



Zoo Inspection Report

Date of inspection: Date report completed:

Name of applicant or current licence holder:	<input type="text" value="Dr Christoph Schwitzer PhD"/>		
Name and address of zoo:	<input type="text" value="Dublin Zoo"/> <input type="text" value="Phoenix Park"/> <input type="text" value="Dublin 8"/> <input type="text" value="www.dublinzoo.ie"/>		
		<input type="text" value="https://w3w.co/forks.dots.twig"/>	
		Postcode: <input type="text" value="D08WF88"/>	
Contact email (name):	<input type="text" value="info@dublinzoo.ie"/>	<input type="text" value="info@dublinzoo.ie"/>	<input type="text" value="info@dublinzoo.ie"/>
Telephone number:	<input type="text" value="0035314748900"/>	Current licence no:	<input type="text" value="ZOO/Z/DZO/2021"/>
Date of last inspection:	<input type="text" value="18/10/2021"/>	Type of last inspection:	<input type="text" value="Renewal"/>
Current licence period:	<input type="text" value="Expires 31.12.2022"/>	This inspection type:	<input type="text" value="Renewal"/>

Name of inspector(s)	Title
<input type="text" value=""/>	NPWS Zoo Inspector
<input type="text" value=""/>	NPWS Zoo Inspector
Amanda Maguire	Biodiversity and Conservation Unit, NPWS, DHLGH

Name of zoo representative(s)	Title
<input type="text" value=""/>	Zoo Director
<input type="text" value=""/>	Zoo Curator
<input type="text" value=""/>	Zoo Veterinarian

Inspector's checklist:

Arrival time: Finish time: Total inspection time:

Inspection findings reviewed with zoo representative: Yes No NA

Inspection report complete: Yes No NA

Inspection report under went peer review: Yes No NA

Inspectors signed and dated: Yes No NA

Original sent to DHLGH: Yes No NA

Inspection peer reviewer:

Date peer review:

Please note peer review is an internal process of peer review of the contents of the inspection report and does not refer to a peer review of the zoological collection itself. It is used by the inspectors to ensure consistency and robustness in reporting.

When this form has been completed and signed the original must be sent to Zoo Licensing, Biodiversity Policy and Conservation, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 90 North King Street, Dublin 7 or by email to zoos@housing.gov.ie

Preamble to inspectors' report

Preamble to inspector's report, this might include general background about the zoo (type of collection, size, etc) and any relevant information or comments from the pre-inspection audit.

Dublin Zoo was founded 190 years ago and is governed by the Council of the Zoological Society of Ireland. It is situated on a 28 hectare site in Phoenix Park near the centre of Dublin. The zoo has always faced some challenges due to its location, in particular the lack of dedicated car parking which is believed to impact on the visitor revenue potential, particularly during busy periods in the park.

The inspectors want to make it clear that although it may seem that a relatively large number of conditions have been issued during this and the previous inspection, this does not reflect poorly on Dublin Zoo. Dublin Zoo is a modern facility which, in our opinion, is well run and has the welfare of the animals it cares for at the heart of each decision made by the operators.

The zoo director, zoo curator & veterinary team have all joined the zoo during the past three years and are working hard to update historical issues with pre-existing exhibits and habitats as well as striving to implement new processes. The standards at Dublin zoo are very high, and it is clear from talking to various keepers and other staff that there is an eagerness and significant support for the management & the improvements being made. The keepers were found to be experienced and knowledgeable and wholly dedicated to the animals they look after.

We would like to advise the operators that we are trialling a new inspection process beginning in 2022. We intend to move some aspects of the inspection onto a three year cycle, typically those areas that do not change significantly on an annual basis and have a longer term plan and objective. Examples of this include education policy and programs, research programs, conservation projects, preventative health programs, animal training programs etc.

