strongest penalties in the country, including the potential to prohibit the offender for owning animals ever again. The new law gives the Ontario SPCA the authority to inspect zoos and other facilities that keep animals for exhibition, entertainment, boarding, hire or sale. New captive wildlife standards are established through the regulations under the Act and failure to comply with these is a provincial offence.

Appendix 3

Wild Animal Housing and Management

What is animal welfare?

Animal welfare involves much more than just satisfying an animal's basic physical survival needs (eg., food, water, shelter) or the absence of injury or disease. While physical functions and overall condition are important aspects of welfare, an animal's welfare can still be poor in the absence of obvious physical problems. Fear, boredom, frustration, anxiety, various states of deprivation, stress and other negative emotional states may be experienced by animals and result in poor welfare, even when things appear "normal".

Poor conditions where animals are unable to engage in species-typical movements and behaviours, may lead to lethargy (excessive sitting, lying or sleeping), an increase in abnormal self-directed behaviours (hair pulling) or behaviours directed at their immediate surroundings (bar licking).

Many animals also develop stereotypic behaviours (prolonged, obsessive, repetitive, apparently purposeless activities that do not occur in the wild).

Stereotypic behaviours, such as rocking, pacing, weaving and bar biting, typically occur when animals have failed to cope with a chronic stressor or are unable to remove themselves from stressful situations. Poor captive conditions produce a range of stereotypies, as well as a broad range of other abnormal behaviours.

Accommodation

Cages, enclosures and other forms of animal containment (animal accommodation) should be designed according to the specific needs of the species to be kept. In all cases, accommodation must be designed to make animals feel comfortable, secure and it should encourage a broad range of species-typical movements and behaviours.

The physical environment provided to captive animals is directly linked to their welfare because it is what the animals interact with on a daily basis.

Animal accommodation includes glass aquaria/terraria, aviaries, standard chain-link/welded mesh cages, moated islands, fenced pens and larger more naturalistic paddocks. In most cases, large natural paddocks provide a far greater range of behavioural opportunities than smaller, more compressed types of accommodation.

The shape of an animals living space can be an important factor in animal health and wellbeing. Arboreal mammals require high enclosures that allow them to climb, while many group-housed animals should be kept in enclosures that are free from dead ends or sharp corners or alcoves where dominant animals can potentially trap subordinate cagemates.

Space

Space is a critical consideration in wild animal housing. Typically cage and enclosure size is determined by available space and budget and not the biological and behavioural needs of the animals themselves. The fact is that most cages and enclosures are thousands or millions of times smaller than the home ranges or territories of animals in the wild. Therefore, a good rule of thumb when considering the allocation of space for wild animals in captivity, regardless of species, is the bigger the better. There is no upper limit to cage size.

At the least, all animals should be provided with enough space to express natural movements (such as flying, running or swimming at speed) and a full range of species-typical behaviours. Three questions relating to space should always be considered: 1) Do the animals have enough space to behave normally; 2) Do the animals have enough space to feel secure; and 3) What are the consequences of not providing enough space?

It is always better for animals to have more space than they need, than to need more space and not have it. There is no downside to more space, but there is a considerable downside when there is not enough space.

However, it is also important to recognize that a large barren, cage or enclosure can be as damaging to an animal's well-being as an enclosure that is too small. While enclosures should be as large as possible, they should also be inherently complex and high quality.

Barriers

The barriers that confine animals should be solidly constructed, free from defects, species-appropriate and able to safely contain the animals.

Materials like chain-link, weld-mesh and bars can often be cheaper than many alternatives and if used creatively with an understanding of an animal's biology and behaviour, can form effective enclosures that provide opportunities for animals to climb or perch.

Areas where different materials meet (e.g. wooden fences to brick walls, wire mesh to wooden frames etc.) should be considered potential weak points and monitored for wear and tear. Broken wires /masonry, rusted metal, rotten wood, etc. should all be replaced or repaired as they may present a danger to animals, staff and visitors.

Whenever chain-link, weld-mesh or other materials are affixed to a post or support structure, they should ideally be fixed to the interior side of the support to prevent detachment caused by an animal pushing or leaning against it. As well, fences containing animals that dig should be buried at least three feet into the ground and angled inward at a 45 degree angle to prevent them from digging out beneath the fence. For animals that climb or jump, fencing should be high enough to prevent them from jumping over, with a section angled inward at a 45 degree angle at the top.

Substrates

All terrestrial animals have evolved specific physical and behavioural traits that allow them to exist comfortably on particular kinds of substrates (floor surfaces), so those substrates should be provided in captivity. Concrete, gunite (a molded, concrete-like material) and hardpan (earth compacted to a concrete-like consistency) substrates are not acceptable.

Hard surfaces may often be preferable from a management perspective as they are easier to clean and maintain than natural surfaces, but they are antithetical to good animal husbandry. Hard surfaces can be uncomfortable or physically damaging to animals; increase the thermal load animals experience by radiating heat in hot weather and cooling down rapidly in cold weather; are inherently boring; and they hinder public education by presenting animals in a situation far removed from their natural ecological context.

