



## **THE SAD STORY BEHIND GUZOO ANIMAL FARM:**

*A review of the history of Guzoo  
and the lack of enforcement of the  
Alberta Wildlife Act.*

March 30, 2005



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## Executive Summary

In 1987, the first provincial zoo permit was issued to Guzoo Animal Farm (a.k.a. Kneehill Animal Control and Rehabilitation Centre) in Three Hills, Alberta. Previously the facility had held only a fur farm licence. Since that time, Guzoo has generated considerable controversy due to its poor animal housing and husbandry practices and unsafe conditions for visitors.

Between 1992 and 1994, Guzoo's owner, Lynn Gustafson, was convicted of three provincial offences relating to his zoo operation: two convictions under the *Wildlife Act* for illegally possessing and trafficking exotic animals and an *Animal Protection Act* offence for failing to relieve the distress of a zoo animal.

In January, 1993 the President of the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) called for Guzoo's permit to be revoked, noting that "the well-being of the animals is being seriously compromised by problems with lack of disease control, dirty conditions, inadequate caging and inappropriate winter shelters. There is also a real concern for public safety."

Ongoing complaints from members of the public and animal welfare groups about the poor condition of Guzoo's animals and its generally substandard conditions, including filthy cages, lack of water, inadequate shelters and barren enclosures, prompted Alberta Fish and Wildlife, a department of Alberta Sustainable Resources Development (SRD), to form a multi-agency task force to inspect the facility in 1999. The task force identified deficiencies in the following areas: sanitation, feeding standards, public safety, physical comfort and well-being of animals, handling and isolation facilities and record keeping.

In 2000, the SRD Minister promised that tough, new zoo regulations would be developed. In the interim time period, his department began shortening the term of and adding special conditions to Guzoo's permits, presumably an effort to address the various animal husbandry and public safety concerns identified by the task force. However, nearly five years later, no regulations are in place and substantive changes at Guzoo are few in number.

Fish and Wildlife and the ASPCA are not the only provincial agencies that have expressed concern about conditions at Guzoo. In 1999, the Alberta Health Authority ordered Guzoo's owner to implement procedures to reduce the risk of injury to visitors and the spread of disease from animals to humans. In 2002, the same agency produced a report detailing 10 biting incidents at Guzoo, and sent a letter to Fish and Wildlife requesting that public health and safety conditions be added to Guzoo's permit.

In addition to the concerns raised by members of the public, various animal welfare organizations and provincial agencies, the media has also been reporting on the plight of Guzoo's animals. In 2000, *W5*, a national newsmagazine show, produced an expose on Guzoo called *Cruel Cages*. The show included footage of the zoo owner feeding soda pop and junk food to the animals, as well as children interacting with carnivores. Guzoo's owner, Lynn Gustafson, also spoke on camera about supplying animals for private individuals to keep as pets.

In 2003, the *Calgary Sun* published an article that included photographs of Guzoo and identified others as "too graphic to print". In 2004, the *Calgary Herald* published a detailed article which

described Guzoo's filthy conditions and visitors interacting with potentially dangerous animals. These represent only a small fraction of the media reports generated over the years.

The *Wildlife Act*, while not specific about zoo animal housing and husbandry standards, does provide an opportunity for Fish and Wildlife to add special conditions to permits which are enforceable under the law. Since the Fish and Wildlife task force finished its report in 2000, eleven zoo permits have been issued to Guzoo, each with special conditions attached. However, evidence shows that the owner has not complied with all permit conditions and still charges have not been laid for these apparent violations of the *Wildlife Act*.

Conditions which do not appear to be in compliance with the permit conditions have been documented by video, still photographs and written reports from members of the public, zoo industry representatives, a veterinarian, a wildlife rehabilitator, animal protection organizations, media, the Alberta SPCA and even Fish and Wildlife enforcement staff. Yet, even after receiving all of these reports and complaints, charges still have not been laid and SRD continues to renew Guzoo's permit. This lack of enforcement action raises a question as to whether SRD and the Alberta government is more concerned with one zoo operator than they are with the welfare of wildlife and the health and safety of zoo visitors.