This variation of the rigorous inspection process will afford inspectors more time to focus on those areas that require annual inspection, such as daily veterinary care, animal welfare and daily operations. It is also hoped that this will reduce the administrative burden on the zoo operators and provide clarity on the areas of their work which will be inspected each year.

Findings at inspection

Guidance note: Where possible a Yes, No or Not Applicable (N/A) answer should be given. Where not all criteria are met for a particular question, comments and clarification should be made indicating where any deficits occur. If appropriate, means of correction or improvement should be included as Conditions or Recommendations under 'Additional conditions' or 'Additional space' towards the end of the form.

1. Provision of food and water	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
1.1 Are animals provided with a high standard of nutrition?	Yes	Excellent standard & quality of human grade food. Specialist diets as well as a full range of vitamins. The vet team are planning to review all diets in 2022.
1.2 Is food and drink that is supplied appropriate for the species /individual?	Yes	Nice range of appropriate browse provided to herbivores. It is suggested that additional browse is offered to the large species housed in the African savannah exhibit.
1.3 Are diets recorded and reviewed with an appropriate person?	Yes	The vet team are planning to review all diets in 2022. It is suggested that they review the practice of fasting days for large carnivores. See recommendation.
1.4 Are supplies of food and water: (a) kept hygienically?	Yes	Most sections have a clean well equipped kitchen. The refit of the childrens' farm kitchen and the transfer of the chimpanzee food preparation area to the gorilla kitchen will enhance this.
(b) prepared hygienically?	Yes	
(c) supplied to the animal hygienically?	Yes	
1.5 Has natural feeding behaviour been adequately considered to ensure that all animals have access to food and drink?	Yes	Additional daytime browse offering ought to be considered in the outdoor Africa exhibit, should this be possible to implement.
1.6 Are feeding methods safe for staff and animals?	Yes	but cohabitation of the Howler & Squirrel monkeys needs to be monitored to ensure both dietary needs are met.
1.7 Have the documented methods for the management of frozen meat been implemented?	Yes	
1.8 Is feeding by visitors permitted?	No	
(a) if 'yes', is it properly controlled?	N/A	
2. Provision of suitable environment		
2.1 Are the animals provided with an environment well adapted to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of the species to which they belong?	Yes	In particular the zoo is commended on the modifications to the Sulawesi macaque habitat which were made during the COVID lockdown, and have had a positive impact on the social grouping.

2. Provision of suitable environment (continued)	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
2.2 Are the following environmental parameters appropriate:		But the African spurred tortoises & red footed tortoises and primates in 'South America' require additional monitoring of their indoor housing to ensure that all environmental parameters are being met. This must include ongoing daytime & night time monitoring & recording of ambient temperatures, basking temperatures, and humidity which should be reviewed and acted upon by the team leaders for that section.
(a) temperature?	Yes	In addition there must also be monthly recording of the UV index at the basking spots to ensure it remains within the ideal range for the species kept .
(b) ventilation?	Yes	See conditions.
(c) lighting?	Yes	
(d) noise levels?	Yes	
(e) any other environmental parameters	Yes	
2.3 Are there satisfactory measures in place to safely confine the animals?	Yes	
2.4 Do animal enclosures have sufficient shelter and refuge areas?	Yes	But shelters are required in the African savannah. See conditions
2.5 Do animal enclosures provide sufficient space?	Yes	
2.6 Are backup facilities for life support systems adequate?	Yes	
2.7 Is the cleaning of the accommodation satisfactory?	Yes	
2.8 Is the standard of maintenance adequate for:	Yes	
(a) buildings?		
(b) the fences?	Yes	
2.9 Is all drainage effective and safe?	Yes	But the sink in the mangabey house must be plumbed directly to the drainage gully to avoid spillage on the floor.
3. Provision of animal health care		
3.1 Are the animals provided with a high standard of animal husbandry?	Yes	
3.2 Do animals on display to the public appear in good health?	Yes	Excellent general health, with any known issues monitored by the keepers & veterinary team.
3.3 Are observations of condition and health made and recorded?	Yes	To a high standard.
3.4 Do animals receive prompt and appropriate attention when problems are noted?	Yes	The veterinary team are on site most days routinely and are only a call away.

