



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="[REDACTED]"/>	
Telephone number:	<input type="text" value="0035314748900"/>	Current licence no:	<input type="text" value="ZOO/Z/DZO/2022"/>
Date of last inspection:	<input type="text" value="16.5.2022"/>	Type of last inspection:	<input type="text" value="Renewal"/>
Current licence period:	<input type="text" value="Expires 31.12.23"/>	This inspection type:	<input type="text" value="Renewal"/>

Name of inspector(s)	Title
<input type="text" value="[REDACTED]"/>	NPWS Zoo Inspector
<input type="text" value="[REDACTED]"/>	NPWS Zoo Inspector
Claire Crowley (18th only)	Assistant Principle Wildlife Licensing Unit NPWS

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

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.

In 2021, Dublin Zoo published a strategic vision document 'Dublin Zoo 200' which outlines the Zoo's ambitious 10 year vision, as the zoo approaches their bicentennial in 2031. The inspectors look forward to following the progress of the zoo development during this exciting time.

As scheduled for the 2023 inspection, and in order to review the detailed conservation, education and research outputs in greater detail, the zoo inspection took place over 1.5 days rather than the typical 1 day.

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	Full range of commercially available specialist diets. Human grade fruit and vegetables.
1.2 Is food and drink that is supplied appropriate for the species /individual?	Yes	
1.3 Are diets recorded and reviewed with an appropriate person?	Yes	A full review is underway across the zoo, but see Recommendations regarding the mixed species South American primate exhibit.
1.4 Are supplies of food and water: (a) kept hygienically?	Yes	But a review of fridge and freezer management is required to ensure adequate separation of meat/fish and fruit/veg. See Conditions.
(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	
1.6 Are feeding methods safe for staff and animals?	Yes	
1.7 Have the documented methods for the management of frozen meat been implemented?	No	In general meat management is very good, but see 1.4a and associated condition.
1.8 Is feeding by visitors permitted?	No	
(a) if 'yes', is it properly controlled?		
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	

2. Provision of suitable environment (continued)	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
2.2 Are the following environmental parameters appropriate: (a) temperature? (b) ventilation? (c) lighting? (d) noise levels? (e) any other environmental parameters	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	But the Chinese stripe-necked turtle and Burmese pythons enclosures require some modification to ensure adequate basking areas are available. See Conditions.
2.3 Are there satisfactory measures in place to safely confine the animals?	Yes	Well maintained fencing
2.4 Do animal enclosures have sufficient shelter and refuge areas?	Yes	Shelters are due to be installed in the Savannah, as discussed at the last inspection.
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	To a high standard.
2.8 Is the standard of maintenance adequate for: (a) buildings? (b) the fences?	Yes Yes	The maintenance of buildings and fence is generally very good, although there is some historic netting at the elephant enclosure that should be removed if no longer required. See recommendations.
2.9 Is all drainage effective and safe?	Yes	Other than at the mangabey service area where the sink is not plumbed to the drainage gully. See Conditions.
3. Provision of animal health care		
3.1 Are the animals provided with a high standard of animal husbandry?	Yes	To a very high standard.
3.2 Do animals on display to the public appear in good health?	Yes	
3.3 Are observations of condition and health made and recorded?	Yes	
3.4 Do animals receive prompt and appropriate attention when problems are noted?	Yes	Despite cover being provided by an external practice, a vet is located at the zoo most days, and they are nearby otherwise.