The following report is a compilation of photos and information received through Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) from Alberta SRD; investigations conducted by Zoocheck Canada and the World Society for the Protection of Animals; media reports; and documentation received from members of the public. The purpose of this report is to provide a brief historical account of the problems at Guzoo.



Black Bear Drinking Water - 1994



Musk ox Drinking Water - 1998



Musk ox Drinking Water - 2001



Raccoon Drinking Water  
Winter 2002-2003



Raccoon Drinking Water  
June, 2003



Raccoon Drinking Water - June, 2004



Drinking Water - Winter, 2005

\* Despite continued complaints regarding the state of drinking water for the animals housed at Guzoo, some animals still lack fresh clean water.



Japanese Macaque - 1998



Japanese Macaque - 2001



Japanese Macaque - 2003



Japanese Macaque - June, 2004



Japanese Macaque - Winter, 2005

\* This Japanese macaque enclosure is virtually unchanged since 1998. The enclosure provides little enrichment opportunity for the animals housed within.



Tiger Cage - 1998



Tiger Cage - 2001



Tiger Cage - 2003



Tiger Cage - June 2004



Tiger Cage - Winter 2005

\* No substantive changes have been made to this tiger enclosure since 1998. The enclosure provides virtually no enrichment opportunities for the animal housed within.



Visitor interacting with coyotes - 1994



Young girl feeding Raccoons - 2001



Visitor petting tiger - 2003



Child next to lion cage  
June 2004



Children playing with wolf pup  
June 2004

\* Despite concerns outlined by the Alberta Health Authority and SRD, visitors to Guzoo have still been encouraged to interact with animals which pose public health and safety risks.

## A Review of the History of Guzoo Animal Farm

The following information about Guzoo Animal Farm in Three Hills, Alberta was compiled from documents received from Alberta Sustainable Resources Development through Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) process, reports published by Zoocheck Canada and the World Society for the Protection of Animals and media reports.

1987 - Complaints are received by Fish and Wildlife reporting that L. Gustafson, owner of Guzoo, has been **illegally keeping emus and raccoons**. Officers reportedly advise him that it is illegal and that the animals will be seized. When officers arrive to investigate, the animals are gone.

June 1989 – Owner and operator of Guzoo, Mr. Lynn Gustafson, is **convicted of illegal possession of exotic animals**.

December, 1992 - Mr. Gustafson is **convicted under the Animal Protection Act** for failing to relieve the distress of a zoo animal. One media source reported that **Judge Clozza had stated that there was no question in his mind that the animal was “sick, in pain and suffering.”**

September, 1992 – A news release by **the Alberta SPCA calls for better legislation to deal with the ongoing problems at Guzoo**.

January, 1993 - The **Alberta SPCA president calls for Guzoo’s permit to be revoked** stating that “the well-being of the animals is being seriously compromised by problems with **lack of disease control, dirty conditions, inadequate caging and inappropriate winter shelters**. There is also a real **concern for public safety**”.

February, 1994 - Mr. Gustafson, is **convicted of illegal possession and trafficking in exotic animals for a second time**.

July, 1994 – Mr. Gustafson is designated the animal control officer for Three Hills, Alberta, despite the **convictions of failing to relieve the distress of an animal and illegal possession and trafficking of animals**.

June 21, 1995 - A representative from Drumheller Health Unit reportedly inspects Guzoo after a complaint about **Salmonella** at the facility. No further details were available.

July 1, 1995 – Drumheller Occurrence 055M19995 document reports that Fish and Wildlife representatives visit Guzoo to investigate the **escape of fawns and lynx**. No further details are revealed.

