

October 31, 2011

CAZA Institutional Members

British Columbia
 British Columbia Wildlife Park
 Greater Vancouver Zoo
 Kicking Horse Grizzly Bear Refuge
 Vancouver Aquarium
 Marine Science Centre
 Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre

Alberta
 Calgary Zoo, Botanical Garden & Prehistoric Park
 Marine Life Department, West Edmonton Mall
 Valley Zoo & John Janzen Nature Centre

Saskatchewan
 Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo

Manitoba
 Assiniboine Park Zoo
 Club Regent Casino Aquarium

Ontario
 African Lion Safari
 Bowmanville Zoological Park
 Indian River Reptile Zoo
 Jungle Cat World Inc.
 Marine Land of Canada Inc.
 Riverview Park and Zoo
 Safari Niagara
 Toronto Zoo

Québec
 Aquarium du Québec
 Biodôme de Montréal
 Ecomuseum
 Parc Safari (2002) Inc.
 Société Zoologique de Granby Inc.
 Zoo Sauvage de St. Felicien

New Brunswick
 Cherry Brook Zoo Inc.
 Magnetic Hill Zoo

Mr. John Tracogna
 Chief Executive Officer
 Toronto Zoo

Dear Mr. Tracogna,

The Accreditation Commission of the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums requires clarification of the recent decision of Toronto City Council with respect to the management of elephants at Toronto Zoo.

Specifically, the Commission is requesting written clarification of the decision with respect to CAZA's Accreditation Standards, Section 2, Governing Authority:

The governing authority has the responsibility for policy matters and oversight of the institution. The CEO/Director must be responsible for the day-to-day management of the institution, including animal acquisitions/dispositions, staff, and programs.

Explanation: While the governing authority may have input, the decisions regarding the animal collection must be made by the professionals who are specifically trained to handle the institution's animal collection, staff, and programs.

This provision is specifically intended to ensure that the welfare of animals is the highest priority in making such decisions, and that qualified professionals conduct an appropriate assessment of the intended recipient facility in cases such as the one in question.

Further, the Commission requires written clarification with respect to CAZA's Standards for Animal Acquisition and Disposition Policy that require:

1.1. The institution must be concerned that the manner of disposition or acquisition be in the best interests of the animals, the species, the institution and the public it serves.

The Animal Acquisition and Disposition Policy has very specific and detailed requirements with respect to the disposition of animals to non-accredited

facilities. The Commission will require an assurance that these requirements have been satisfied in this instance, and further that the decision is in conformance with the Toronto Zoo Acquisition and Disposition Policy. I have excerpted the relevant sections of the CAZA Policy:

- 6. When making surplus animals available to private individuals or non-accredited institutions, the institution surplusing the specimen must utilize an agreement form that requires the recipient to adhere to the CAZA Code of Professional Ethics, the Animal Acquisition/Disposition and other applicable CAZA policies. The agreement should address the following:*
- a. The purpose of acquisition: propagation, education, research, display, other.*
 - b. How does the facility/individual qualify to have the acquisition?*
 - c. A detailed description and sketch or photograph of the housing facilities for the animal being acquired and all management protocols.*
 - d. Copies of all necessary permits or licenses to possess the species.*
 - e. A recommendation from a representative of at least one CAZA facility and/or appropriate alternate*
 - f. Provision that the animals in question might have to be returned or re-housed should accommodation or husbandry prove to be unworkable or inappropriate.*
- 7. A signed statement must be included in the transaction agreement stipulating that the recipient will comply with the above. This agreement must be kept on file and made available to the Accreditation inspection committee or to the Ethics Committee if requested.*

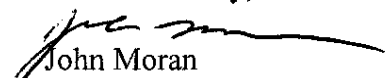
We also believe that the receiving institution must adhere to either CAZA's or AZA's standards for elephant care and this must be verified by the appropriate professional staff.

In the view of the Accreditation Commission, the nature of the reported decision on the disposition of the Toronto Zoo elephants and the manner in which it was made raise serious questions that need to be clarified as quickly as possible. I am requesting a written response without delay. It is the view of the Accreditation Commission that decisions with respect to animal management are the prerogative of the zoo professionals under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer; this is the position of the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and of most international zoo accrediting bodies.

Following receipt of your written response, the Accreditation Commission will review the matter and render a decision with respect to the accreditation of Toronto Zoo.

I await your prompt response.

Yours sincerely,


John Moran
Chair

CAZA Accreditation Commission
c.c. Mr. Joseph Torzok
Chair
Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo
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Mr. Ulli S. Watkins
City Clerk
City of Toronto