

**Toronto Zoo**

**ANIMAL CARE, RESEARCH AND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE**

**2009-11-30**

**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: P. Evans, Dr. G. Mastromonaco, Dr. W. Rapley

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 2009-05-11**

Dr. K. Mehren opened discussion on Item 2 Barbary Ape Research and requested that a sentence be added to the minutes that “All animal care staff be reminded to review existing protocols regarding handling of animals and research samples.”

On a motion by Ms. M. Prinsloo, seconded by Dr. I. Duncan, the minutes of the meeting held 2009-05-11 were approved with the addition of the above noted sentence to Item #2 of the minutes.

**MINUTES OF THE SITE INSPECTION HELD 2009-05-11**

On a motion by Ms. M. Prinsloo, seconded by Dr. I. Duncan, the minutes of the site inspections held 2009-2009-05-11 were approved.

**1. AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE ACQUISITION**

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the following new species be added to the collection:

- 0.0.1 Mudpuppy (*necturus maculosos*)
- 0.0.1 Gaboon viper (*viper gabonica*)
- 2.2 Meller’s chameleon (*chamaeleo melleri*)
- 0.0.5 Yellow-Spotted Amazon River Turtle, (*podocnemis unifilis*)
- 10.10 Wyoming toads (*Bufo baxteri*)
- 10.10 Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*)

On a motion by Dr. K. Mehren, seconded by Dr. L. Phaneuf, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

**2. RESEARCH PROJECT: SNAKE IMPLANT AND STRESS STUDY**

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled “Physiological and pathological effects of surgical implantation and handling procedures in

African house snakes *Lamprophis fuliginosus*” by Drs. G. Crawshaw and C. Berkvens of the Toronto Zoo be approved.

Discussion was held on the groups and whether a control group should be added that would go through the same surgery but without the implant. Dr. Crawshaw explained that data for this purpose would be used from the control group in the previous study “Behavioural and physiological effects of surgically implanted transmitters on eastern massasauga rattlesnakes” by Dr. Andrew Lentini.

On a motion by Ms. M. Prinsloo, seconded by Dr. K. Mehren, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation and directed that a statement be added to the proposal on using the control group data from the previous study.

### **3. RESEARCH PROJECT: REINDEER TELEMETRY STUDY**

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled “Calibration of remotely-sensed behaviours using accelerometer data in reindeer,” by Professor John Fryxell of the University of Guelph, be approved.

This research project is non-invasive and will be conducted on trained reindeer at the Zoo to test equipment for a field study on woodland caribou.

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

### **4. RESEARCH PROJECT: REINDEER CAMERA STUDY**

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled “Testing remote camera recorders on reindeer”, by Mr. Ian Thompson of the Canadian Forest Service, be approved.

This research project is non-invasive and will be conducted on reindeer at the Zoo to test camera collars for observing feeding behaviours for a field study on woodland caribou.

On a motion by Dr. I. Duncan, seconded by Dr. L. Phaneuf, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

### **5. RESEARCH PROJECT: EFFECTS ON BONES**

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled “Carnivore agency at archaeological sites: the effects of hyena gnawing on the bones of large-sized mammals”, by Alexander Nascou of Trent University, be approved.

The Zoo’s nutrition program for the hyenas was discussed. The hyenas are fed bones on a regular basis so this will not upset their program. Dr. Graham Crawshaw will be the Toronto Zoo liaison for the project.

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

- 6. RESEARCH PROJECT: MONITORING THYROID FUNCTION IN POLAR BEARS**  
The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled “Non-invasive assessment of endocrine parameters, particularly thyroid hormones, in polar bears” by Dr. Laura Graham of the University of Guelph, be approved.

Fecal samples will be provided to the researcher. Samples are already being collected for our own research purposes. This will be a graduate student project in collaboration with Dr. Suzanne MacDonald’s ongoing behavioural assessment of the polar bears at the Zoo.

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

- 7. RESEARCH PROJECTS: STATUS REPORT 2009**

The Committee had before it a report on the status of research projects approved by the Animal Care, Research and Acquisition Committee. On future reports the reason for a project being withdrawn will be included in the status.

The Committee received the aforementioned reports for information.

- 8. TORONTO ZOO CONSERVATION & EDUCATION ACTIVITIES REPORT 2007-2008**

The Committee had before it the annual report and executive summary on conservation and education activities. Additional information is also available on the website. W. Rapley provided an update on grant funding received for conservation, education and research. Zoos are required to do conservation, education and research to maintain accreditations.

The Committee received the aforementioned reports for information.

- 9. STATUS OF THE COLLECTION REPORTS**

The Committee had before it status of the collection reports for August – October, 2009 for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned reports for information.

- 10. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS REPORTS**

The Committee had before it significant events reports for the Conservation, Education & Research Division for May – September 2009, for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned reports for information.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee was provided with updates on renovations to the grizzly bear exhibit and holdings as a result of the animals digging in the exhibit and on the death of Tara the elephant. Funding to address the needs of the Zoo and the aging exhibits and infrastructure was discussed.

## **SITE INSPECTION – MAIN BARN, FERRET BARN, MARMOT BARN**

The Committee conducted a site inspection of the Main Barn, Ferret Barn and Marmot Barn. The inspection commenced at 11:45 a.m. and concluded at 12:30 a.m.

S. Burden

Secretary