Raised wire floor surfaces are also inappropriate. They are typically used because they allow feces to drop through, making it quicker and easier to clean. However, raised wire floors can cause discomfort, pain, infection and injury, even when great care is taken in choosing the type and gauge of wire.

Wire floors can also make heat regulation difficult, because air flows freely through the floor from below, as well as through any other barriers that are constructed of wire. In certain circumstances, they also make it difficult to provide proper bedding, since straw, wood chips and other materials may work their way through the wire to the ground below.

All animals should be provided with soft substrate floor surfaces that are comfortable and that provide a range of behavioural opportunities.

Structural Enhancements, Furnishings & Enrichment

All wild animal cages and enclosures should contain structural enhancements and furnishings that encourage species-typical movements and behaviours. The daily animal management regime should also incorporate an enrichment program that includes object introductions, food and sense-based and temporal enrichment. Enrichment should be an integral part of daily animal husbandry regimes, and should not be considered optional.

Structural enhancements through the provision of permanent exhibit features (contoured surface topography, giant rocks, mature trees, streams, pools) must be carefully considered during the initial exhibit design phase, since the likelihood of those features being changed after construction is minimal. The biology and behaviour of the species to be confined must be a major factor in all decisions regarding which features to incorporate into an exhibit.

There are an almost endless variety of furnishings can be incorporated into exhibits. Some examples are small trees, branches, logs, log piles, small rock piles, brush

mounds, root balls, moveable sand/bark/mulch pits, other novel substrates, nesting boxes, pipes, tubes, visual baffles, shade structures, moveable climbing apparatus, platforms, hammocks, bungy cords, rope ladders, hanging rings, scratching posts, pools, streams, sprinklers, water jets, rafts, brushes, puzzle feeders, boomer balls, nylabones, traffic cones, wooden rings, cardboard boxes, etc. Most of these are things that animals can use and manipulate.

Food Enrichment

Food-related enrichment strategies can be an important facet of enrichment programming. For many species, food acquisition activity represents a significant percentage of their daily routine. In fact, the process of acquiring food is extremely important for nearly all animals, with most species having evolved specific physical and behavioural traits that favour food acquisition over other kinds of activity.

Study of the activity budgets of wild animals provides a basis for comparison with captive animals. Food acquisition activity can comprise 50% or more of a wild animals daily activity, so it's important that expression of species-typical food-related behaviours in captive animals be encouraged and facilitated by animal caretakers.

Historically, many captive animals have been fed infrequently, often once or twice a day according to a fixed schedule. This virtual elimination of food acquisition activity leaves animals bored and inactive. Staggered feeding schedules, the introduction of live food items, hiding food items, painting food treats such as jam or honey in hard to reach locations to encourage stretching and climbing, whole carcass feeds for carnivores, the provision of multiple foraging opportunities for ungulates and other strategies that make animals search and work for their food can all be used to increase activity.

The idea that animals should be fed on a fixed timetable with no variation as part of a regime of total institutionalized care should be considered an anachronistic method of animal husbandry that is no longer acceptable.

Sense-based enrichment strategies include, but are not limited to, the addition of various animal odours, providing catnip, audio of conspecifics, while temporal enrichment practices may include changing the times of various components of the management regime or shifting animals into new spaces at irregular times.

Shelter & Privacy

Shelter is an important aspect of animal care that is surprisingly often overlooked or ignored. Shelters come in many shapes and sizes, including artificial structures (wooden boxes), building interiors, underground dens, hollow trees or even dense thickets of vegetation.

Shade shelters may simply be camouflage netting draped on top of a cage, purpose-built canopies or even large trees that animals can stand under.

Shelter should be always be available so that all animals are able to retreat from adverse weather conditions or remove themselves from excessive sunlight when required. Shelter should not be reliant on indoor holding areas alone, but should be available in the primary living space as well.

When animals are housed in groups, all individuals must be able to access shelter at the same time, even if they are unlikely to do so. As well, shelters should be constructed so there is no possibility of dominant animals trapping subordinate animals inside.

Shelter boxes should be weatherproof and raised off the ground if flooding is a concern. In cold climates, sleeping boxes should also have an appropriate door flap or covering so that heat generated by the animal is trapped in the interior of the shelter. In addition, sleeping boxes should be freely accessible to the animals, contain bedding materials and, in most cases, their interiors should not be open to public view.

Privacy areas are also important as animals must always have the opportunity to remove themselves from public view or, in some cases, the view of their cagemates. Strategically placed visual baffles and the provision of multiple shelters can help satisfy this need.

Lack of privacy is particularly problematic when viewing stations allow visitors to get so close to the animals that their “fight or flight” response (the distance at which an animal would want to flee from or defend itself against a perceived threat) is triggered. Violation of the “fight or flight” distance can result in high levels of stress and/or attempts to flee that result in injury or death.

