All redactions on this page are pursuant to (b)(6) & (b)(7)(c).

[redacted]@peta.org>
07/01/2010 05:57 PM

To <Betty.J.Goldentyer@aphis.usda.gov>
cc <Robert.A.Willems@aphis.usda.gov>
Subject Turtle Back Zoo

July 1, 2010

Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyer
Eastern Regional Director
USDA, APHIS, AC
920 Main Campus Dr., Ste. 200
Unit 3040
Raleigh, NC 27606

Via e-mail: Betty.J.Goldentyer@usda.gov

Dear Dr. Goldentyer:

Please consider this letter an official request for the USDA to investigate the following regarding **County of Essex Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, New Jersey**. PETA has been contacted by a whistleblower who has serious concerns regarding animal care and alleged Animal Welfare Act violations at the facility and makes the following allegations:

Veterinary Care, Animal Injuries and Deaths

Veterinary care is almost non-existent. Jeremy Goodman, the zoo's director and veterinarian, is not able to perform both jobs satisfactorily. Animals are frequently long overdue for annual exams and sick animals are often not promptly examined by Goodman, if at all.

COUGAR

Until approximately the last week of April 2010, a cougar named Scout had been vomiting almost daily for three weeks. Goodman prescribed Pepcid and, at some point, amoxicillin, but at no time did he examine Scout or diagnose what was the matter with the animal.

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND COW

A Scottish Highland Cow named Beckett was lame for a couple of years. Goodman prescribed glucosamine and various anti-inflammatories, but the cow slowly got worse. No diagnostics were done on the cow's condition until he was euthanized in March 2010, at which time Goodman took x-rays.

WALLABIES

In June 2009, five wallabies were poisoned when they ate Japanese yew bush trimmings that were put in the exhibit. One wallaby became sick the same day and was treated with fluids and medication. He survived. The next morning, four wallabies - a 6-year-old male, a 3-year-old

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female, a 2-year-old female, and 1-year-old female - died within 10 to15 minutes of being found sick. Necropsies revealed yew bush needles in the animals' stomachs.

The situation was never discussed with the staff in order to ensure that the animals would not be given yew again. The person who was responsible for the yew being given to the wallabies is [redacted] She is still employed at the zoo and she continued to work with the wallabies until the end of the year at which time all the animal keepers were switched to different departments.

Although [redacted] had been the subject of two prior disciplinary matters (see attached) – [redacted]

WALLABY
In approximately February 2009, a male wallaby ran into a wall and injured his jaw. A few days later keepers reported that the wallaby's face was swollen. Goodman sedated the wallaby and pulled a couple of broken teeth, leaving the roots in, and did not prescribe antibiotics. The facial swelling worsened and got infected, and the wallaby was not eating. Goodman then pulled the roots of the teeth he had previously removed, as well as some other teeth, and put the animal on antibiotics. The wallaby appeared to begin to recover, then sickened again and it was apparent that his upper jaw was rotting away. He was euthanized in March 2010.

GIBBONS
On July 9, 2009, the zoo acquired two white-handed gibbons. During the introduction process, the two were separated by a chain link fence and Rosie, the female gibbon, had three of her fingertips bitten off by Mel, the male gibbon. On July 20, 2009, a fingertip on Rosie's left hand was bitten off, and on July 27, 2009, two fingertips were bitten off on her right hand. It wasn't until August 7, 2009, when Mel split Rosie's left hand down the middle between her third and fourth digits, that Goodman ordered a more adequate partition placed between the two gibbons.

RED PANDAS
Two red pandas died at the zoo in less than 1½ years. An 8-year-old male red panda named Pemba died in April 2008. The cause of death was determined to be sarcocystis. Pemba was replaced by Sacha, an approximately 8-year-old male who came to the zoo on November 5, 2008. Sacha died on July 25, 2009, from chronic or acute renal failure.

ELK
A female elk named Baby died on October 26, 2009. She injured her leg one day and was dead the next.

