

Zoo Inspection Report

Date of inspection:	08/04/2024	Date report	zompietea.	10/04/2024
Name of applicant or current licence holder:				
Name and address of zoo:	Dublin Zoo Phoenix Park Dublin 8 www.dublinzoo.ie		https:/	//w3w.co/forks.dots.twig
			Post	code: D08WF88
Contact email (name):	info(@dublinzoo.ie	_	_
Telephone number:		Current	licence no:	ZOO/Z/DZO/2023
Date of last inspection:	17/04/2023	Type of	last inspection:	Renewal
Current licence period:	until Dec 2024	This insp	pection type:	Renewal
Name of inspector(s)		Title		
		NPWS Zoo ir	nspector	
		NPWS Zoo ir	nspector	
Sorcha de Brúch		NPWS Direct	tor	
Name of zoo representative(s)		Title		
, , , , , ,		Zoo Director		
		Zoo Curator		
		Zoo Veterina	rian	
		Assistant Zoo	Curator	
		·		
Inspector's checklist:				
Arrival time: 12.35 (8.4.24)	Finish time: 20	.10 (9.2.24)	Total inspectio	on time: 16 hrs
Inspection findings reviewed with zer Inspection report complete: Inspection report under went peer Inspectors signed and dated: Original sent to DHLGH:	Yes 🗸	No	the contents of the review of the zoolog	

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

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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 almost 200 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. As the zoo counts down to its bicentennial in 2031, there is an ongoing push to meet the ambitious 10 year vision outlined in their Dublin Zoo 200 document published in 2021. This vision is based on five main objectives and the inspectors are impressed with the progress that has been made across all of these areas in the period since the vision was released. In particular, the newly renovated Society House which acts as the base for Dublin Zoo's role as an IUCN National Centre for Species Survival, for which an MOU has been signed with the IUCN. We look forward to following the progress of Dublin Zoo though this exciting period. In addition to exceptional dedication to conservation, the zoo continues to strive to continually improve animal habitats within the zoo, with a clear focus on animal welfare.

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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 ▼	Diets are varied and well considered, but some concerns over the differing nutritional needs of the howlers and squirrel monkeys in the mixed exhibit - see Conditions.
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 ▼	
1.4 Are supplies of food and water: (a) kept hygienically?	Yes ▼	The standards across all animal kitchens were high - of particular note was the sea lion and penguin kitchen.
(b) prepared hygienically?	Yes ▼	However, frozen chicken was identified in a freezer dedicated to fruit and vegetables, faecal samples were identified in a freezeer containing animal food, and
(c) supplied to the animal hygienically?	Yes ▼	medicines in a fridge dedicated to animal food. See Conditions.
1.5 Has natural feeding behaviour been adequately considered to ensure that all animals have access to food and drink?	Yes	On the whole this is very well considered and implemented, but see Condition re howler monkeys and squirrel monkeys.
1.6 Are feeding methods safe for staff and animals?	Yes ▼	Noted new rubber matting around crocodile feeding area which has resolved any previous concerns.
1.7 Have the documented methods for the management of frozen meat been implemented?	Yes	Excellent fish management system in place for sea lions and penguins.
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 ▼	The general standard of provision is excellent, but the Annam leaf turtles in quarantine are overstocked and their enclosure is not appropriate. See Conditions,