June, 1996 – A District Occurrence Report issued by Alberta Environmental Protection notes the following conditions: **animals without water, dirty cages, lack of nesting for birds, no adult supervision at the zoo, and “dead animals, all over, even in empty cages”**.

November 27, 1998 – A memorandum to Al Cook of the Commercial Wildlife Branch, from Fish and Wildlife Officer, Byron Jensen, notes “In particular, complaints of animal care (**sick looking animals, elongated hooves, chained animals, lack of protection from summer heat and winter cold, etc.**) the presence of flies from **rotting flesh left in the enclosures**, associated smells from rotting flesh and **unfit or lack of drinking water** are encountered **every year.**”

August, 1999 - **Health Authority 5 orders Guzoo’s owner** to implement changes to address ongoing **public health and safety issues** (including stopping the practice of allowing the public to have direct contact with dangerous animals).

1999 - **Fish & Wildlife establishes a multi-agency task force to inspect Guzoo.** The team consists of representatives from the zoo industry, the Alberta SPCA, the Alberta Health Authority, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, and Guzoo’s veterinarian. The team reports Guzoo to be **substandard in the following areas: sanitation, feeding standards, public safety, physical comfort and well-being of animals, handling and isolation facilities and record keeping.** Guzoo’s owner is reportedly given until March, 2000 to develop a plan to address its deficiencies within a 12 month period.

January, 2000 – Zoocheck Canada and WSPA commission retired zoo professional, Marilyn Cole (20 years experience with Toronto Zoo), to perform an inspection of Alberta and Saskatchewan zoos and document her findings. Cole comments about Guzoo as follows: “By all rights, this zoo should be closed. In addition to the numerous animal welfare concerns, there are many public health and safety concerns as well.” The **report goes on to describe sick animals, filthy cages, rotting food in cages, uncontrolled public feeding of zoo animals, abnormal behavior in animals** and an overall lack of attention to their physical and psychological needs.

January, 2000 - Sustainable Resources Development (SRD) **Minister Gary Mar calls for stronger zoo regulations to deal with the problems at Guzoo.**

February, 2000 – CTV’s **W-Five airs an expose on Guzoo called *Cruel Cages*.** The show includes footage of Lynn Gustafson feeding animals Dr. Pepper soda pop and Twinkies, as well as, children interacting with carnivores at Guzoo.

April 1, 2000 – SRD issues Guzoo’s permit with special conditions regarding sanitation, public feeding and interaction with zoo animals, fence repairs, shelter for animals and the general well-being of animals at the zoo. In addition, the zoo owner is told to develop a plan to address the concerns raised in the task force report. Before this, zoo permits have been issued annually to Guzoo.

May 31, 2000 – A Fish and Wildlife memo states that the “**development plan did not fully satisfy the concerns identified by the inspection committee.**” It suggests that a temporary permit valid for six months be issued. “This permit will, under stipulated conditions and department supervision, allow continued operation of a six-month period (from the time of the permit issuance), and provide the permittee an opportunity to wind down the operation. The permittee will be advised that no permit will be issued after the six month period”.

July 1, 2000 – Another 3 month permit is issued to Guzoo with an additional condition prohibiting the zoo from adding new animals to the collection.

July, 2000 – Representatives from the Animal Welfare Branch of Alberta Agriculture visit Guzoo and note concerns about a **paralyzed cougar cub** and an **ostrich that had a skin condition that had been also observed the prior year**. “This lack of attention to animal care needs to be addressed and should be impressed upon Lynn Gustafson.”

September 27, 2000 – A Fish and Wildlife inspection report documents **dirty water, a primate trailer swarming with flies and cages coated with dried feces and food, no shade in the bear enclosure, animals still being fed off of the ground, enclosures littered with scraps of meat or other food and visibly overgrown hooves of barbary sheep** among other things.

October 1, 2000 – A six month permit, still containing special conditions, is issued to Guzoo.

