toronto zoo

STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Management

From: John Tracogna
Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **ANIMAL CARE STANDARDS ADVISORY PANEL**

Date: 2014-02-12

Summary:

This report recommends the Terms of Reference for the Animal Care Standards Advisory Panel for approval by the Board. This Panel is established in response to City Council's request to convene a working group to undertake a welfare assessment and audit of the Toronto Zoo's animal collection.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the draft Terms of Reference for the Animal Care Standards Advisory Panel, as attached, be approved.

Financial Impact:

There may be some expenses for the Chair's services. These funds can be provided within the 2014 Operating Budget.

Background:

On 2013-10-11 City Council considered the Zoo Board Governance Report and the City Manager's response, item EX34.7 on the Council agenda. One of the motions passed by City Council was to establish a panel to undertake an animal collection welfare assessment and audit. The motion is as follows:

> *City Council request the Toronto Zoo Board of Management to convene an expert panel to undertake an animal collection welfare assessment and audit and create a scientific standard of care for the zoo animal collection, based on the biological and behavioural needs of the animals, relying on scientific data collected in situ; such expert panel be composed of representatives from:*
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> - *Canadian Federation of Humane Societies*
> - *Canadian Council on Animal Care*
> - *Canadian Veterinarian Medical Association*
> - *Zoocheck Canada*
> - *Bornfree Canada*
> - *Animal Alliance of Canada*
> - *Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food*
> - *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.*

Zoo staff have drafted the attached Terms of Reference for the Animal Care Standards Advisory Panel, to describe the mandate, composition, meeting format and functioning of the Panel. This Terms of Reference will be provided to the members so that they understand their role and what is to be accomplished.

Comments/Discussion:

The Panel members will contribute their time on a voluntary basis. The Panel will prepare a report with recommendations to the CEO, and the CEO will forward the report to the Board. The Board shall consider the advice of the Panel in determining appropriate animal care standards for the Zoo.

The Panel will be chaired by a facilitator, selected by the CEO, and intended to be a neutral party. The facilitator will chair the meetings and will be responsible for preparing the Panel's final report.

It is anticipated the Panel will complete its recommendations to the CEO no later than six months from the date of the first meeting. This timing is important to allow the recommendations to be considered in the preparation of the Strategic Plan, as requested by Council. The Strategic Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

The Board's solicitor has reviewed the draft Terms of Reference. Following approval by the Board, the organizations listed in the Council motion will be contacted and invited to appoint their representative.

John Tracogna
Chief Executive Officer

List of Attachments:

1. Animal Care Standards Advisory Panel Terms of Reference

/BRDGRP/2014/FEB/animal care std cov rpt