3. Provision of animal health care (continued)	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
3.5 Are enclosures designed and operated in such a way that social interaction problems are avoided?	Yes	
On site facilities 3.6 Are catch-up and restraint facilities adequate?	Yes	Well equipped
3.7 Is darting equipment satisfactory?	Yes	
3.8 Are on-site veterinary facilities adequate?	Yes	Excellent facilities with recent purchase of new equipment.
Veterinary care 3.9 Are the animals provided with a documented and maintained programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition?	Yes	
3.10 Is there a system for the regular review of clinical and pathological records?	Yes	An extensive and detailed report of veterinary activity is produced and discussed on a regular basis.
3.11 Are appropriate veterinary records kept?	Yes	
3.12 Are medicines kept and disposed of correctly?	Yes	This has been well considered, but see recommendation regarding temperature monitoring on section.
3.13 Are controlled drugs used and recorded satisfactorily?	Yes	
3.14 Are appropriate antidotes available?	Yes	
3.15 Are <i>post mortem</i> examination arrangements satisfactory?	Yes	
Isolation and containment 3.16 Are policies in place outlining quarantine and isolation procedures?	Yes	
3.17 Is adequate reserve accommodation available for isolation of animals for:		The old gorilla house is now an excellent general purpose housing unit, which is invaluable for holding species during the upgrades to enclosures and any new exhibits being built on site.
(a) assessment?	Yes	
(b) treatment?	Yes	
(c) recovery?	Yes	
(d) quarantine (where required)?	Yes	

3. Provision of animal health care (continued)	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
<p>Sanitation and control of disease</p> <p>3.18 Are satisfactory measures in place to prevent the intrusion of pests and vermin into the zoo premises?</p>	Yes	But a review must be undertaken to ensure that the impact of any pest species are being assessed and monitored longterm with any issues addressed. See conditions.
3.19 Does it appear that general sanitation and pest control are effective?	Yes	
3.20 Is there a documented zoonoses management policy in place for both staff and visitors?	Yes	
4. Provision of an opportunity to express most normal behaviour		
4.1 Do the accommodation and management regimes encourage normal behaviour patterns and minimise any abnormal behaviour, taking into account current enrichment and husbandry guidelines?	Yes	
4.2 Are animals of social species normally maintained in compatible social groups?	Yes	The inspectors acknowledge the improvements made in this area by the zoo management team.
4.3 Are the animals provided with an active and documented enrichment programme?	Yes	
5. Demonstration of mental consideration		
5.1 Can the zoo demonstrate adherence to it's welfare statement and a commitment to positive animal welfare?	Yes	
5.2 Are the animals provided with an active process of animal welfare assessment?	Yes	Excellent program & demonstrated for hippo & gorilla.
5.3 Does the Animal Collection Plan demonstrate consideration of animal welfare?	Yes	
5.4 Are the animals handled only by or under the supervision of experienced staff?	Yes	
5.5 Is physical contact between animals and the public consistent with the animals' welfare?	N/A	
5.6 Are interactions between the animals such that they are not excessively stressful?	Yes	

