



INSPECTION REPORT

CITY OF TOPEKA
TOPEKA ZOO

Customer ID: 4087
Certificate: 48-C-0003

635 SW GAGE BLVD
TOPEKA, KS 66606 2079

Site: 001
CITY OF TOPEKA - ZOO

Inspection
Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: OCT-18-2005

2.40 (b) (1) DIRECT

2.40 (b) (2)

ATTENDING VETERINARIAN AND ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE (DEALERS AND EXHIBITORS).

(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(1) The availability of appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment, and services to comply with the provisions of this subchapter.

* Current industry standard requires elephants handled in a protected contact system to have a reliable method of restraint (i.e. Elephant Restraint Device) that allows for necessary husbandry and veterinary procedures to be accomplished in a safe, efficient manner. The facility currently cannot demonstrate this ability, nor could they provide a definitive written plan for restraint device implementation. One of the elephants at this facility has documented chronic health issues and the daily keeper record shows an inconsistent ability to perform the necessary veterinary and routine procedures needed to address these problems. The facility is currently unable to obtain an accurate body weight on the animals. There is no reliable emergency restraint or tranquilization protocol available. Documentation revealed numerous signs of aggression by both of the elephants toward keepers and each other. If the aggression were to escalate, there would be no safe, efficient means of restraining or separating the animals in the event of injury. If the licensee is to maintain elephants in this enclosure, they must make available the appropriate facilities to safely maintain these species and to properly provide for their husbandry needs so as to comply with the provisions of this subchapter.

To be corrected by: 5-1-06.

(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care.

* All four foot pads of both the Asian and African elephants had large cracks and flaps of pad overgrowth with malodorous, black material in the crevices. There were deep cracks in several nails affecting all four feet of both elephants. The LF foot of the Asian elephant and the LF foot of the African elephant were particularly affected. In addition, there was a prominent bulge in the center of the pad on the Asian elephant's RF foot and this area appeared excessively soft and pliable. According to keeper logs, footwork was done 17 times in the last 240 days on the African and 28 times in the last 240 days on the Asian. Routine elephant foot care is considered essential for the health and well-being of elephants in captivity. Without proper care, the elephant's feet can become diseased or injured. Elephant foot care at this facility is not adequate as evidenced by the poor condition of the feet at the time of inspection. The licensee must use appropriate methods such as an appropriate foot

Prepared By:
TANYA TIMS, V.M.O., USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:
OCT-18-2005

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER, Inspector ID: 5045

Received By:
Marie Miller

Date:
OCT-18-2005

Title: GENERAL CURATOR

Zoo Director



INSPECTION REPORT

care maintenance schedule to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries for the elephants at this facility. Photos were taken of this noncompliance.

To be corrected by: 2-18-06.

This routine inspection was conducted by Tanya Tims (VMO) and facility staff members.

End of report.

Prepared By:

T. Tims
TANYA TIMS, V.M.O. , USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER , Inspector ID: 5045

Received By:

Merle Miller
Merle Miller

Title: GENERAL CURATOR

Date:

OCT-18-2005

Date:

OCT-18-2005

Merle Miller
Zoo Director

Visiting Committee Report
January 2001

This report is a list of concerns from the AZA Commission as reported to the commission by Jim Fleshman, Director of Cameron Park Zoo, Waco, TX; and actions taken by Topeka Zoological Park. Mr. Fleshman visited Topeka Zoo in January 2001.

Concern: *Recommend continuation of staff training, education, and seminars*

Action: The Zoo has provided an increased amount of opportunities for staff. Wildlife Nutrition workshop presented by Dr. Debra McDonald of Bronx Zoo, classes held on herpetology, ornithology and mammalogy, and seminars on communication techniques. Staff travels and training opportunities were expanded with the increased support by FOTZ.

Concern: *The conflicts between management and staff appear to stem from communication and miscommunications.*

Action: We are now having all-staff meetings on a monthly basis. Range meetings are held twice a month, and we have initiated an employee's newsletter. In addition, realignment of some managers' duties has facilitated better communication among staff members. Staff members have been selected to assist in design work for new projects such as Outdoor Orangutan exhibit; this group includes maintenance, veterinarian, keeper staff, education, zoo society, and the staff council. All staff members are also involved in cross-disciplinary efforts to improve the Zoo's image, upgrade operating standards and make the Zoo a better place to work.

Concern: *I would suggest a routine foot care policy. The nails of both females are overgrown, each female has several cracks. The female African's skin appears very dry.*

Action: Protocols have been developed and implemented to improve foot and skin care for both animals. These procedures meet or exceed AZA recommended guidelines by daily inspection of the skin, progressive foot management program (see attachment)

Concern: *I would suggest a routine bathing and scrubbing schedule.*

Action: We have implemented a daily bathing routine, effective August 2001. This program has increased the level of intense care provided to the elephants. This procedure allows staff to make daily inspections of the skin, feet and total body.

Concern: *I would recommend that the stall be cleaned of feces more than the morning and evening cleaning. Increase additional dry cleaning would help.*

Action: Both animals are staffed as needed to reduce the amount of fecal matter in the exhibit. Elephants can be shifted outside or in the adjoining transfer stall for cleaning during inclement weather.

Concern: *I would recommend that blood be drawn on at least a quarterly basis for both elephants*

Action: Staff has been trained by Jody Watkins to draw blood as needed

Concern: *I would develop a crisis plan for the elephants, a way to physically separate*

Action: A plan has been developed. Staff has been trained to physically separate elephants as needed.

Concern: *Currently, there are two fully trained keepers who can work elephants. The marketing/communication person can assist when in a bind*

Action: The number of elephant trainers has increased from three "fully qualified" in July 2000, to five in February 2001; with two additional keepers in training. As of September 2001, we have seven trainers in the program, with two zookeepers in training

Concern: *As funds become available, I would suggest some type of restraint facility for elephants*

Action: As approved by City Council in August 2001, the zoo has a new elephant barn (the list of Capital Improvement projects for 2003). This new facility will be available to accommodate 3-4 animals. An elephant restraint device will be part of this new building. The facility is designed to meet and exceed AZA recommendations.