

# List of Concerns/Achievements

## **PART I:** **Items of Concern Noted by Visiting Committee**

**INSTITUTION DIRECTOR: •IMPORTANT•** The items listed below were of noted concern during the inspection. Please address as many of these concerns as possible prior to the Commission's meeting. For items that are still in progress at the time of the hearing, please provide documentation and a timeline for completion. [NOTE: any concerns that remain unaddressed from a previous inspection are considered extremely serious, and may affect the outcome of this process.] Also, please note that it is possible that, after reviewing all supporting materials (including the Visiting Committee's written report), the Commission may have issues or concerns *that are not listed below*. If so, these will be discussed at the hearing.

A written report to the Commission on how you are responding to the concerns listed below must be submitted by the established deadline (usually seven weeks before the hearing—check with AZA if uncertain of the date). The written report is for informational purposes only. At the hearing, the Commission will ask for a verbal update on additional progress made *after* the written report was submitted. The Commission cannot accept written reports during the hearing because there is not sufficient time to read them.

### **CONCERNS REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTION**

1. The following primates—colobus monkey, red-ruffed lemur, black and white lemur and spider monkey are still housed in corn crib exhibits that are small and provide very limited animal and keeper space. In addition, the use of corn crib exhibits (Behlen exhibits) do not reflect modern zoological practice [Preamble, 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 10.3.3, 11.3.2]. \*\*
2. Aging infrastructure requiring a proactive repair and maintenance plan are still a major issue. Specific areas noted from the last inspection include: a) pygmy hippo building/exhibit including a cracked wall in the back of the hippo exhibit; b) rusted cagework as described in the list of concerns below from this inspection; c) concrete deterioration in some moats, on gunite barrier walls and a number of holding area floors (including black rhino barn floor in the stall and keeper area that is uneven, rough in texture and cracked; pygmy hippo barn floors; Andean bear holding stall and keeper service aisle floor). [10.1.0, 10.1.2] \*

### **MAJOR CONCERNS FROM CURRENT INSPECTION**

1. The institution experienced three animal escapes in the 16 month period from 13 June 2016 to 3 October 2017. Enhancement of the keeper training program is warranted in order to ensure that keepers have developed appropriate competencies relevant to animal containment. [7.3] \*\*
2. There was no supplemental lighting in the following areas: a) ibex holding; b) macaque holding; c) spider monkey; d) bobcat; e) colobus; f) red-ruffed lemur; g) black and white lemur. The following areas had inadequate supplemental lighting: a) bongo barn; b) pygmy hippo barn; c) shelters for aviaries in tropical bird house; d) inside raptor aviary holding cages; e) access tunnels to the jaguar and Andean bear exhibits. In addition both of these tunnels were wet and potentially slippery. [11.3.2; 10.3.1] \*\*
3. All Behlen aviaries in Parrot Paradise lack supplemental light in the holding areas/keeper access “caves”, and there is no secondary containment. In addition there is heavy rust and/or flaking paint on the metal doors to the holding areas. [10.1.0, 10.3.1, 11.3.1, 11.3.2] \*\*
4. A keeper was observed working in the exhibit with 1.2 sable antelope. No animal based risk assessments were provided. [11.4.1].

## LESSER CONCERNS FROM CURRENT INSPECTION

1. The institution's process for identifying animal welfare concerns currently directs these concerns through normal chain of command, rather than supplementing it. A careful review of the current standard is warranted in order to ensure that all suggested elements are included (see AZA Accreditation Resource Center for examples). This may be accomplished as part of the institution developing its proactive animal welfare process, as described in the 2018 Accreditation Standards. [1.5.8] \*
2. The Visiting Committee was unable to inspect the entire perimeter fence (as was the last VC) due to constant rain. In light of two previous dog intrusions that resulted in the deaths of animals, extreme vigilance is indicated. It was noted that a section of wooden stockade fencing immediately adjacent to the administration entrance gate is less than 8 feet tall. 11.8.1
3. There is no ozone alarm system or detailed protocol for dealing with a release of the gas. Staff determine if there is a leak using the sniff test. [11.2.2, 11.3.2]
4. In the elk barn storage cabinet there were chemicals stored alongside medications and vitamin supplements. [2.2.1, 11.3.2].\*
5. As noted above in the remaining concern there is also cracking in the floor of the outdoor paddock and on the interior and exterior paddock walls at black rhino. [10.1.0]
6. In the Thomson gazelle barn the following was noted: a) an electric fence controller is located on the barn wall within potential reach of the animals; b) a can of wasp spray was located on a window sill directly over the animal's water source; c) hole in CMU under window. [10.1.0, 1.5.7] \*\*
7. In the giraffe hay barn insect spray and other chemicals were stored on top of the refrigerator that contained human food. [11.1.4; 11.3.2].
8. In the red river hog barn there was an overhead radiant heater whose electrical cord was frayed on both ends. The radiant heater was rusted. There is an outstanding work order for the repair of the electrical cord. [10.1.0, 1.5.7]. \*
9. The ten Behlen (corn crib) units housing parrots do not reflect modern zoological practices. [Preamble, 1.5.1]
10. The nylon mesh on the sides of the raptor aviary had several holes. One hole was observed to be of sufficient size to potentially allow the escape of the Abdim's storks. The retaining wall at keeper access to the Raptor Aviary holding area is in disrepair. [10.1.0; 11.3.1]. \*\*
11. Rust was observed in the following areas: a) shelving in commissary; b) black rhino exhibit—guillotine and paddock gates, inside stall and head chute, outside metal shelter over the food trough, overhead heater; c) Thomson gazelle keeper gate and fence; d) metal door and frame on back side of pygmy hippo barn; e) holding/howdy cages in the tropical bird house; f) keeper access doors to the tropical bird house aviaries; g) doors into the bobcat holding area; h) door to spider monkey holding; i) keeper access door to the jaguar exhibit; j) electric outlet in the hall leading to the jaguar exhibit keeper access door; k) pygmy hippo barn heater; l) pygmy hippo pool divider; m) Indian rhino outside cage work; n) above keeper access door to North American river otter holding, o) commissary HVAC vent, p) table legs in bird incubator room, q) counter-weight at macaque holding. [10.1.0] \*
12. In addition to the items above (#11), rust was observed in electrical boxes/panels in the breeding nyala barn, the sable barn and the bongo/red river hog barn. In other areas of the zoo rusted electrical boxes/panels were observed and a full audit is warranted. [10.1.0] \*
13. An overhead electrical junction box located between the red-fronted macaws and Demoiselle cranes was missing its cover and the electrical wires were exposed. A number of the adjacent light sockets were without bulbs. [10.1.0, 10.1.1, 11.3.2] \*
14. Secondary containment was lacking at ibex mountain and the ten Behlen exhibits for parrots. [11.3.1] \*\*