October, 2000 - Zoocheck Canada commissions veterinarian and animal behaviorist, Dr. Samatha Scott, to inspect Guzoo and document her findings. **Dr. Scott’s report reveals that little substantive change has been made since the Cole inspection**. The report describes **lack of enrichment for animals, cages in various stages of decay and disrepair, empty and dirty water containers, inappropriate feeding practices, stereotypic behavior in many animals, as well as public health and safety concerns**.

April 1, 2001 – Guzoo’s permit is renewed for one year with an additional condition to provide enrichment for the animals.

April, 2001 - A report prepared by Fish & Wildlife staff indicated that **Mr. Gustafson was advised that “failure to meet the conditions of the short term permit will result in no further permit being issued.”**

April 27, 2001 - Fish & Wildlife Officer Byron Jensen reports that **permit conditions are not being met at Guzoo**. Examples include, bread still being fed to animals (Condition 6 of permit) and stand off barriers are still not in place around all relevant enclosures.

May, 2001 – **Fish and Wildlife turns over 2 orphaned black bear cubs to Guzoo.**

July, 2001 – An internal government e-mail reveals that **monthly inspections of Guzoo are ordered** by Kevin Stalker, which he notes are “due to ongoing concerns surrounding the operation of Guzoo Animal Farm.”

August, 2001 – A Fish and Wildlife Area Manager for Camrose / Red Deer Management Areas notes in an e-mail to Kevin Stalker that he has concerns about **the public contact with wildlife** at Guzoo and advised that the Edmonton and Calgary Officers do not allow public contact.

November, 2001 - Wildlife rehabilitator, Sian Waters and conservation biologist Clio Smeeton visit Guzoo and document **filthy conditions, a monkey with an open wound, frozen water in some cages, a Himalayan tahr that had escaped the enclosure and began to attack a mouflon, as well as various health and safety concerns**.

January, 2002 - the **Alberta Health Authority sends a list of health recommendations to Fish & Wildlife** Officer B. Jensen to address the **ongoing public health and safety concerns at Guzoo.**

February, 2002 - the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) publishes the report of Sian Waters and Clio Smeeton.

March, 2002 - **Health Authority 5 produces a report outlining 10 injuries suffered by visitors to Guzoo** who have been bitten by animals between 1997 and 2002. Fish & Wildlife representatives reportedly meet with the Public Health Authority to discuss the biting incidents at Guzoo.

April, 2002 – Guzoo’s permit is renewed for six months with an added permit condition to address public health and safety risks as were outlined by the Public Health Authority.

June, 2002 - Zoocheck Canada and WSPA commission a report by zoo professional, J. Long to inspect the Guzoo facility and document her findings. **The Long report describes inappropriate caging, build up of feces in cages, fly-infested carcasses, injured animals, dirty water, stereotypic behavior, and public health and safety risks.**

May, 2003 – *The Calgary Sun* publishes an article which reports that Alberta Fish and Wildlife are launching an investigation into the Guzoo petting zoo in Three Hills after **dozens of animal carcasses were found decaying** on the property. The article includes some photos but notes that other photos of the facility are “too graphic to print.”

April, 2004 – Guzoo’s permit is renewed for two months with added conditions to address carcass handling, vet care and requires a new zoo plan be developed.

May 10, 2004 - The issue of **poor conditions at Guzoo and the lack of zoo standards is raised by MLA Laurie Blakeman in the Alberta legislature.** SRD Minister Mike Cardinal promised to visit the facility personally to inspect, but he reportedly never did.

June 1, 2004 – Guzoo’s permit is renewed for a six month period.

June, 2004 - Zoocheck and WSPA commission Richard Farinato, former zoo professional and Captive Wildlife Expert for the Humane Society of the United States to inspect Guzoo and document his findings. The **report outlines filthy conditions, lack of enrichment, rotting food and dirty water, contact between children and wolf cubs and poorly maintained enclosures** among other things.