BIRDS
Since the summer of 2008, more than 500 budgies in the zoo's Outback Aviary exhibit have died. Almost all died from starvation or the parasite sarcocystis.

Many birds died of starvation because they refused to eat the food pellets that were provided to them. Goodman wanted the birds to eat pellets and refused to allow them to be fed seed. After many deaths, he changed his mind and decided to switch back to the seed.

Many birds also died from infection by the parasite sarcocystis which was confirmed in July 2009 by the state laboratory. The host of the parasite is opossums, and once it was discovered that the birds were presumably eating opossum feces through the wire mesh of the aviary roof, it took Goodman at least two months to order the maintenance department to cover the roof in order to keep the opossums off of it. In the meantime, birds continued to die.

PENGUIN
A 19-year-old African penguin named Tippy died on January 31, 2010. Tippy's feathers never grew back in after her last molting and she was featherless for approximately two years before her death. One day she was wobbly on her feet, regurgitated a fish, and died.

Facilities

LEOPARD
During the summer of 2009, the Amur leopard named Meghan almost broke out of the holding area. She jumped against the door, partially knocking it out of its frame, when two keepers were in the hallway. One keeper held the door closed while the cat continued to jump against it, trying to get at the keeper. The other keeper was able to open the shift door to the exhibit and Meghan ran outside. The door was supposedly fixed several weeks later but when one of the keepers checked it, she was able to kick the frame and break the door open from the inside just as the leopard had.

Note: On 9/18/08 and 5/20/09 the USDA cited the zoo for rusted "man doors" and frames in leopard/cougar exhibit

ALLIGATOR
The winter holding for the 10-foot-long alligator named Peaches is unsuitable for the animal and dangerous for staff. Last winter, Peaches spent approximately six months in a concrete room that measured approximately 20 ft. long x 10 ft. wide. The back end of room dipped down to form a pool approximately 4 ft. deep. The air and water temperatures were cool (in the sixties) because the only source of heat was space heaters. Peaches refused to eat for the entire time he was in the winter holding area. It was very difficult for the keeper to properly and safely maintain the animal and the water quality in such cramped conditions.

Animal Handling

PENGUINS
At the end of December 2009 or beginning of January 2010, Goodman insisted that four new African penguins who had just cleared quarantine be put outside on exhibit on one of the coldest days of the year. The temperatures were in the teens and the wind made it feel even colder. The penguins were put outside directly from the warm quarantine area. They jumped into the water and when they came out, the water instantly froze to their bodies. They limped around for the next couple of days with icicles stuck to them. The keepers were not allowed to bring them inside because Goodman wanted visitors to be able to see them. There are burrows for the penguins to hide in, but the new penguins had trouble finding them and even in the burrows the temperatures were still quite cold.

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RED PANDA

[redacted] had someone plug up the log in the red panda's exhibit with bricks because Pemba, the zoo's first red panda kept sleeping in it. [redacted] wanted the panda to be visible at all times.

BUDGIES

The Outback Aviary typically open in mid-May but on approximately April 3, 2010, County [redacted] and county Parks [redacted] tried to force the zoo to open the aviary early. This was problematic because although the daytime temperatures would have been fine, the nighttime temperatures, which were in the forties, were not suitable for the birds. It would have been necessary to bring the budgies back into the heated holding area at night which was not possible. Parks [redacted] reportedly said it didn't matter if birds died due to the cold because "they are only six dollar birds and can be replaced".

QUARANTINE

[redacted] often insists that new animals acquired by the zoo be put on display before they have cleared quarantine.

PONIES

[redacted] insists that the ponies be available to give rides to the public during inclement weather.

Staff

Most of the animal care staff are unknowledgeable, untrained, and have no previous experience working with animals.

Volunteers are allowed to work with all of the primates, carnivores, and large hoofstock.

This complaint includes information about species that are not regulated by the Animal Welfare Act as further evidence of the substandard conditions at the Turtleback Zoo—conditions that could also impact regulated species.

Please thoroughly investigate the allegations presented by this whistleblower and pursue strict enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act.

