

May 7, 2023

Mr. Scott Tinney  
Staff Lawyer  
Animal Justice Canada  
5700 – 100 King Street West  
Toronto, ON M5X 1C7

Re: January 20, 2023 - Letter of Complaint vs Edmonton Valley Zoo

Dear Mr. Tinney:

This letter will constitute CAZA's summary of findings letter as promised in my initial email of January 31<sup>st</sup> and subsequent emails of February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2023.

CAZA members take pride in its Canadian zoological accreditation program and the enforcement thereof. Recognized by provincial governments and federal agencies, the CAZA Ethics and Compliance Committee takes all measures necessary, along with our Accreditation Commission, to ensure all members are held to account.

The nature of Animal Justice's complaint warranted a formal investigation. The investigation was completed by a three-person independent team of volunteers with zoological expertise, one of whom is a zoo veterinarian.

The investigation can be summarized into three parts, they are:

1. A review of all literature – parties involved were invited to provide all relevant documents. All documentation provided was reviewed against the allegations in the complaint letter.
2. Interviews – the investigation team conducted in-depth interviews with staff from the Edmonton Valley Zoo.
3. Site visit – the investigation team completed the on-site visit on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

The investigation team examined the animal enclosures identified in your original complaint, the alleged concerns over health and safety, and compliance with provincial legislation. The following is a summary of the investigation team's findings.

#### *Grevy's Zebra Barn*

- The zebra enclosures meet the standard for daily and routine husbandry. While there are protocols in place to mitigate risks associated with anesthetizing animals, the existing facilities need improvements to accommodate sedation and anesthesia for medical procedures.
- The facilities should be a priority for review and infrastructure improvements.

#### *Bactrian Camel*

- These facilities meet the standard for daily husbandry care, handling, training, and medical procedures. The inspectors found the Bactrian camel area including associated training infrastructure to be in very good condition.

#### *Sichuan Takin*

- These facilities meet the standard for daily husbandry care, handling, training, and medical procedures.

#### *Birds of Prey*

- The temporary enclosures being used for the red-tailed hawk, the Spectacled owl, Eurasian eagle owls, Snowy owl and pelican meet standard AW- H&E / BEA-H&E 21 for temporary holdings.
- The holding being used for the peregrine falcons meet standard AW- H&E / BEA-H&E 2

#### *Elephant*

- Each year the zoo is required to apply for a CAZA standard variance accompanied by expert advice, 2023 was no different. The team of elephant experts report concluded 'Lucy's' welfare is best served at the Edmonton Valley Zoo.
- The investigation reviewed the expert report, and the allegations laid out in the complaint and found zoo staff are doing everything they can, including suggestions from the experts, to ensure a high quality of animal welfare.
- EVZ has a Variance for Lucy as a solitary animal.

#### *Seal Habitats*

- The seal facilities meet standard AW- H&E / BEA-H&E 2

#### *Filtration Building, Quarantine Barn, Elephant Building*

- PF / IP 2 – Meet the standard.

#### *The City of Edmonton Budget Report*

- The budget report pertaining to the Edmonton Valley Zoo's alleged deficiencies contains statements we were unable to substantiate. The funding request to Council seems to have been written to look to future investments. The investigation team understands it can be a challenge to present a case for future investments yet let the reader know they meet CAZA accreditation standards.

### *Provincial Regulations*

- On April 1st, the Alberta government issued the zoo's operating permit. The inspection team interprets this as meaning the zoo complies with Alberta law and regulations.

### *Alleged accidents endangering staff and visitors.*

- There have been no lost time injuries due to animal interaction.
- No incidents have been reported between animals and guests.

### **Finding**

Edmonton Valley Zoo systems and enclosures meet CAZA accreditation standards. Employee protocols are in place to ensure the safety of animals, staff, and guests.

As per our procedural manual, the Ethics and Compliance Committee has accepted the findings of the investigation team and deems this matter to be closed. The zoo will continue to be CAZA accredited.

We trust the Committee has addressed your concerns satisfactorily.

Best Regards,



Jim Facette  
CAZA CEO, Executive Director

c.c. Mr. G. Dewar, Director, Edmonton Valley Zoo  
Mr. S. Lussier, Chair, CAZA Accreditation Committee  
CAZA Board of Directors