August, 2004 – *The Calgary Herald* publishes a 2 ½ page article which describes **poor conditions at Guzoo.**

November, 2004 – Zoocheck publishes Richard Farinato’s report from his June visit. Observations documented in the report included many apparent **permit violations.** An official complaint is filed by Zoocheck Canada.

December 1, 2004 – Despite Fish and Wildlife having received reports of apparent **permit violations** including video tape, photos, etc. Guzoo's permit is renewed for another 4 months. Once again new permit criteria are added which require a quarantine area be provided for zoo animals, a prohibition to farm dogs running throughout the zoo to reduce the risk of spread of disease and keep the dogs from harassing the zoo animals and a requirement for zoo staff to be on hand at Guzoo at all times.

December, 2004 – The renewal of Guzoo's permit sparks controversy in media reports across the country. The question arises as to why a facility that has apparently been violating permit conditions, and thereby violating provincial law for years, is allowed to continue to operate in the Province of Alberta.

January 3, 2005 – A Zoocheck Canada staff person visiting Southern Alberta stops by Guzoo to look at the facility. Her visit revealed that **most animals have no water, cages are filthy and dogs were still running throughout the zoo.**

January 11, 2005 – Alberta SPCA Constable Terry Wagman visits Guzoo and reports having **observed the farm dogs in the zoo and indicated that there was no staff person on site during his inspection, both of which are apparent violations of Guzoo's current permit.**

January 21, 2005 - Fish and Wildlife **issued written warnings to the owner of Guzoo for contravention of permit conditions 6, 7, & 8.** These were resulting from complaints received from Zoocheck and members of the public.

February 16, 2005 – A visitor to Guzoo files a complaint to Fish and Wildlife which included photos of farm dogs running throughout the zoo, **another apparent violation of Guzoo's current permit.**

March 23, 2005 – Zoocheck Canada issues a media release questioning who is calling the shots at SRD. The national zoo watchdog group criticizes the government for lack of enforcement of the Wildlife Act.

## A Review of Apparent Permit Violations at Guzoo

Before April, 2000 the permit conditions for Guzoo were limited to 4 basic conditions, namely: 1) the permittee shall hold the Minister harmless from liability; 2) insurance is required; 3) off premises animal displays be reported to Fish and Wildlife; and 4) authorization by Fish and Wildlife is required to add new animals to the collection.

Public complaints about the welfare of animals at Guzoo were frequent and a Fish and Wildlife occurrence report during this period, indicated dirty conditions, lack of water, “dead animals all over, even in empty cages”, lack of shelter for animals and lack of supervision by zoo staff.

In 1999 an inspection task force was established by Fish and Wildlife to review the conditions at Guzoo and make recommendations. The task force found the following areas to be substandard: sanitation, feeding standards, public safety, physical comfort and well being of animals, handling and isolation facilities and record keeping. In April, 2000 additional conditions were added to the permit to address the concerns raised by the task force. Since that time, various conditions have been added and removed each time the permit has been renewed.

In addition to the few Fish & Wildlife inspection reports we have received, Zoocheck Canada has a number of well documented complaints and reports in the form of notes, photos and video tape.

The following information has been extracted from documentation received via FOIPP from SRD up to 2002 and directly from people who visited the facility and forwarded their complaints to us directly. Many of the complaints and reports had additional details that are not directly related to the permit conditions. In an effort to keep this summary focused, complaints not directly related to potential permit violations have been excluded.

The following is a summary of the conditions that, when compared to the permit criteria for the same period, would seem to indicate that Fish and Wildlife has been gathering and receiving information about apparent permit violations since 2000. The related permit conditions are noted next to each entry. During that time no charges have been laid.

