



ANIMAL PROTECTION SERVICE
EDMONTON HUMANE SOCIETY
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January 13th, 2011

Denise PREFONTAINE
Edmonton Valley Zoo
13315 Buena Vista Road
Edmonton, AB T6G 2E9

RE: APS file #A41278

Dear Ms. Prefontaine,

I am writing to follow up in regards to our investigation of a number of concerns we received regarding 'Lucy', the 35 year old Asian Elephant at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. At this time we have compiled the following recommendations and requirements based on our inspection, information that you have provided, and consultations with various experts in the field.

1. MODIFICATION OF THE INDOOR FACILITIES

As per Dr. OOSTERHUIS' assessment report of September 2009 the indoor facilities need to be modified or an alternative; such as an elephant treadmill, should be determined to facilitate exercise throughout the winter. During our inspection on November 25th, 2010 I was advised that a temporary structure extension of the current indoor facilities had been tentatively added to the Zoo's Master Plan, however it could take as long as 3 years to gain approval for the extension.

Action Required

In order to ensure Lucy has adequate space during the winter months the Edmonton Valley Zoo must either:

- a) Modify the existing facility to meet industry standards by December 31st, 2011 or
- b) Consult with experts with the appropriate experience and implement an adequate alternative option by December 31st, 2011

2. DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT OF THE RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS

As per Dr. OOSTERHUIS' report of September 2009 if the respiratory problems persist without improvement a biopsy of the deep nasal mucous membranes should occur. It is evident that Lucy's respiratory issues have not improved and a definitive diagnosis of her condition has not been determined in over a year.

Action Required

By March 1st, 2011 the Edmonton Valley Zoo must consult a veterinarian of their choice who has the appropriate expertise to assess and treat Lucy. All veterinary recommendations must be followed in order to determine a diagnosis of Lucy's respiratory ailment. The Edmonton Valley Zoo must make all reasonable attempts to determine a diagnosis and determine the appropriate treatment required.

3. WEIGHT MANAGEMENT REASSESSMENT

As per Dr. OOSTERHUIS' assessment report of September 2009; Lucy weighed approximately 9,300lbs and was required to lose 450kg/1,000lbs by September 2010. I was advised during our inspection that Lucy currently weighs around 9,000lbs.

Action Required

By March 1st, 2011 the Edmonton Valley Zoo must have Lucy reassessed by a veterinarian of their choice who has the appropriate expertise to assess and treat Lucy. During this assessment the weight loss program should be re-examined to produce the required results. The Edmonton Valley Zoo will be responsible for following all veterinary recommendations required to assist Lucy in her weight loss.

The Edmonton Humane Society's Animal Protection Department recognizes that the Valley Zoo is attempting to provide the best care for Lucy in the current situation by following recommendations provided to them by Dr. OOSTERHUIS and a number of other experts. Over the past year the Valley Zoo has made noted improvements to the indoor facility in order to reduce and prevent chronic medical issues affecting Lucy; sand coverage has increased and new flooring has been installed. Lucy has lost approximately 300lbs on her current weight management program, the enrichment program for Lucy is currently being reviewed by zoo staff in order to improve the current program and Lucy is receiving medications to relieve any distress caused by her respiratory illness and arthritis. The Animal Protection department is satisfied at this time that the Zoo is consulting with various experts in the field to ensure that they are providing adequate care.

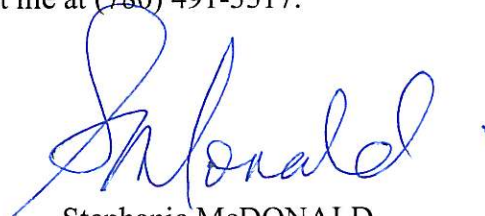
Although Lucy's current living situation is not ideal, her minimum care standards are being met under the Animal Protection Act of Alberta. Lucy is receiving adequate care and has protection from injurious cold. Lucy is kept as a solitary animal and although CAZA has advised that Lucy is an exception which is justified by her current medical condition, the Edmonton Valley Zoo should continue to consult with experts to ensure that Lucy is not in distress as a solitary animal and should implement changes as needed to ensure that her social requirements are met. Our investigation will remain open in order to follow up on the above mentioned requirements.

If you have any other questions, you can contact me at (780) 491-3517.

Sincerely,



Peace Officer B. NICOLL (Reg.#12641)
Senior Animal Protection Officer
Edmonton Humane Society



Stephanie McDONALD
Executive Director
Edmonton Humane Society