Thank you for your time. I can be contacted at [redacted]@peta.org.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Attachment: Essex County New Jersey Disciplinary Hearing, Decision of Hearing Officer, October 16, 2009

BENDIT WEINSTOCK
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
COUNSELLORS AT LAW
80 MAIN STREET
WEST ORANGE N J 07052
(973) 736-9800

IN THE MATTER OF
BONNIE L. SIPPIE

: ESSEX COUNTY - NEW JERSEY
: DISCIPLINARY HEARING

DECISION OF HEARING OFFICER

BEFORE: ROGER J. DESIDERIO, ESQ.
(Bendit Weinstock, P.A.)
Hearing Officer

APPEARANCES: KAREN S. FALKOWSKI, ESQ.
Assistant County Counsel
For: County of Essex

CURTISS T. JAMESON, ESQ.
KROLL HEINEMAN
99 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, New Jersey 08830
For: Bonnie L. Sippie

HEARING DATE: Friday, October 16, 2009
Newark, New Jersey

Petitioner, the County of Essex, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (the "County") charges the Respondent, Bonnie L. Sippie (the "Employee"), an Animal Keeper with incompetency, inefficiency or failure to perform duties, neglect of duties and a violation of Turtle Back Zoo Policies and Procedures relating to the care of animals.

Specifically, the County charges that Ms. Sippie on or about June 23, 2009, was aware that a non-approved foreign plant material was found in the wallaby and kangaroo enclosure at the Turtle Back Zoo. The County further alleges that Ms. Sippie took no action to remove the materials, which led to the deaths of four (4) wallabies and the short term illness of several others, as well as potential permanent cardiac damage to the surviving animals. The County concludes that Ms. Sippie's removal from employment is necessary to continue the efficient and safe operations of the Essex County Turtle Back Zoo.

The following documents were marked into evidence:

CO1	Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action dated August 11, 2009
CO2	Memorandum from Brint Spencer, General Curator dated July 16, 2009
CO3	Turtle Back Animal Keeper Report
CO4	Log book sheets for June 23, June 24 June 25 and June 26

C05 Counseling Session or Oral Reprimand or Written Reprimand report dated July 31, 2008

C06 Counseling Session or Oral Reprimand or Written Reprimand report dated July 3, 2004

C07 Turtle Back Zoo Proposal of Enrichment form

C08 Turtle Back Zoo Diet Change Request form

C09 Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's Approved Enrichment form

Exhibits C01 through C09 were moved and accepted into evidence.

The County called Sarah Parker to testify. Ms. Parker was sworn.

Ms. Parker testified that she has been employed by the Turtle Back Zoo as an Animal Keeper Intern since May or June of 2009. Her duties as an Intern are basically to follow the Animal Keepers, clean up and perform assigned duties. She was assigned to the Great Plains Exhibit, South American Exhibit, Australian Exhibit and the Cow Yard. For the purposes of this hearing, we are concerned only with the Australian Exhibit. The Australian Exhibit includes wallabies and kangaroos. She had the assignment for approximately six to eight weeks prior to June 23, 2009. She worked with the Employee, who was the Animal Keeper assigned to this area.

Ms. Parker testified that on June 23, 2009, she discovered a plant material in the Australian Exhibit. She found this near the boardwalk area. She was unfamiliar with the material and testified

that she asked the Employee what she should do with the material. She testified that she was advised by Ms. Sippie to scatter the material around the yard, as the animals liked the scent of it. She subsequently spread the material around the yard. She made a notation of her work, as reflected in the June 23, 2009 entry of CO4, wherein it states in part:

> Gave pine and mulberry with regard to the Australian Exhibit.

Ms. Parker returned to work several days later, at which time she had a discussion of the June 23rd events with the Curator. At that time, Ms. Parker was advised that several wallabies had died due to the ingestion of "yew", which is a toxic plant which was found in the Australian Exhibit. Ms. Parker further testified that she was unfamiliar with yew or any of its qualities.