5. Demonstration of mental consideration (continued)	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
5.7 Does the zoo have a documented training methods policy?	N/A	Not assessed during this inspection
5.8 Has an ethical review process been established and implemented?	Yes	Detailed records kept.
6. Transportation and movement of live animals		
6.1 Can the zoo demonstrate a knowledge of, and compliance with, the regulations covering transportation of animals, and provide copies of certificates to show compliance when transportation has occurred?	Yes	
6.2 Can the zoo demonstrate that: (a) transport and movement equipment is in good order?	Yes	
(b) facilities suitable for lifting, crating and transportation of all the types of animals kept within the zoo to destinations both inside and outside the zoo are readily available?	Yes	
(c) catching and transportation techniques take account of the animal's temperament and escape behaviour in order to minimise injury, damage and distress?	Yes	
(d) adequate provision is made for the animal's and the public's safety and well-being while the animal is being transported or kept away from the zoo?	Yes	
7. Conservation, education and research		
7.1 Is the zoo participating in at least one of the following: (i) research from which conservation benefits accrue to species of wild animals?	N/A	Conservation, Education & Research were not assessed this year. They were previously reviewed during prior inspections. The zoo inspectorate is trialling a new rolling 3 year cycle for some aspects of the zoo inspection process.
(ii) training in relevant conservation skills?	N/A	
(iii) the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals?	N/A	
(iv) where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity?	N/A	
(v) where appropriate, the re-population of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals?	N/A	

7. Conservation, education and research (continued)	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
7.2 Is the zoo promoting public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, in particular by providing information about the species of wild animals kept in the zoo and their natural habitats?	N/A	Conservation, Education & Research were not assessed this year. They were previously reviewed during prior inspections. The zoo inspectorate is trialling a new rolling 3 year cycle for some aspects of the zoo inspection process.
7.3 Can the zoo demonstrate the implementation of it's Conservation Strategy?	N/A	Conservation, Education & Research were not assessed this year. They were previously reviewed during prior inspections. The zoo inspectorate is trialling a new rolling 3 year cycle
7.4 Where appropriate are animals managed in a way consistent with the conservation needs of the species, (such as exchange between zoos, accommodation to encourage natural behaviour and breeding, etc.)?	N/A	Conservation, Education & Research were not assessed this year. They were previously reviewed during prior inspections. The zoo inspectorate is trialling a new rolling 3 year cycle for some aspects of the zoo inspection process.
7.5 Can the zoo demonstrate the effectiveness of it's Education Strategy?	N/A	Conservation, Education & Research were not assessed this year. They were previously reviewed during prior inspections. The zoo inspectorate is trialling a new rolling 3 year cycle
7.6 Are on-site education facilities adequate for the resources of the collection?	N/A	Conservation, Education & Research were not assessed this year. They were previously reviewed during prior inspections.
7.7 Are the conservation efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	N/A	Conservation, Education & Research were not assessed this year. They were previously reviewed during prior inspections.
7.8 Are the research efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	N/A	Conservation, Education & Research were not assessed this year. They were previously reviewed during prior inspections.
7.9 Is captive breeding properly managed?	N/A	Conservation, Education & Research were not assessed this year.
8. Public safety		
8.1 Are there satisfactory measures in place to prevent the escape of animals?	Yes	But additional security window & door grills are required in the great ape houses to upgrade them to the high standard of the new builds at the zoo. See conditions
8.2 Are there satisfactory measures in place to be taken in the event of any escape or unauthorised release of animals?	Yes	

8. Public safety (continued)	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
8.3 Are escape drills carried out (e.g. four times a year), recorded and regularly reviewed?	Yes	Detailed drills are carried out
8.4 Will the perimeter deter unauthorised entry and aid the confinement of zoo stock?	Yes	
8.5 Do stand-off barriers appear adequate?	Yes	
8.6 Are adequate warning signs provided?	Yes	
8.7 Are prohibited areas appropriately signed?	Yes	
8.8 Are exits clearly marked and accessible?	Yes	
8.9 Do public areas, walkways and buildings appear safe?	Yes	
8.10 Are trees regularly inspected and appropriate remedial action taken?	N/A	Not assessed this year
8.11 Have appropriate risk assessments for direct contact by the public with animals been carried out?	Yes	
8.12 Are the special safety requirements for walk-through or drive-through exhibits adequately met?	N/A	
9. Records		
9.1 Are there up-to-date records of the zoo's collection, including records of:		
(i) the numbers of different animals?	Yes	
(ii) acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes of animals?	Yes	
(iii) the causes of any such deaths?	Yes	
(iv) the health of the animals?	Yes	
9.2 Are daily diaries maintained, and do they contain appropriate information?	Yes	
9.3 Are animal stock records clear and up-to-date?	Yes	