Privacy from cagemates can also be an important husbandry consideration. Many animal species establish social hierarchies in captivity, where dominant individuals exercise first choice of food, preferred areas for resting, sunning, etc. For this reason, it is important that subordinate animals not only be able to avoid physical contact with dominant cagemates, but that they are able to remove themselves from visual contact as well.

Privacy can also be important for species that delineate a territory through visual means. Placing them together in groups can be very stressful.

Environmental Conditions

Animal welfare is based, in part, on an animal’s ability to successfully adapt to changes in environmental conditions without suffering. So all captive animals should have conditions of temperature, humidity, light and ventilation consistent with their biology and behaviour.

High temperature and humidity can be particularly challenging to deal with. Mammals and birds have the ability to elevate internal heat production when they get cold, but they have difficulty cooling themselves down when they get excessively

hot because they can only reduce heat production to a level compatible with continuation of their basic metabolic processes. This may not be sufficient to deal with conditions of high heat, so captive animals must be given the opportunity to thermoregulate by moving to cooler, shady areas such as forest cover, burrows, rock cavities, pools, etc. They must also be provided with potable water at all times.

Also problematic is the structuring of zoo husbandry practices around staff timetables. Doing so often ignores the need of animals to maintain natural cycles, such as photoperiod (the amount of light and dark each day). While this is less of a problem for animals housed in outdoor exhibits (unless they are out of their normal geographic range and their biology and behaviour is related to or dependent on normal photoperiod), it can be a real problem for animals housed inside. Behaviour is often influenced by the amount of light and dark animals experience. Species originating in equatorial regions tend to require relatively constant hours of light and dark, but this changes substantially as you move further from the equator.

This should be a consideration when dealing with animals in captivity. Turning the lights on when staff arrive in the morning and shutting them off when they go home may not be an appropriate husbandry protocol for many species.

Light and ventilation are important husbandry considerations. If a species is nocturnal it should not be forced to be active or on constant display during the day, unless displayed in a suitable reverse lighting, nocturnal exhibit. Inadequate ventilation in any enclosure may result in over-heating and unnecessary stress.

Drinking Water

All enclosures should be outfitted with a supply of fresh, potable water at all times. In group housing situations, each enclosure should contain a sufficient number of watering stations to prevent dominant animals from monopolizing access to drinking water. In cold climates, drinking water should be presented in a way that it does not freeze.

Safety

Whenever wild animals, especially potentially dangerous species, are confined, safety of the animals, staff, visitors and neighbours must always be a primary consideration.

All enclosures should be designed with enough space and complexity that animals will not be preoccupied with escape. Contented animals that are able to engage in a range of normal behaviours are less problematic in this regard.

All barriers (including gates and doors) must be constructed with the physical abilities of the animals in mind. Walls must be high enough that animals cannot jump over them, moats must be too wide for animals to leap across and fences must be strong enough that animals can't push them over or pull them apart.

Gates and doorways should fit snugly against fences and walls, leaving no gaps in between and they should not bend or warp when locked. They should always open inwards and sliding barriers should be constructed to prevent animals from lifting them off their hinges or tracks.

Enclosures should ideally be equipped with double door entry systems that allow staff to enter through one door, closing it behind them, before opening the second door into the exhibit. This prevents the inadvertent escape of animals that may 'sneak' past anyone entering the exhibit. While this system is advisable for all enclosures, it is absolutely essential for exhibits housing potentially dangerous animals.

As well, all enclosures housing potentially dangerous animals must be equipped with secondary containment (or shift) areas, where animals can be secured during routine maintenance, cleaning or for veterinary purposes. This area should be secured by a horizontally sliding door that can be safely operated from outside of the exhibit.

All enclosures should be locked, regardless of species. Not only does this prevent animal escapes, particularly with intelligent animals that can learn to open doors and gates, but it may prevent entry into exhibits by trespassers, vandals and thieves.

A stand-off barrier to keep visitors a safe distance from the animal cages is also important. Visitors should not be able to put their fingers, hands or arms into cages or even make contact with the cage itself. This protects both visitors and animals and prevents the transmission of disease between animals and humans.

An essential component of any zoo security strategy is a perimeter fence. Some zoo associations have made perimeter fencing a mandatory requirement for accreditation. Perimeter fencing should ideally be two metres in height, topped with barbed wire and the base of the fence should be buried into the ground to a depth of at least one metre or affixed to a concrete curb or base. Not only will a perimeter fence discourage escaped animals from leaving the zoo grounds, it will also discourage unwanted entry by human trespassers and feral animals. Large trees that overhang the fence should be trimmed to ensure that they do not fall, thereby creating openings that animals could escape through.

Night lighting should be considered in key areas as an aid to security personnel.

Protocols to deal with animal escapes, human injury, natural disasters and other emergency situations must be in place. Drugs to immobilize potentially dangerous, escaped animals and firearms to prevent loss of life should be on site and in good working order. All staff should be familiar with emergency plans and protocols that are outlined in a manual that all staff are required to review.