May 13, 2000 - Memo from a Fish and Wildlife inspector, to an Area Manager indicates the following:

- Guzoo’s owner “has not initiated any improvements as per his 2000 development plan as of this date” (contrary to conditions 5, 6 & possibly 7)
- The perimeter fence is in the same state of disrepair as had been previously observed (contrary to condition 5)

July, 2000 – An Agriculture Welfare Branch representative visited Guzoo and noted the following:

- An Ostrich with a skin condition that had also been observed on visits from the prior year. (contrary to condition 11)
- A cougar cub with paralysis. (contrary to condition 11)

July 7, 2000 – An internal Fish and Wildlife memo indicates the following:

- “The development plan did not fully satisfy the concerns identified by the inspection committee” (contrary to conditions 9, 10 & possibly 11)

September 27, 2000 – Fish and Wildlife’s Site Visit report notes the following area of concerns:

- Large gaps underneath enclosure gates (contrary to condition 8)
- Ostrich gate has sharp chain-link wires protruding at the top (contrary to condition 8)
- Peccary pen fence allows people to reach in and touch the animal (contrary to conditions 8, 9, & possibly 7)
- All water dishes in the zoo were dirty (contrary to conditions 6 & 11)
- Primate trailer was swarming with flies and cages coated with dried feces and food. (contrary to conditions 6 & 11)
- No shade in large bear pen (contrary to condition 11)
- Some enclosures littered with scraps of meat or other food mixed in with bedding or cage litter. (contrary to conditions 6 & 11)
- 2 coyotes with an inadequately sized shelter (contrary to conditions 10 & 11)
- A broken overhang fence in tiger cage, which is designed to prevent the animals escape. (contrary to condition 8)
- Barbary sheep with overgrown hooves (contrary to condition 11)

October 24, 2000 – Veterinarian Dr. S. Scott visited Guzoo and noted in her report the following:

- Cages in various stages of disrepair (contrary to condition 7)
- Inadequate shelter for foxes (contrary to condition 9)

- Dirty water containers (contrary to conditions 5 & 10)
- Areas caked in feces (contrary to conditions 5 & 10)
- Unsupervised feeding of zoo animals by visitors (contrary to condition 8)

April 20, 2001 – Fish and Wildlife Inspector's report indicates the following:

- Guzoo has a Collared Peccary which was not on his Schedule B
- Except for the heated barn, no cleaning schedule exists for the zoo exhibits (contrary to condition 5)
- Guzoo's owner is not ensuring that bread is not fed to Schedule B animals (contrary to condition 6)

November 19, 2001 – Wildlife rehabilitator, Clio Smeeton and conservation biologist, Sian Waters visited Guzoo and reported the following:

- Cages with excessive amounts of feces present (contrary to condition 5 & 10)
- An open wound on a capuchin monkey (contrary to condition 10)
- Lack of water for many animals (contrary to condition 10)
- Unsupervised public contact with animals (contrary to condition 8)
- Lack of enrichment for most animals (contrary to condition 7)

June 15, 2002 - Zoo professional, Jennifer Long visited Guzoo and noted the following concerns in her report:

- Lack of standoff barriers in some areas (contrary to condition 5)
- Unsupervised feeding of zoo animals by visitors (contrary to condition 7)
- Lack of clean potable water (The condition requiring the well being of animals was removed in April 2002)
- Excessive amounts of feces in many cages & fly-infested carcasses lying around (The condition relating to sanitation was removed in April, 2002)

April, 2003 –Video tape was received with a complaint from a visitor to Guzoo which revealed the following:

- Zoo visitors interacting directly with carnivores and other animals unsupervised (contrary to condition 6)
- Unsupervised feeding of zoo animals by visitors (contrary to condition 6)
- Some cages in a state of disrepair (contrary to condition 5)
- Lack of water and adequate shelter for some animals (The condition requiring the well being of animals was removed in April 2002)
- Rotting carcasses in many cages (The condition relating to sanitation was removed in April, 2002)

April, 2004 – A visitor to Guzoo sent Zoocheck a copy of her complaint to Fish and Wildlife resulting from her visit on this date. The complaint noted the following:

- Escaped Yaks (contrary to condition 5 & 8)
- Dirty conditions and nauseating smell (The condition relating to sanitation was removed in April, 2002)

April 25, 2004 – A visitor to Guzoo sent Zoocheck a copy of his complaint to Fish and Wildlife resulting from his visit on this date. The complaint noted the following:

- Zoo staff offered him an opportunity to enter the tiger cage and play with the big cats -he did not go in “for obvious reasons” (contrary to condition 6)
- Lack of drinking water for animals (The condition requiring the well being of animals was removed in April 2002)

May 27, 2004 – Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Center owners and operators, Casey & Shelley Black, were visiting Guzoo for the purpose of purchasing wolf pups. After their return, Mr. Black sent the following complaint to Zoocheck. The complaint was forwarded in its original form to Fish and Wildlife.

- The Black’s were escorted into the wolf enclosure having been told that all adult wolves were under restraint or out of the enclosure. When they looked in the wolf den they saw an adult wolf looking back at them (contrary to condition 6). Guzoo’s owner told Mr. Black that he thought the wolf had died a year earlier since he had not observed since that time. The baby wolves that were to be purchased had apparently been eaten by the adult. This complaint did not include any information about the rest of the zoo but noted

that he had known Guzoo's owner for 4 years and was not impressed with Guzoo from the beginning. He went on to say that while Guzoo's owner may have good intentions he does not take good care of his animals and in his opinion is not qualified to breed animals.

June 20, 2004 – A visitor to Guzoo copied Zoocheck on her complaint to Fish and Wildlife from her visit to Guzoo on this date. The complaint included a video tape and reported the following:

- She was invited into a cage with an 18 month old lion (contrary to condition 6)
- Lack of enrichment (contrary to condition 12)
- Lack of clean water and filthy cage conditions (The condition relating to sanitation was removed in April, 2002)

July 7, 2004 – Zoo professional, Richard Farinato visited Guzoo with a Zoocheck employee and noted the following in his report:

- Rotting carcasses in cages (contrary to condition 9)
- Lack of standoff barriers in some areas (contrary to condition 5)
- Loose and damaged fencing (contrary to condition 5, & 7)
- Unsupervised contact between children and carnivores and other animals (contrary to condition 6)
- Shelters in various stages of deterioration or rot (The condition for providing adequate shelter was removed in April 2002)
- Dirty water and accumulation of feces and build of moldy food (The condition relating to sanitation was removed in April, 2002)

October 27, 2004 – A visitor to Guzoo copied Zoocheck on his complaint to Fish and Wildlife. The complaint included the following information:

- Lack of stand-off barriers in some areas (contrary to condition 5)
- Zoo staff invited the visitor into the cage with lion and tiger cubs (contrary to condition 6)
- Lack of clean water and filthy cage conditions (The condition relating to sanitation was removed in April, 2002)

- Unsupervised public feeding of animals (The condition relating to public feeding was removed in April, 2002)

January 3, 2005 – A Zoocheck employee, visited Guzoo and documented her observations in notes and on video. She noted the following issues:

- Lack of fresh water and food (contrary to condition 10)
- Farm dogs running throughout the zoo (contrary to condition 19)
- Staff were not present at all times during her visit (contrary to condition 8)
- Damaged fencing and lack of standoff barriers around some cages (contrary to condition 5)
- Lack of enrichment (contrary to condition 14)

January 11, 2005 – An Alberta SPCA inspector attended Guzoo regarding a complaint by Zoocheck Canada. During a telephone conversation about his findings at the zoo the inspector described the following:

- Farm dogs running throughout the zoo (contrary to condition 19)
- Lack of staff present during his visit (contrary to condition 8)

February 16, 2005 – A visitor to Guzoo filed a complaint to Fish and Wildlife which included photos of :

- Farm dogs running throughout the zoo (contrary to condition 19)