The next witness to be called was Brint Spencer, who is the General Curator at the Turtle Back Zoo and has been so employed since July of 2008. He was sworn.

Mr. Spencer became aware, on June 24, 2009, that a wallaby had run into a fence. This necessitated Dr. Goodman, the Zoo Director's, attention. Dr. Goodman came to the Australian Exhibit and while attending to the wallaby, which had run into the fence, Dr. Goodman noticed yew cuttings being eaten by other animals. Subsequently, several other animals became ill.

The final result was that four wallabies died. Other wallabies were treated and have presently recovered.

Subsequently, Mr. Spencer prepared CO2, which is a Memorandum dated July 16, 2009, which sets forth the details of his investigation. I incorporate the information set forth in CO2 into this decision as it sets forth the details that were developed subsequent to the ingestion of the yew by the wallabies. Mr. Spencer also identified CO7 as a Proposal of Enrichment Form. The purpose of this document is to provide an Animal Keeper with a method to offer enrichment to the animals. The form is to be completed and approved by the Zoo Supervisor and Veterinarian before anything is given to the animals. Mr. Spencer also identified CO8 as a Diet Change Request Form. This form needs to be approved before any diet changes are initiated. He testified that he was unaware of either a Request for Enrichment or a Change of Diet being made by anyone with regard to the wallabies.

On cross-examination, it was determined that a necropsy of each of the wallabies was performed. It was found that the death of each wallaby was related to the ingestion of poisonous yew. It was also determined that the wallaby who ran into the fence may have been in heat and being chased.

It was also established that the zoo employees had never been trained by Mr. Spencer with regard to the toxicity of yew or with regard to other dangerous plants that might be in or about the zoo area.

The next witness to testify was Dr. Jeremy Goodman. He was sworn.

Dr. Goodman is the Director of the Turtle Back Zoo and is a Veterinarian. He has been at the zoo for five (5) years. Dr. Goodman determined that the wallabies died due to plant poisoning.

He observed plant clippings in the Australian Exhibit. He noticed wallabies chewing on Japanese yew. As a result of the four (4) necropsies which he performed, Japanese yew was found in all four (4) of the wallabies that died.

An investigation was performed. Dr. Goodman received the information concerning both Ms. Sippie and Ms. Parker's activities with regard to the wallabies. He was also able to determine through the County Horticulturist that yew was growing in and about the zoo and that the Horticulturist had clipped one of the yew plants a day or two before the incident of June 23, 2009.

Dr. Goodman further testified that Ms. Sippie had indicated that previous Animal Keepers had given pine to the wallabies. The Employee had a list from another zoo that addressed some of these plants. Dr. Goodman testified that several other animals were impacted but have pulled through, so far.

Dr. Goodman filed the complaint against Ms. Sippie and it is his recommendation that the Employee be removed. He testified that he felt that this was appropriate as the death of these animals was the result of Ms. Sippie's negligence. He has spoken to other zoo

directors who felt that removal was the appropriate punishment in a situation like this.

On cross-examination, Dr. Goodman testified that there had been no prior training with regard to the identification of yew or other pines. His recollection was that the yew may have been planted two or three years ago. With regard to the acts of negligence, it was Dr. Goodman's opinion that if a keeper finds a foreign substance in an exhibit, it is the keeper's responsibility to remove it. He further testified that there are now postings in and about the zoo warning of the dangers of certain materials. He testified that Ms. Sippie felt awful about what occurred. Dr. Goodman was asked if the prior disciplinary notices, C05 and C06 made any determination in his decision to recommend removal. He said they did not.

That concluded the presentation by the County.

Ms. Sippie was sworn and testified on her own behalf. She testified that she has been employed by the County for approximately ten (10) years. She has been assigned to the Australian Exhibit for three (3) years. She works as an Animal Keeper. She testified that there had been an Enrichment Committee in the past but she was not part of the Enrichment Committee. She states that it was her understanding that Sarah M, an animal keeper, had previously given pines to the wallabies. Ms. Sippie's testimony of the events leading up to the discovery of the

ingestion of the yew, is consistent with other witnesses and the facts are as reflected in C02.

The Employee testified that she did not know, prior to June 24 2009, what yew was nor did she know anything about its toxicity. She simply thought that it was an evergreen such as other pines.

She did complete the Keeper Report dated June 24 2009 which is the second page of C03. Ms. Sippie did complete the entry of June 24, 2009, which is part of C04 which indicates the death of several of the wallabies.

On cross-examination, C09 was identified as a Columbus Zoo and Aquariums Approved Enrichment Sheet. The Respondent testified that C09 was the basis upon which she thought that the inclusion of the pines, later to be determined yew, was permissible.

DECISION: The testimony and documentary evidence establish that Ms. Sippie did in fact violate procedures by not requesting approval with regard to Enrichment Materials or Diet Change materials as required, see C07 and C08 The facts also establish that Ms. Sippie did allow the spreading of the yew that Ms. Parker found in Australian Exhibit area. The testimony suggests that if Ms. Parker had removed the yew from the Australian Exhibit area when she first found it, the yew would not have been ingested by the wallabies. I also find that Ms. Sippie and other employees had not been trained with regard to the dangers of certain substances

including Japanese yew. Ms. Sippie did assume that the inclusion of the pine clippings, later to be determined to be yew, had previously been given to the wallabies and would not be dangerous to the wallabies based upon the Columbus Zoo report. C09.

I find that if Ms. Sippie had followed appropriate County Procedures with regard to getting prior approval for Enrichment materials or for Food Change materials, this incident would not have occurred. The zoo establishes forms and procedures in order to avoid incidences of this type. Accordingly, I find that Ms. Sippie's actions were a violation of County Practices and Procedures.

The County included in its documents, C05 and C06, which are prior disciplinary matters. While Dr. Goodman specifically testified that he did not consider these items in making his recommendation for removal, they should be included in the record. C05 discusses an incident of July 2008, wherein Ms. Sippie entered the enclosure of a dangerous animal (elk) after hours without informing a supervisor. This was a safety violation. C06 is dated July 3, 2004 and addresses unauthorized Halloween decorations inside the tortoise area. While neither incident directly relates to the matter in issue, they are probative with regard to the necessity for practices and procedures being followed.

With regard to the recommended penalty, I appreciate Dr. Goodman's concern for the animals under his care. I think that

concern was exhibited by all the witnesses, Ms. Parker, Mr. Spencer, Dr. Goodman and Ms. Sippie. The witnesses' dedication to their work and the care of the zoo animals was firmly reflected in each person's testimony.

However, I do not find that Ms. Sippie, a 10 year zoo employee, with only minor violations, actions rise to the level of removal. Under all the circumstances, I recommend that Ms. Sippie be suspended without pay for a period of forty-five (45) days.

Dated: October 27, 2009

By: ROGER S. DESIDERIO

USDA

Animal Care

USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

ANIMAL WELFARE COMPLAINT

Complaint No.	Date Entered	Received By
E10-220 PETA	06 July 2010	J Meek
Referred To		**Reply Due**
Wills/Smith		06 August 2010

Facility or Person Complaint Filed Against

Name	Customer/License/Registration No.
County of Essex Turtle Back Zoo	22-C-0110

Address			
560 Northfield Avenue			
City	**State**	**Zip**	**Phone No**
West Orange	NJ	07052	973-731-5800 (b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

Complainant

Name	Organization
(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)	PETA

Address			
501 Front Street			
City	**State**	**Zip**	**Phone No./Email address**
Norfolk	VA	23510	(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)@peta.com

How was complaint received? e mail

Forward response to FOIA: Yes ☒ No ☐

Details of Complaint: Complaint came from a whistelblower who is concerned about the AWA not being followed at this facility. States concerns for vet care, facilities, and handlers. Please see the attached complaint for complete details.

Results: A visit was made to Turtle Back Zoo (22-C-0110) on July 20 and 21st, 2010 to investigate the allegations.

*SEE ATTACHED RESPONSE.

Application packet provided? Yes ☐ No ☒

INSPECTOR	DATE
Karla Wills, ACI & Dr. Mary Geib, VMO	July 23, 2010
REVIEWED BY	**DATE**
Michael J Smith	28-Jul-10

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TURTLE BACK ZOO (22-C-0110) **July 20 – July 21, 2010**

E10-220 COMPLAINT RESPONSE

ALLEGATIONS: IN BLACK LETTERING

COMPLAINT RESPONSE/FINDINGS: IN RED LETTERING

Veterinary Care, Animal Injuries and Deaths

Veterinary care is almost non-existent. Jeremy Goodman, the zoo's director and veterinarian, is not able to perform both jobs satisfactorily. Animals are frequently long overdue for annual exams and sick animals are often not promptly examined by Goodman, if at all.

DURING THIS INSPECTION NO SICK OR INJURED ANIMALS WERE FOUND THAT NEEDED VETERINARY CARE. A SAMPLE OF MEDICAL RECORDS WAS REVIEWED AND ANIMALS APPEAR TO BE RECEIVING ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

COUGAR

Until approximately the last week of April 2010, a cougar named Scout had been vomiting almost daily for three weeks. Goodman prescribed Pepcid and, at some point, amoxicillin, but at no time did he examine Scout or diagnose what was the matter with the animal.

THE VETERINARIAN SAID HE HAD SEEN AND WAS MONITORING THE COUGAR "SCOUT". THE ANIMAL RESPONDED TO TREATMENT SO NO FURTHER WORKUP WAS NECESSARY

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND COW

A Scottish Highland Cow named Beckett was lame for a couple of years. Goodman prescribed glucosamine and various anti-inflammatories, but the cow slowly got worse. No diagnostics were done on the cow's condition until he was euthanized in March 2010, at which time Goodman took x-rays.

THE VETERINARIAN SAID THAT BECKETT, A 12 YEAR OLD SCOTTISH HIGHTLAND, WAS EUTHANIZED IN MARCH WHEN HE WAS NO LONGER RESPONDING SATISFACTORILY TO HIS MEDICATIONS.

WALLABIES

In June 2009, five wallabies were poisoned when they ate Japanese yew bush trimmings that were put in the exhibit. One wallaby became sick the same day and was treated with fluids and medication. He survived. The next morning, four wallabies - a 6-year-old male, a 3-year-old female, a 2-year-old female, and 1-year-old female - died within 10 to15 minutes of being found sick. Necropsies revealed yew bush needles in the animals' stomachs.

The situation was never discussed with the staff in order to ensure that the animals would not be given yew again. The person who was responsible for the yew being given to the wallabies is (b)(6), (b)(7)(c) She is still employed at the zoo and she continued to work with the wallabies

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until the end of the year at which time all the animal keepers were switched to different departments.

Although (b)(6), (b)(7)(c) had been the subject of two prior disciplinary matters (see attached) – entering the enclosure of a dangerous animal and placing unauthorized Halloween decorations in the tortoise area – she continues to have animal care responsibilities at the zoo.

VALID SEE INSPECTION REPORT

YEW WAS MISTATKENLY GIVEN TO THE WALLABIES THUS RESULTING IN SICKNESS AND/OR DEATHS. THE VETERINARIAN SAID HE DID TALK WITH THE STAFF ABOUT POISONOUS PLANTS SOON AFTER THE INCIDENT.

WALLABY

In approximately February 2009, a male wallaby ran into a wall and injured his jaw. A few days later keepers reported that the wallaby's face was swollen. Goodman sedated the wallaby and pulled a couple of broken teeth, leaving the roots in, and did not prescribe antibiotics. The facial swelling worsened and got infected, and the wallaby was not eating. Goodman then pulled the roots of the teeth he had previously removed, as well as some other teeth, and put the animal on antibiotics. The wallaby appeared to begin to recover, then sickened again and it was apparent that his upper jaw was rotting away. He was euthanized in March 2010.