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2. Provision of suitable environment (continued)	Marki Yes/N NA	_	Comments
2.2 Are the following environmental parameters appropriate:			General high standard, but there are a few notable areas of concern. Whilst data loggers are in place to record temperatures, and there is a system of manual recording
(a) temperature?	Yes	~	of temperature and UV, this system had failed to identify specific cases where parameters were not within the
(b) ventilation?	Yes		required range, and there was no evidence that action had been taken to correct the parameters on these occasions.
(c) lighting?	Yes		Specifically, the temperature and UV recording for the 'quarantine' leaf turtles was poor, and measurements by
(d) noise levels?	Yes		the inspectors found the parameters to be incorrect. In
(e) any other environmental parameters	Yes	V	addition, the sloth temperatures were found on occasion to be too low, with no apparent action. See Conditions.
2.3 Are there satisfactory measures in place to safely confine the animals?	Yes	▼	Noted improvement in macaque bridges and islands.
2.4 Do animal enclosures have sufficient shelter and refuge areas?	Yes	V	But concerns re Annam leaf turtles - see Conditions and Recommendations.
2.5 Do animal enclosures provide sufficient space?	Yes	V	Enclosures are generally spacious but not 'quarantine' Annam leaf turtles - see 2.4 and Conditions.
2.6 Are backup facilities for life support systems adequate?	Yes	V	
2.7 Is the cleaning of the accommodation satisfactory?	Yes		To a high standard across site.
2.8 Is the standard of maintenance adequate for: (a) buildings?	Yes		
(b) the fences?	Yes		
2.9 Is all drainage effective and safe?	Yes	v	Some pooling of water in rhino exhibit but inspectors accept there has been heavy and consistent rainfall.
3. Provision of animal health care			
3.1 Are the animals provided with a high standard of animal husbandry?	Yes	▼	In general, husbandry is excellent.
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	V	
3.4 Do animals receive prompt and appropriate attention when problems are noted?	Yes	V	

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3. Provision of animal health care (continued)	Markin Yes/No NA	_	Comments
3.5 Are enclosures designed and operated in such a way that social interaction problems are avoided?	Yes	-	But see Condition re squirrel monkeys and howlers.
On site facilities 3.6 Are catch-up and restraint facilities adequate?	Yes	•	But the new rhino house does not currently allow for veterinary management and intervention - see Recommendations.
3.7 Is darting equipment satisfactory?	Yes		
3.8 Are on-site veterinary facilities adequate?	Yes	\	Excellent in house facilities which are constantly improving.
Veterinary care 3.9 Are the animals provided with a documented and maintained programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition?	Yes		Very comprehensive programme of care, the schedule of which is well maintained by the veterinary nurse.
3.10 Is there a system for the regular review of clinical and pathological records?	Yes	T	Excellent system with communication between all parties.
3.11 Are appropriate veterinary records kept?	Yes		But suggest greater detail recorded in chronic cases. See Recommendations.
3.12 Are medicines kept and disposed of correctly?	Yes	V	But Calpol found in orangutan food fridge - see Conditions.
3.13 Are controlled drugs used and recorded satisfactorily?	Yes	\	But see Recommendations re high strength medetomidine and etorphine.
3.14 Are appropriate antidotes available?	Yes		
3.15 Are <i>post mortem</i> examination arrangements satisfactory?	Yes	V	
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:			Good isolation/quarantine facility.
(a) assessment?	Yes	▼	
(b) treatment?	Yes	V	
(c) recovery?	Yes	lacksquare	
(d) quarantine (where required)?	Yes	_	

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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	Very little evidence of pest activity.
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 🔽	Noted new hippo arriving end of April 2024.
4.3 Are the animals provided with an active and documented enrichment programme?	Yes	Evidence of active enrichment programme noted during inspection of animals and enclosures.
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 ▼	To a high standard.
5.2 Are the animals provided with an active process of animal welfare assessment?	Yes 🔻	Focal Welfare Assessment system in place for specific animals that require it - commended.
5.3 Does the Animal Collection Plan demonstrate consideration of animal welfare?	Yes	Commended on the proposed Irish native species development.
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 ▼	
5.6 Are interactions between the animals such that they are not excessively stressful?	Yes ▼	

