



**ANIMAL CARE, RESEARCH AND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE
2010-03-29
10:00 a.m., Boardroom
361A Old Finch Avenue
Toronto, Ontario**

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

Regrets: Dr. K. Mehren

Staff Present: P. Evans, Dr. D. Barney, Dr. C. Dutton, R. Hale, Dr. W. Rapley

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 2010-01-25

On a motion by Dr. I. Duncan, seconded by Dr. L. Phaneuf, the minutes of the meeting held 2010-01-25 was approved.

MINUTES OF THE SITE INSPECTION HELD 2010-01-25

On a motion by Dr. I. Duncan, seconded by Dr. L. Phaneuf, the minutes of the site inspection held 2010-01-25 was approved.

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the Terms of Reference for the Animal Care and Research Committee be approved.

The structure of the committee will follow the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and Ministry of Agriculture standards. There is no change to the number of members required for quorum. It was suggested that either the Chair or Vice-Chair should be present to meet quorum. There is no change to the bi-monthly meeting schedule.

It was agreed that the number of members needed to be defined to include the addition of one lay person and six non-voting staff representatives. There is no longer a requirement for one of the lay person's to be a member of the Board of Management.

W. Rapley to revise the current draft Terms of Reference and include tours of research areas.

2. CCAC REPORT

W. Rapley provided a verbal update on the CCAC inspection. They provided a thorough assessment. Dr. Holly from the Ministry of Agriculture attended the inspection. They are satisfied with the Quarantine Facility.

One area identified as problematic is the floor of the Nutrition Centre. Their major recommendation was the refurbishment of the Animal Health Centre. They've requested an update report every six months. The design for the AHC is underway and fundraising opportunities are being explored.

3. RESEARCH PROPOSALS:

Olfactory Communication in Polar Bears

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled "Olfactory Communication in Polar Bears: Implications for Conservation in the Face of Increasing Habitat Fragmentation" by Megan Owen, San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research be approved.

M. Franke provided an overview of the report for the Committee. The Committee agreed that it was a good study.

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

Cheetahs in Captivity

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled "Cheetahs in Captivity: Behaviour, Husbandry, Biomechanics and Genetics" by Thomas Quirke, University College Cork Ireland, be approved.

M. Franke provided an overview of the report for the Committee. The researcher would be coming to the Toronto Zoo at his own expense and did not require access to the Keepers. His primary purpose was to observe the cheetahs behaviour.

On a motion by M. Prinsloo, seconded by Dr. I. Duncan, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

Monitoring and Pregnancy in Polar Bears

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled "Non-Invasive Reproductive Monitoring and Pregnancy Diagnosis in the Polar Bears" by Terri L. Roth and Monica A. Stoops, Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW), Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, be approved.

M. Franke provided an overview of the report for the Committee. M. Franke and G. Mastromonaco would be the two Zoo staff involved with assisting the research. Fecal samples will be collected from all bears, three times a week, for an entire year, except during the breeding season (February-April) when daily samples will be collected.

Frozen fecal samples will be shipped to the Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) in Cincinnati for processing and analyses.

The Toronto bears are important because they are in a breeding situation with a proven male bear.

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

Effects of Diet Change on Gorilla Behaviour and Activity

The Committee had before it a report recommending that the research study entitled “The Impact of Dietary Change on Undesirable Behaviours and Activity Levels in Western Lowland Gorillas” by J. Wensvoort Toronto Zoo, V. Blondin University of Guelph., and E. Hoellein Less Cleveland Metro Parks Zoo/Case Western Reserve University, be approved.

M. Franke provided an overview of the report for the Committee. This study is part of a larger SSP study. It involves decreasing starches in the gorilla diet and has had a positive effect in reducing undesirable behaviours and activity levels. The research will provide direct benefits to the Toronto Zoo troop.

On a motion by Dr. L. Phaneuf, seconded by M. Prinsloo, the Committee approved the aforementioned recommendation.

4. STATUS OF THE COLLECTION REPORTS

The Committee had before it status of the collection reports for January and February 2010 for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned reports for information.

5. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS REPORT

The Committee had before it significant events reports for November and December 2009 for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned reports for information.

SITE INSPECTION

The Committee conducted a site inspection of the Animal Nutrition Centre, Quarantine Centre and Animal Health Centre. The inspection commenced at 11:05 a.m. and concluded at 1:15 p.m.

C. Baker
Secretary