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	Although it would be advisable to store the nets in quarantine in such a way that they are not exposed to wild birds. See Conditions re safe restraint of the crocodiles.
3.7 Is darting equipment satisfactory?	Yes	
3.8 Are on-site veterinary facilities adequate?	Yes	There is significant investment in this area, with new x-ray equipment, including dental x-ray.
Veterinary care 3.9 Are the animals provided with a documented and maintained programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition?	Yes	The veterinary team are incredibly dedicated and enthusiastic, and preventative care is clearly a priority.
3.10 Is there a system for the regular review of clinical and pathological records?	Yes	This is thorough and well documented. Highly commended.
3.11 Are appropriate veterinary records kept?	Yes	High quality detailed records are maintained
3.12 Are medicines kept and disposed of correctly?	Yes	
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:		There are a number of older buildings without a current dedicated use, and these are well utilised across the zoo for housing animals that are not in their usual enclosure.
(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
Sanitation and control of disease		
3.18 Are satisfactory measures in place to prevent the intrusion of pests and vermin into the zoo premises?	Yes	
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	It is understood that the lone hippo will have a companion within the next 12 months.
4.3 Are the animals provided with an active and documented enrichment programme?	Yes	There is evidence of the ongoing enrichment programme across the collection.
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	Good evidence of this process.
5.2 Are the animals provided with an active process of animal welfare assessment?	Yes	Animals with specific needs are subjected to detailed and recurrent focal welfare assessments to track their progress; this is commended.
5.3 Does the Animal Collection Plan demonstrate consideration of animal welfare?	Yes	Demonstrated by the consideration of phasing out free -ranging birds e.g peafowl due to AI restrictions.
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?	Yes	Permitted only in the farmyard area.
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 at this inspection.
5.8 Has an ethical review process been established and implemented?	Yes	Thorough and robust process.
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	Although it is rare to temporarily move animals from the zoo, and almost exclusively only for the purpose of veterinary treatment not available at the site.
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?	Yes	The conservation outputs of the zoo are wide ranging and ambitious; this is to be highly commended.
(ii) training in relevant conservation skills?	Yes	At present there is no direct involvement in re-population or reintroduction projects, but there are hopes that this will come to fruition in future e.g. Waldrapp ibis.
(iii) the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals?	Yes	
(iv) where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity?	Yes	
(v) where appropriate, the re-population of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals?	No	

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?	Yes	On the whole signage is excellent, and the education and conservation departments are exceptional.
7.3 Can the zoo demonstrate the implementation of it's Conservation Strategy?	Yes	Very well written and implemented policy.
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.)?	Yes	The zoo are clearly dedicated to working with the breeding programmes and following their recommendations.
7.5 Can the zoo demonstrate the effectiveness of it's Education Strategy?	Yes	A clear system of monitoring and evaluation is in place and is being rolled out to allow assessment of an increasing number of education programmes.
7.6 Are on-site education facilities adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	The facilities are excellent, incorporating a range of fixed and mobile sites.
7.7 Are the conservation efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	
7.8 Are the research efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	There is a well managed research programme at the zoo, incorporating different levels of projects. All appear well considered and relevant.
7.9 Is captive breeding properly managed?	Yes	
8. Public safety		
8.1 Are there satisfactory measures in place to prevent the escape of animals?	Yes	
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	Very detailed and well considered in terms of potential real life situations. Excellent reflections on lessons learned from each drill.
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	The site is well maintained throughout.
8.10 Are trees regularly inspected and appropriate remedial action taken?	Yes	Annual inspection with additional as required.
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?	Yes	No drive through exhibits and one well managed walk through flamingo exhibit; no others on site.
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	Not assessed at this inspection.
9.6 Are archived records secure?	Yes	ZIMS in use.
9.7 Can the zoo demonstrate the efficacy of their UVB lighting management policy?	Yes	
9.8 Can the zoo demonstrate effective water quality management policy and its implementation?	Yes	Water quality records are available, although it would be advisable to pull these into one document which summarises any action taken if a parameter falls outside the normal values e.g. sea lion pool/salinity.
10. Miscellaneous		
10.1 Do staff numbers and training of staff appear adequate?	Yes	A range of staff training programs are in place. Excellent animal welfare assessment training.
10.2 Is the management structure and organisation of staff adequate to ensure compliance with current zoo legislation?	Yes	A good structure in place. A new assistant curator joined the team four weeks prior to the inspection and is clearly engaged and enthusiastic.
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?	Yes	Although this may limit the visitor numbers.
10.8 Is a First Aid policy and accident reporting and recording systems in place?	Yes	

11. Associated legislation	Marking Yes/No/ NA	Comments
11.1 Is electrical equipment routinely serviced?	Yes	
11.2 Have fire precautions been agreed and implemented?	Yes	
11.3 Is refuse and clinical waste disposed of correctly?	Yes	The system for managing and recycling faecal matter is very impressive.
11.4 Are the required needs of disabled visitors met?	Yes	
11.5 Does the zoo have a Health and Safety policy including an effective accident reporting system?	Yes	
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	
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?	N/A	None held.
12.6 Does the zoo have a current Bird of Prey licence (where applicable)?	N/A	None held.

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 all the zoo personnel involved for their welcome and cooperation during the inspection. From zoo director to volunteers, the inspectors found all individuals to be friendly, honest and willing to engage in the process.

Time was allocated to specifically assess the conservation, research and education departments on this inspection. This is not undertaken at every inspection as the inspectorate focuses on animal welfare and related aspects of zoo management.

The zoo appointed their first full time Conservation and Research Officer in November 2021, and following this they published their Conservation Master Plan (2022-2031). The focus is on the ambition of Dublin Zoo to become a zoo based-conservation organisation, rather than a zoo that partakes in conservation. There is clearly a lot of passion within the zoo team for this, at all levels. The zoo is working towards becoming an IUCN National Centre for Species Survival, and is also closely involved in native wildlife projects. There are plans to employ a second full time officer within conservation and research within the zoo, along with initiation of a intern programme. The inspectors would like to congratulate the zoo on taking these leading steps, and are very much looking forward to following the Master Plan over the coming years.

The inspectors spent a number of hours assessing the Education department during this visit, where they were provided with an overview of the 2023-2031 Conservation Education Master Plan. The facilities, education programme and team were outstanding. There is clear passion in this department for not only providing the basics of zoo education to children and adult visitors, but also extending this to social action campaigns and educating school teachers. The inspectors were very impressed with the infectious enthusiasm and passion exhibited by the Head of Discovery and Learning.

As always it is excellent to see continued progress in the infrastructure of the site, with the new painted dog and bongo houses, and the ongoing build of a second rhino house.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A review should be undertaken of the dietary components, access to food items and presentation within the mixed South America primate exhibits to ensure that each species is consuming a species appropriate diet. At present this relates to the mixed howler and squirrel monkey exhibit, but should also include the saki monkeys as it is proposed that they will all share the same space in future.
2. It is recommended that the sheep netting at the elephant enclosure is removed, given the blackbuck no longer access this area. If a barrier is required for the blackbuck then this netting should be replaced or repaired such that is appropriate and safe for the animals within the enclosure.
3. It is recommended that the Burmese python enclosure be reviewed to ensure that the space is being maximised through the use of additional theming and that the animals are able to meaningfully stretch out; this may require accurate assessment of their length.
4. It is recommended that worn & damaged paint lines used to demarcate safe spaces in hazardous animal housing are repainted and clearly visible where they are required.

END RECOMMENDATIONS

Inspecting team's recommendation to DHLGH

Having inspected (name of zoo) Dublin Zoo

on: 17th and 18th April 2023

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)

CONDITIONS

1. In accordance with Section 1.4f of the ISMZP (2016) the zoo licence holder must ensure that meat & fish products are stored in separate fridge and freezers to fruit & vegetables, and that all fridge and freezers are labelled correctly in line with Animal By Products legislation. (Immediate)

2. In accordance with section 2 and A9.2.2 of the ISMZP (2016) all vivaria must provide sufficient basking spots and a thermal gradient around the preferred body temperature of the species kept. This condition relates to the Chinese turtle & Burmese pythons which require upgraded or additional basking spots. (2 months)

3. In accordance with section 2.4 of the ISMZP (2016) the zoo must provide an enclosure designed to minimise the risk of injury to an animal in its care; this must include capture and handling for any veterinary treatment. This condition specifically relates to the off show crocodile feeding area where the specimens have grazed their snouts against the enclosure mesh as they lunge for food. A method for handling must be created to allow for safe veterinary treatment and transport if required. (Immediate)

4. In accordance with Section 3.30 of the ISMZP (2016) the sink in the Mangabey service area must be plumbed directly into the drain in order to remove this potential ingress for pests, specifically rodents. (1 month)

5. In accordance with Section 8.6 of the ISMZP (2016) all animals must be kept in enclosures so constructed as to avoid escape. Although it is understood that the current lion house is to be re-purposed, the blind spots in the end dens must be addressed with the installation of mirrors or an alternative method of viewing while they continue to be in use. (2 months)

6. In accordance with Section 4.11 of the ISMZP (2016) further action to locate a suitable home at another licensed zoo for the male Mangabeys which have been ostracized from the group must be taken. This search for a new location must prioritise the individuals' welfare and if necessary override the wishes of the EAZA EEP. The details of the rehoming process must be documented. (Immediate)

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

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

Inspector(s) signature(s)

Date signed

19.04.2023

19.04.2023

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/>