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5. Demonstration of mental consideration (continued)	Markin Yes/No NA	_	Comments
5.7 Does the zoo have a documented training methods policy?	No		Whilst training is undertaken and is appropriate, the methods are not documented. See Recs.
5.8 Has an ethical review process been established and implemented?	Yes		
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	V	Noted successful move of four elephants.
6.2 Can the zoo demonstrate that: (a) transport and movement equipment is in good order?	Yes	V	External transporters used for animal moves, other than for veterinary diagnostics or treatment.
(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	V	
(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	V	
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	V	Extremely well considered conservation programme, with a robust approach to choosing and maintaining constructive partnerships. Internship programme allows for training of the
(ii) training in relevant conservation skills?	Yes		future generation of conservationists.
(iii) the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals?	Yes	V	Wide ranging high quality research programmes.
(iv) where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity?	Yes	•	Coordination of three EEPs by Dublin Zoo.
(v) where appropriate, the re-population of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals?	No	V	But proposed headstarting project for waders, in conjunction with NPWS.

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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 ▼	To an exceptional standard. The Sustainability Masterplan is to be commended.
7.3 Can the zoo demonstrate the implementation of it's Conservation Strategy?	Yes 🔻	Demonstrable implementation of Conservation Master Plan. Highly commended.
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 🔻	This is clearly a focus for the zoo, but the citron cockatoo breeding programme must be re-evaluated promptly to ensure these critically endangered birds are being managed appropriately. See Conditions.
7.5 Can the zoo demonstrate the effectiveness of it's Education Strategy?	Yes 🔻	To an exceptionally high standard. Commended on extensive volunteer programme which greatly enhances the visitor experience.
7.6 Are on-site education facilities adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes 🔻	Excellent facilities which are spread across the zoo.
7.7 Are the conservation efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	Far exceed that required, with an upward trajectory of inputting more into this area over the next ten years.
7.8 Are the research efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes 🔻	Far exceeds the requirements and expectations.
7.9 Is captive breeding properly managed?	Yes ▼	But see 7.4.
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 🔻	

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8. Public safety (continued)	Marki Yes/N NA	_	Comments
8.3 Are escape drills carried out (e.g. four times a year), recorded and regularly reviewed?	Yes	▼	
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?	Yes		Mainly internally, with external tree surgeon action as required. Site wide tree survey scheduled to be undertaken in the next year. See Recommendations.
8.11 Have appropriate risk assessments for direct contact by the public with animals been carried out?	N/A		No direct contact situations.
8.12 Are the special safety requirements for walk-through or drivethrough exhibits adequately met?	Yes		Flamingo enclosure is the only walk-through exhibit.
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	lacksquare	
(ii) acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes of animals?	Yes	v	
(iii) the causes of any such deaths?	Yes	V	
(iv) the health of the animals?	Yes		
9.2 Are daily diaries maintained, and do they contain appropriate information?	Yes	~	Sensible material recorded in the day diaries and transferred onto the daily report sheet.
9.3 Are animal stock records clear and up-to-date?	No		There is a three month backlog of missing records on ZIMS. See Conditions.

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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	Very well considered in terms of reptile house, but let down by Annam leaf turtles in quarantine area. Commended on UV provision for primates beyond just the NW primates.
9.8 Can the zoo demonstrate effective water quality management policy and its implementation?	Yes	Very good system in penguins and sea lions, but needs review for Annam leaf turtles. See Conditions.
10. Miscellaneous		
10.1 Do staff numbers and training of staff appear adequate?	No	As highlighted by the ZIMS backlog, lack of reaction to low temps in the sloths, poor management of Annam leaf turtles and repeating problem with fridges/freezers.
10.2 Is the management structure and organisation of staff adequate to ensure compliance with current zoo legislation?	Yes 🔻	On the whole, but see 10.1 and associated concerns which indicate some problems with compliance, potentially related to staffing/supervision in some specific areas.
10.3 Are staff training records complete and up-to-date?	Yes	Assessed first aid training and elephant training.
10.4 Are effective risk assessments carried out where appropriate?	Yes 🔻	Assessed for elephant management.
10.5 Can the zoo demonstrate an effective envenomation policy and drill log (where applicable)?	N/A	No venomous species held.
10.6 Are public toilet facilities adequate and serviced?	N/A	Not assessed at this inspection. New changing facilities noted.
10.7 Are parking facilities adequate?	Yes	Although this may limit visitor numbers.
10.8 Is a First Aid policy and accident reporting and recording systems in place?	Yes 🔻	First Aid certificates were presented.