15. The following wooden doors/walls were found to be rotted/in disrepair in the following areas: a) elk barn; b) Thomson gazelle barn door and adjacent wooden panel on the right; c) deer barn door and wall; d) red river hog barn door; e) multiple areas in hoofstock holding; f) red-ruffed lemur barn roof trim; g) storage shed at lemur Behlen exhibits; h) bottom of stall doors in kangaroo barn. [10.1.0]
16. Extension cords were found to be in permanent or semi-permanent use in the following areas: a) mixed hoofstock barn; b) keeper aisle of the tropical bird building; c) behind macaque holding area; d) raptor aviary holding; e) otter holding. [10.1.1] \*
17. Peeling/flaking paint was observed in the following areas: a) mixed hoofstock barn near food storage cabinet; b) walls in the keeper aisle of the tropical bird house under the howdy cages; d) door to tapir barn and barn exterior wall; e) giraffe barn. The cagework at jaguar off exhibit holding and the pygmy hippo pool divider and fencing is in need of paint.[10.1.0]
18. Poor housekeeping/clutter was observed in the following areas: a) storage cabinet in the mixed hoofstock barn; b) the end of keeper service area behind pygmy hippo had leaves and trash; c) the drain cleanout located in the keeper service area behind pygmy hippo has volunteer plant material growing out of it; d) clutter behind parrot holding aviaries, e) dirty food buckets at roan antelope barn. [10.1.1]
19. The Euthanasia Policy does not meet AZA/AAZV standards.[2.0.1; 2.9.1]
20. Water quality testing is not done in the North American river otter exhibit. [1.5.9] \*
21. The floor of the black & white ruffed lemur barn is in disrepair; there is an unsealed crack in the concrete slab at the ruffed lemur chute (between behlen cage and holding); off-exhibit large bird holding cages adjacent to jaguar off-exhibit introduction cages are in poor shape and overgrown with vegetation (the VC was told that they are still used). [10.1.0]

## **PART II:** **Points of Particular Achievement Noted by Visiting Committee**

**INSTITUTION DIRECTOR:** During the inspection the Visiting Committee was particularly impressed with the items listed below.

1. Staff dedication to the zoo is exceptional. This was never more obvious than during the flood of 2016 despite personal hardships. The zoo developed and implemented a protocol for the distribution of donations received from other institutions for the purposes of flood relief for their employees.
2. Friends of the Zoo funded the survey for potential relocation/renovation of zoo, the new Director of Marketing and Director of Development positions and improvements to the Indian rhino exhibit.
3. Through its Zoo Improvement Fund security cameras have been added throughout the facility, a modular office building was constructed for animal department staff, and the operator and card access for the zoo security gate was replaced.
3. The zoo is working to expand its revenue generating capabilities through a variety of activities and functions including: weddings, birthday parties and company events.
4. The zoo replaced and expanded its electrical service for future growth.
5. Realm of the Tiger is an excellent facility that continues to be a guest favorite and sets the standard for future development.
6. The hospital is spacious, well-equipped and immaculately maintained.
7. The zoo's water treatment facility is a model for sustainable water use.
8. The director has foraged an excellent working relationship with the new BREC superintendent, Carolyn McKnight.

9. The zoo was able to work with BREC to hire its first ever on-site carpenter/maintenance worker.
10. The BREC Commission recently voted to continue the process of assessing the most sustainable and successful location for the Baton Rouge Zoo.
10. The long-standing relationship with LSU that provides educational opportunities for veterinary students, interns and residents is commendable.
11. The Zoo has developed a new Veterinary Technican Intern program in conjunction with Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC).