·EDINBVRGH·
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

[redacted]

Date: 28 April 2025

Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
134 Corstorphine Road
EDINBURGH
EH12 6TS

Dear [redacted]

ZOO LICENSING ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)
HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974
EDINBURGH ZOO, 134 CORSTORPHINE ROAD, EDINBURGH

I refer to the annual inspection of Edinburgh Zoo on 22nd April 2025 by [redacted] (Edinburgh Council's [redacted]) and myself.

The annual inspection did not cover all areas of the Zoo but included many parts of the premises and discussions with Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) representatives [redacted] and [redacted] on a range of veterinary, animal collection and health and safety matters.

A summary of progress and completion of Actions Required from the 2024 Report and matters noted during the inspection are included below:

Recommendations from previous report

1 Zebra enclosure and stand-off barrier- The new Zebra enclosure is still under construction and is not in operation yet.

2 Giraffe Crush– a written protocol for the use of the giraffe crush & induction box dated May 24 was inspected

3 Emergency Drug dosage sheet – The revised dosage sheet with increased font size and dart size included is now fitted inside the relevant medicine storage cupboard.

4 Emergency Drug dosage sheet – The revised dosage sheet with increased font size and dart size included is now fitted inside the relevant medicine storage cupboard

[redacted]
G1, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG
Tel [redacted] [redacted]@edinburgh.gov.uk

5 “Outline steps” exposure to high concentration anaesthetic pharmaceuticals- the response to the accidental exposure of staff to high concentration anaesthetic pharmaceutical agents has been assessed by the veterinary department. The steps to be followed in the event of exposure to etorphine were demonstrated. The response to exposure to other agents is detailed in the steps to be followed by exposure to any harmful substance. (This document was not reviewed at this inspection. It should be inspected in 2026)

6 Veterinary Pharmaceuticals “instructions to staff”- the current arrangements were discussed and inspected. The dispensing and managing/storage of veterinary pharmaceuticals is undertaken by veterinary surgeons or a veterinary nurse. The knowledge required for these duties would be gained during their undergraduate studies prior to gaining the relevant university degrees. The keeper staff are issued with instructions on handling veterinary pharmaceuticals on the label attached to the medicines and on the record of administration form. Keeper staff are trained and assessed prior to being asked to administer any medications

7 Lone Animal Policy- It was agreed that this item would be “carried forward” to the 2026 inspection

8 Tiger accommodation ‘Roof Space’- It was noted that the roof space in the tiger enclosure has been closed off to prevent tigers accessing this area in case of escape.

9 Escape Drills – “consistent format”- It was noted that a consist format is now used for recording animal escapes drills.

10 Rhinoceros “welfare audits include spatial assessments”- It was agreed that this item would be “carried forward” to the 2026 inspection.

11 Penguin Feeding USDA document (2023)- the management of penguin fish feeding has been reviewed with reference to the USDA document

12 Tiger enclosure, redundant doors/tunnels secured- It was noted that the padlocks on the redundant doors had been changed so that they cannot be opened by keepers.

13 Otter stand-off barrier, cleaning and overhanging trees- It was noted that this item has not been completed and remains outstanding.

14 North Rhino house RCD box- It was noted that the electric box and associated plugs etc have now been enclosed in a wooden box.

15 Gelada Exhibit Viewing Window, “planting or similar”- It was noted that the fence at the top of the wall at the viewing window has been heightened and new planting has been introduced in this area.

16 Barbary Rock, “signage warning of potential fall injuries”- It was noted that this item has not been completed and remains outstanding.

17 Asiatic Lion facility review- a report of the review was presented but many of the findings have been superseded by the movement of lions from the premises

Recommendations to the Licensing Authority from previous inspection.

1 Giraffe House Lucerne feed racks H&S review- It was noted that a review had been conducted on this, and a risk assessment had been carried out on the use of ladders. However, a more permanent solution to this issue needs to be implemented to try to avoid the need to use ladders (e.g. having baskets on pully systems to lower them etc)

2 Rhino Exhibit Hay racks, H&S review- It was noted that edge protection had been installed on the wall to protect staff from falling into the rhino arena.

3 Penguin Filtration room, assessed with regard to edge protection- It was noted that edge protection had been fitted however, a section of this has been cut away and the movable barrier section was badly corroded and rusty. This should be repaired to prevent staff from falling into the sump area.

Additional Conditions from previous inspection

1 Off-show area to the north, closing the existing gates and providing sufficient signage- It was noted that additional signage had been provided in this area, however gates were still being left open by staff. Ensure that all gates are closed after use.

2 Visitor areas, slopes, steps and paths Risk assessment- It was noted that a risk assessment covering this area has been produced. Please forward a copy of this document to this department for review.

3 Wallaby Outback, Annual review risk assessments, SOP and associated documents – It was noted that a review had been carried out and a risk assessment had been produced. Please forward copies of these documents to this department for review.

4 Animal Record Keeping Policy- a printed copy of the policy was available for inspection. The policy includes details of the recording of animal behaviour, health and movements

5 Chimpanzee Outdoor Enclosure “contact with moat water”- It was noted that additional fencing/planting had been provided to prevent the public from coming into contact with moat water.

6 Visayan Warty Pig stand-off barrier- It was noted that some additional fencing had been provided her however this is only partially effective. Therefore, a more effective solution to this issue needs to be introduced.

Directions from previous inspection

1 Penguin feeding written fish management policy- a document describing the management policy for the storage and preparation of raw fish and meat was inspected. This document included the principles of HACCP and made reference to the USDA (2023) document – see Recommendations 11 above

2 Primate UV light assessment- the veterinary department has assessed the need for artificial UV light in all primate species in the collection with reference to calcium and vitamin D requirements plus zoo association guidelines. Artificial UV light sources have now been fitted. The effect of this on animal health can not be assessed as there were no records of previous ill health and existing radiographs demonstrated normal bone density

3 Aviary Netting, squirrel damage policy assessing nets- the Waldrapp ibis netting has been replaced. A policy document detailing assessment of netting and appropriate action was inspected

4 High Level Cleaning Living Links, Capuchin, old Tiger enclosure "SOP updated"- high level cleaning is now undertaken by an external contractor. The zoo intends to train in house staff for this task at which time an SOP will be developed.

5 Lion Spatial restrictions "written protocol"- It was agreed that this item would be "carried forward" to the 2026 inspection

6 Large Poison Arrow Frog Vivarium pests- It was noted that the 'Wee Beasties' area has been closed and the animals temporarily relocated to allow for cleaning/treatment and redevelopment of this area.

The following additions to the collection were inspected

- Capybara
- 3 lynx – these are held in quarantine facilities as they had been captured after release into the wild by unknown persons
- 7 Japanese macaques – 4 from the Highland Wildlife Park and 3 from the EU
- 3 male alpacas from GB; tested for the common communicable diseases prior to arrival. These animals will be neutered as they will be considered for close public contact
- 3 Banteng
- Several different owl species – these were "rescue" animals following an SSPCA operation

The medical records of the following animals were inspected and discussed: -
Western Grey kangaroos, Red Pandas, Chimpanzees, Binturong, Cheetah & Southern Pudu.

Matters noted during Inspection on 22 April 2025

1 It was noted that there was a rabbit infestation in the Wallaby walkthrough area. This needs to be attended to.

2 The recent escape of the Capybara was discussed at the inspection and it was noted that additional fencing had been installed in the capybara enclosure to try to prevent this from happening again. However, due to the recent escape of the capybara, the exit gate onto Kaimes Road needs to be properly secured to prevent the escape of animals via this route.

3 The edge protection on some steps is in disrepair. These should be repaired.

4 A regular review and update of all Risk assessments needs to be carried out and a risk assessment for the filling of the Lucerne baskets in the Giraffe house needs to be carried out. Please forward a copy of the risk assessment to this department for review.

5 Ensure that all animal escapes are notifed to the Licensing Authority as soon as possible.

The following items are proposed for inspection in 2026

1 Lone animal policy (see Recommendation 7 above)
2 Spatial assessments for Asiatic Lion & Rhinoceros (see Recommendation 10 & Direction 5 above)
3 Policy document for steps to be taken in the event of exposure to a harmful substance (see Recommendation 5 above)
4 Inspection of all visitor permitted feeding procedures
5 Records of animal movements including health certification & CITES documentation
6 Recorded escape drills within the previous year
7 Staff training records
8 Accident reporting
9 Display of the zoo licence
10 Records of electric fence checks

The following areas are proposed for inspection in 2026

1 Feed stores
2 Veterinary Hospital
3 Movement crate storage

The following animals are proposed for inspection in 2026

1 Sloth bears
2 Wee Beasties
3 Rhinos
4 Lions
5 Tigers
6 Any additions to the collection

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

cc [redacted], RZSS, 134 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 6TS
[redacted] RZSS,134 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 6TS