

Toronto Zoo

ANIMAL CARE, RESEARCH AND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

2009-05-11

10:00 a.m., Boardroom

361A Old Finch Avenue

Toronto, Ontario

Present: Dr. D. Williams (Chair), Dr. I. Duncan, Dr. K. Mehren, Dr. L. Phaneuf, Mrs. M. Prinsloo

Regrets: Councillor R. Cho, Councillor M. Grimes, Councillor G. Mammoliti

Staff Present: Dr. D. Barney, Dr. G. Crawshaw, Ms. M. Franke, Mr. R. Hale, Ms. C. Lee, Dr. G. Mastromonaco, Dr. W. Rapley, Mr. E. Smith, Mr. C. White

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 2009-03-23

On a motion by Dr. L. Phaneuf, seconded by Dr. I. Duncan, the minutes of the meeting held 2009-03-23 were approved.

Dr. Williams made note that the Zoo has received its accreditation by CCAC following the inspection of February 14 and 15, 2007.

Dr. G. Mastromonaco informed the Committee that the Zoo has received a grant of \$100,000 from NSERC for the wood bison research project being carried out in conjunction with Calgary Zoo, University of Calgary, and University of Saskatchewan. Each of the institutions applied separately for grants from NSERC for various aspects of the project. The grant to the Toronto Zoo is for embryo research.

1. RESEARCH PROJECT: NON-SURGICAL ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION IN CHEETAHS

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled "Transcervical artificial insemination in cheetahs" by Dr. G. Mastromonaco of the Toronto Zoo be approved.

Dr. G. Mastromonaco provided an update on the breeding problems with the cheetahs and noted that this technique is used in many other species successfully. If successful, this technique would get genes from our two males, Zeke and Zak, into the gene pool.

On a motion by Dr. K. Mehren, seconded by Dr. I. Duncan, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

2. RESEARCH PROJECT: BARBARY APE RESEARCH

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled "Determinants of host adaptation in a Macaca nemestrina-adapted HIV-2 isolate" by Dr. Shiu-Lok Hu of the University of Washington, Seattle, be approved.

Dr. G. Crawshaw provided background information on this project. There are very few Barbary apes in North America making our collection valuable for this research. The Committee emphasized that before this project begins, Zoo management ensure that all health and safety matters be thoroughly investigated and appropriate precautions are implemented. All animal care staff are to be reminded

to review existing protocols regarding handling of animals and research samples. It was noted that most macaque species are immune to this virus. Blood samples will be drawn during routine physical examination of the animals.

On a motion by Ms. M. Prinsloo, seconded by Dr. K Mehren, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

3. RESEARCH PROJECT: BODY CONDITION INDEX FOR AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled “Development and validation of an objective body condition index for African elephants” by Ms. Kari Morfeld of George Mason University and Smithsonian National Zoological Park be approved.

Ms. M. Franke provided information on the research. Serum samples will be taken from our animals and multiple digital images will be taken to develop 3D models to obtain body index ratings. This information will assist in a more scientific approach to maintaining weight control of the animals.

On a motion by Dr. K. Mehren, seconded by Dr. I. Duncan, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

4. RESEARCH PROJECT: ADIPOSITY IN CAPTIVE GORILLAS

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled “Adiposity in captive gorillas: variance in body mass index (BMI), diet and activity levels” by Elena Hoellein Less of Cleveland Metroparks Zoo be approved.

Ms. M. Franke provided information on the research project. There are problems with obesity in our gorilla population. A behavioural check-list will be developed to monitor activity levels. Serum samples and body mass measurements will be taken opportunistically.

On a motion by Dr. I. Duncan, seconded by Dr. K. Mehren, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

5. COLLECTION MANAGEMENT – FISHES

The Committee had before it a report recommending that approval be given for surplus fishes of any collection species to be euthanized as required for population management. CITES I species will have the approval of the Executive Director of Conservation, Education & Research.

On a motion by Dr. K. Mehren, seconded by Dr. I. Duncan, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

6. ACQUISITION OF SABANA SURINAM TOAD

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the Toronto Zoo acquire 0.0.10 Sabana Surinam toad (*Pipa parva*) to replace the Surinam toad species currently in the collection.

On a motion by Dr. K. Mehren, seconded by Ms. M. Prinsloo, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

7. SNOW GOOSE EGG TRANSPORT PROTOCOL

The Committee had before it a report recommending that approval be given for the protocol to collect snow goose eggs and transport them to Toronto.

Timing for collection of eggs was discussed. Information has been received that there is better success rate of hatching if the eggs are collected after incubation has started. Timing of collection is also dependant on Ministry of Natural Resources staff in the area for banding of birds.

On a motion by Dr. I. Duncan, seconded by Dr. K. Mehren, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

8. 2008 ANIMAL INVENTORY

The Committee had before it the 2008 Animal Inventory report for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned report for information.

9. STATUS OF THE COLLECTION REPORT

The Committee had before it the status of the collection report for March 2009 for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned report for information.

10. 2008 SITE INSPECTION STATUS REPORT

The Committee had before it the 2008 Site Inspection Status Report for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned report for information.

SITE INSPECTION – AFRICAN RAINFOREST PAVILION

The Committee conducted a site inspection of the African Rainforest Pavilion. The inspection commenced at 10:55 a.m. and concluded at 12:25 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. M. Prinsloo, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.