9. Records (continued)	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
9.4 Are annual stock records completed in the correct format and submitted to DHLGH?	Yes	
9.5 Are animal source and destination records kept?	Yes	
9.6 Are archived records secure?	Yes	
9.7 Can the zoo demonstrate the efficacy of their UVB lighting management policy?	Yes	But further details required for red-footed tortoises, sulcata tortoises & small primates. See conditions.
9.8 Can the zoo demonstrate effective water quality management policy and its implementation?	Yes	Excellent facilities for penguins & sea lions, both of which have salt water pools.
10. Miscellaneous		
10.1 Do staff numbers and training of staff appear adequate?	Yes	Certificates provided for all keeping staff following a food hygiene course
10.2 Is the management structure and organisation of staff adequate to ensure compliance with current zoo legislation?	Yes	
10.3 Are staff training records complete and up-to-date?	Yes	
10.4 Are effective risk assessments carried out where appropriate?	Yes	
10.5 Can the zoo demonstrate an effective envenomation policy and drill log (where applicable)?	N/A	No venomous species on site
10.6 Are public toilet facilities adequate and serviced?	Yes	
10.7 Are parking facilities adequate?	N/A	Not assessed at this inspection
10.8 Is a First Aid policy and accident reporting and recording systems in place?	N/A	Not assessed at this inspection

11. Associated legislation	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
11.1 Is electrical equipment routinely serviced?	N/A	Not assessed at this inspection
11.2 Have fire precautions been agreed and implemented?	N/A	Not assessed at this inspection
11.3 Is refuse and clinical waste disposed of correctly?	N/A	Not assessed at this inspection
11.4 Are the required needs of disabled visitors met?	N/A	Not assessed at this inspection
11.5 Does the zoo have a Health and Safety policy including an effective accident reporting system?	N/A	Not assessed at this inspection
12. Compliance check including licence conditions		
12.1 Is the current licence or a copy on public display at each public entrance?	Yes	
12.2 Have any Additional licence conditions been met?	Yes	One condition outstanding from previous inspection, but still in timescale as it is a construction related condition.
12.3 Is adequate Public Liability Insurance current?	Yes	
12.4 Does the organisation appear to comply with current CITES legislation with regards to		
(i) the living collection	Yes	
(ii) museum specimens and parts and derivatives used for educational purposes	Yes	
12.5 Does the zoo appear to comply with the European Invasive Alien species legislation as implemented in Ireland?	Yes	
12.6 Does the zoo have a current Bird of Prey licence (where applicable)?	N/A	

Additional space

The following space is provided for:

- additional notes and comments on the answers to the earlier questions
- recommendations (other than in respect of grant or refusal of a licence and any specific conditions recommended for a licence) including those based on comments already made to earlier questions
- any general remarks which the inspecting team may wish to record

The inspectors would like to thank the zoo director, curator, vet team and all the keepers for their hospitality and openness during the inspection. In addition, the provision of a completed PIA and associated documentation assisted with the efficiency of the inspection process on the day.

We would like to commend the veterinary team specifically for the hard work they are committing to the zoo, along with the proactive approach they are taking towards holistic veterinary care of all species.

In addition, the inspectors were particularly impressed with the very high standard of care provided in the reptile house (Zoorasic World).

It is also recognised that significant developments are underway and scheduled for completion during 2022, 2023 & 2024. These will lead to upgrades of existing enclosures and new housing & shelters in a number of exhibits and we look forward to seeing the improvements at the next inspection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Whilst the installation of a number of lockable boxes across the zoo for storing dispensed veterinary medicines is to be commended, the inspectors would suggest that the temperature in these boxes is regularly monitored and recorded – a data-logger may serve this purpose well.