WE DID NOT FIND RECORDS FOR A WALLABY RUNNING INTO A WALL AND INJURING ITS JAW IN FEBRUARY 2009.

GIBBONS

On July 9, 2009, the zoo acquired two white-handed gibbons. During the introduction process, the two were separated by a chain link fence and Rosie, the female gibbon, had three of her fingertips bitten off by Mel, the male gibbon. On July 20, 2009, a fingertip on Rosie's left hand was bitten off, and on July 27, 2009, two fingertips were bitten off on her right hand. It wasn't until August 7, 2009, when Mel split Rosie's left hand down the middle between her third and fourth digits, that Goodman ordered a more adequate partition placed between the two gibbons.

*** VALID*** SEE INSPECTION REPORT

THE ZOO DID ACQUIRE THE TWO GIBBONS ON JULY 9, 2009. THE ANIMALS WERE SENT FROM DIFFERENT FACILITIES, AND WERE SUPPOSED TO MAKE A COMPATIBLE PAIR. THE GIBBONS WERE HOUSED IN QUARANTINE IN ADJOINING ENCLOSURES TO ACCLIMATE AND BEGIN THE INTRODUCTORY PROCESS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING. DURING THIS TIME PERIOD, THE MALE GIBBON DID INJURE THE FEMALE'S FINGERTIPS AND LEFT HAND.

ROSIE'S RECORDS WERE REVIEWED AND SHE APPEARED TO HAVE RECEIVED ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE. HER INJURIES WERE HEALED AND SHE WAS OBSERVED USING BOTH OF HER HANDS.

RED PANDAS

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Two red pandas died at the zoo in less than 1½ years. An 8-year-old male red panda named Pemba died in April 2008. The cause of death was determined to be sarcocystis. Pemba was replaced by Sacha, an approximately 8-year-old male who came to the zoo on November 5, 2008. Sacha died on July 25, 2009, from chronic or acute renal failure.

THE TWO RED PANDAS DID DIE. PEMBA HAD A HISTORY OF PROBLEMS AND SACHA WAS AN ACUTE INCIDENT. RECORDS WERE REVIEWED AND THE ANIMALS APPEARED TO HAVE RECEIVED ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.

ELK

A female elk named Baby died on October 26, 2009. She injured her leg one day and was dead the next.

THE 12 YEAR OLD ELK NAMED "BABY" WITH AN INJURED LEG WAS IDENTIFIED ON OCTOBER 25, 2009. THE VETERINARIAN DID AN EXAMINATION, WORKUP AND STARTED TREATMENT. THERE WERE NO FRACTURES OR DISLOCATIONS. SHE WAS DEAD THE NEXT DAY. THE ELK APPEARED TO RECEIVE PROMPT VETERINARY CARE.

BIRDS

Since the summer of 2008, more than 500 budgies in the zoo's Outback Aviary exhibit have died. Almost all died from starvation or the parasite sarcocystis.

Many birds died of starvation because they refused to eat the food pellets that were provided to them. Goodman wanted the birds to eat pellets and refused to allow them to be fed seed. After many deaths, he changed his mind and decided to switch back to the seed.

Many birds also died from infection by the parasite sarcocystis which was confirmed in July 2009 by the state laboratory. The host of the parasite is opossums, and once it was discovered that the birds were presumably eating opossum feces through the wire mesh of the aviary roof, it took Goodman at least two months to order the maintenance department to cover the roof in order to keep the opossums off of it. In the meantime, birds continued to die.

NOT UNDER OUR JURISDICTION. (NON REGULATED SPECIES)

PENGUIN

A 19-year-old African penguin named Tippy died on January 31, 2010. Tippy's feathers never grew back in after her last molting and she was featherless for approximately two years before her death. One day she was wobbly on her feet, regurgitated a fish, and died.

NOT UNDER OUR JURISDICTION. (NON REGULATED SPECIES)

Facilities

LEOPARD

During the summer of 2009, the Amur leopard named Meghan almost broke out of the holding area. She jumped against the door, partially knocking it out of its frame, when two keepers were in the hallway. One keeper held the door closed while the cat continued to jump against it, trying to get at the keeper. The other keeper was able to open the shift door to the exhibit and Meghan ran outside. The door was supposedly fixed several weeks later but when one of the keepers

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checked it, she was able to kick the frame and break the door open from the inside just as the leopard had.

Note: On 9/18/08 and 5/20/09 the USDA cited the zoo for rusted "man doors" and frames in leopard/cougar exhibit

THE LEOPARD AND COUGAR HOLDING AREAS WERE INSPECTED. THE DOORS AND FRAMES APPEARED TO BE STRUCTURALLY SOUND.

ALLIGATOR

The winter holding for the 10-foot-long alligator named Peaches is unsuitable for the animal and dangerous for staff. Last winter, Peaches spent approximately six months in a concrete room that measured approximately 20 ft. long x 10 ft. wide. The back end of room dipped down to form a pool approximately 4 ft. deep. The air and water temperatures were cool (in the sixties) because the only source of heat was space heaters. Peaches refused to eat for the entire time he was in the winter holding area. It was very difficult for the keeper to properly and safely maintain the animal and the water quality in such cramped conditions.

NOT UNDER OUR JURISDICTION. (NON REGULATED SPECIES)

Animal Handling

PENGUINS

At the end of December 2009 or beginning of January 2010, Goodman insisted that four new African penguins who had just cleared quarantine be put outside on exhibit on one of the coldest days of the year. The temperatures were in the teens and the wind made it feel even colder. The penguins were put outside directly from the warm quarantine area. They jumped into the water and when they came out, the water instantly froze to their bodies. They limped around for the next couple of days with icicles stuck to them. The keepers were not allowed to bring them inside because Goodman wanted visitors to be able to see them. There are burrows for the penguins to hide in, but the new penguins had trouble finding them and even in the burrows the temperatures were still quite cold.

NOT UNDER OUR JURISDICTION (NON REGULATED SPECIES)

RED PANDA

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c) had someone plug up the log in the red panda's exhibit with bricks because Pemba, the zoo's first red panda kept sleeping in it. (b)(6), (b)(7)(c) wanted the panda to be visible at all times.

THIS IS NOT A VIOLATION OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT.

BUDGIES

The Outback Aviary typically open in mid-May but on approximately April 3, 2010, County (b)(6), (b)(7)(c) and county Parks (b)(6), (b)(7)(c) tried to force the zoo to open the aviary early. This was problematic because although the daytime temperatures would have been fine, the nighttime temperatures, which were in the forties, were not suitable for the birds. It would have been necessary to bring the budgies back into the heated holding area at night which was not possible. Parks (b)(6), (b)(7)(c) reportedly said it didn't matter if birds

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died due to the cold because "they are only six dollar birds and can be replaced".

NOT UNDER OUR JURISDICTION. (NON REGULATED SPECIES)

QUARANTINE

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c) often insists that new animals acquired by the zoo be put on display before they have cleared quarantine.

THE VETERINARIAN SAID NO ANIMALS ARE RELEASED EARLY FROM QUARANTINE TO BE PUT OUT ON EXHIBIT.

PONIES

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c) insists that the ponies be available to give rides to the public during inclement weather.

NOT UNDER OUR JURISDICTION. (NON REGULATED SPECIES)

Staff

Most of the animal care staff are unknowledgeable, untrained, and have no previous experience working with animals.

THE VETERINARIAN SAID THE ANIMAL CARE STAFF IS TRAINED AND MANY CAME FROM OTHER ANIMAL FACILITIES. THE ANIMAL KEEPERS THAT WE TALKED TO DURING THE INSPECTION APPEARED TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE.

Volunteers are allowed to work with all of the primates, carnivores, and large hoofstock.

WE WERE TOLD THAT THERE WERE THREE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED TO CARE FOR THE ANIMALS. THESE PEOPLE WERE HAND PICKED AND HAD RECEIVED TRAINING.

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