2. It is recommended that a review is undertaken of any paint lines that are implemented to demarcate safe spaces in hazardous animal housing in order to ensure that they are present and clearly visible where they are required.

3. Although it is understood that the current lion house is to be re-purposed, the inspectors would suggest the installation of mirrors in the end dens in the meantime, and potentially also in future, in order to allow better visibility into all the corners of all dens.

4. It is understood that a full dietary review is scheduled to be undertaken in the near future, in conjunction with the veterinary team. The inspectors would advise that a specific assessment is made of the current practice of implementing fasting days for the carnivores.

End of recommendations.

Inspecting team's recommendation to DHLGH

Having inspected (name of zoo)

Dublin Zoo

on:

16.05.2022

the inspecting team make the following recommendation:

- it is recommended that a licence be refused.....
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the Act subject to the Standard Conditions.....
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the Act subject to the Standard Conditions and the following Additional Conditions.....

Additional Conditions (if appropriate)

1. In accordance with section 3.30 of the ISMZP (2016) the zoo must undertake a review of pests, and subsequent impacts of such pests, at the African Savannah and must action steps to ensure effective control. This review must include a documented investigation into the scope of the pest problem and the efficacy of any management options that are employed. (3 months).

2. In accordance with section 8.6 of the ISMZP (2016), windows and doors in service areas in hazardous animal housing must be covered with window grills or gates in order to prevent the escape of an animal that may have breached the main enclosure (1 year).

3. In accordance with section 2.7 of the ISMZP (2016), animals in outdoor enclosures must be provided with sufficient shelter for their comfort and well-being. With reference to the animals in the African Savannah exhibit the zoo operators must either provide appropriate outdoor shelters for all species, or provide written justification (to the satisfaction of the Inspectors and Department) as to why such shelters are not required in this exhibit (18 months).

4. In accordance with Section 2.6 & Appendices 9.2.2 and 9.2.5 of the ISMZP (2016), the zoo licence holder must ensure that the enclosures for the red-footed tortoises and African spurred tortoises must provide species specific suitable environments, including temperature gradients, adequate UVB light (where appropriate), humidity, ventilation and other relevant factors. The zoo licence holder must produce and implement a process of daily monitoring and recording of the required life support parameters to ensure they are maintained within appropriate ranges for these species. There must be a process to rectify any environmental parameters found to be outside of the expected range and these steps implemented to return the environment to the designated range for the species. A minimum of 3 months data must be available to comply with this condition. (4 Months).

5. In accordance with section 2.6 of the ISMZP (2016) the zoo must ensure that all the primates in the South America house are provided with species specific suitable environments, including temperature gradients, adequate UVB light, humidity, ventilation and other relevant factors. The zoo licence holder must produce and implement a process of daily monitoring and recording of the required life support parameters to ensure they are maintained within appropriate ranges for these species. There must be a process to rectify any environmental parameters found to be outside of the expected range and these steps implemented to return the environment to the designated range for the species.

A minimum of 3 month data must be available to comply with this condition. (4 months).

End of Conditions

Continue on page 14 if required

Additional Conditions (if appropriate)

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Continued from page 13:

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If additional conditions continue on separate pages please tick here: Number of additional pages:

0

If no separate pages used please tick here: Total number of pages to the report:

15

Please note that where used separate pages listing conditions form part of the complete zoo licence inspection report

Inspector(s) signature(s)

Date signed

	26.05.22
	26.05.22

Privacy Statement

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy and employs appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect your information from unauthorised access. The Department will not process your personal data for any purpose other than that for which they were collected. Personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments, local authorities, agencies under the aegis of the Department, or other public bodies, in certain circumstances where this is provided for by law. The Department will only retain your personal data for as long as it is necessary for the purposes for which they were collected and subsequently processed. When the business need to retain this information has expired, it will be examined with a view to destroying the personal data as soon as possible, and in line with Department policy. Further information on Data Protection can be found on our website at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/648102-data-protection/>