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11. Associated legislation	Mark Yes/N 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	T	
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		But Condition previously issued on a number of occasions relating to fridges/freezers whilst met, has not since been maintained.
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 on site.
12.6 Does the zoo have a current Bird of Prey licence (where applicable)?	N/A		None held.

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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 zoo inspectors would like to thank the zoo operators once again for their level of hospitality and for their positive engagment with the inspection process. All members of the Dublin zoo team were very helpful in ensuring an effective inspection was undertaken.

Once again, the zoo inspectors were extremely impressed by the exceptional conservation, education and research outputs at Dublin Zoo and continue to look forward to following the progress in these areas. As planned, a second full time conservation and research officer has been employed and the proposed intern programme is in place. The ongoing proposed focus on conservation of native wildlife species is to be commended, as is the financial contribution to conservation in general.

The most notable new developments in the animal department since the last inspection include the construction of a second rhino house which will allow greater flexibility in the management of the herd, and further facilitate the breeding programme going forwards. The new aye-aye house adds an interesting nocturnal dynamic and showcases this unusual species to a high standard. The new day room for the large carnivores offers the animals greater indoor space and shelter, and an enhanced visitor experience.

A small number of areas of non compliance were identified during the inspection process, and these are outlined below in the Recommendations and Conditions. This has raised some concern with the inspectors that staffing levels in some specific areas may need to be reviewed and addressed. However the inspectors would like to emphasise that the overall standard of husbandry at Dublin Zoo continues to be excellent. Enclosures are well considered and beautifully presented and standards of cleanliness are very high.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. It is recommended that a screen is provided around at least two sides of the Annam leaf turtle enclosure in the off show room in the reptile house in order to provide more visual shelter to these young animals.
- 2. It is recommended that all animals exhibiting any form of chronic illness, disease or debilitation are subjected to periodic, formal documented welfare assessment.
- 3. The zoo does not currently hold either high strength medetomidine or potent opioids, and there is a shared concern that this is limiting the ability to effectively and rapidly immobilise some of the species held on site, without leading to some level of compromise.
- It is therefore recommended that the zoo investigate and pursue the acquisition of such agents and create and implement the protocols associated with their safe storage and use.
- 4. Whilst there are no concerns with the animal training methods undertaken at the zoo, it is recommended that a written policy is produced which outlines approved and non-approved training methods.
- 5. It is recommended that the process of tree assessment and management is documented in greater detail to ensure traceability and accountability.
- 6. Whilst it is accepted that the new rhino house is completed, and there are facilities for handling in the current house, it is recommended that the provision of a chute/restraint facility is considered within the new house such that, when combined with operant conditioning methods, it can be used for minor interventions and to induce chemical immobilisation where required. This may include modification of the distance between some of the bars in this area.
- 7. It is recommended that the creation of a reed bed system is considered in order to assist with water quality management at the flamingo exhibit, with specific reference to a potential reduction in risk of transfer of Avian Influenza from upstream.

END RECOMMENDATIONS

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Inspecting team's recommendation to DHLGH

Having inspected (name of zoo)	Dublin Zoo
on:	8th and 9th April 2024
 it is recommended that the above c Conditions it is recommended that the above c 	e refused
CONDITIONS	· ·
of the management of the howler mon behavioural and welfare needs of all ir	3, 2.3 and 4.4 of the ISMZP (2016) the zoo must undergo an in-depth review key and squirrel monkey exhibit to ascertain whether the nutritional, social, individuals are currently being met. Should this review identify any areas of 1 month of the completion of the review. (6 months to undertake review)
ongoing training in food hygiene, spec be regularly updated and reviewed in	of the ISMZP (2016) the zoo licence holder must ensure staff receive ifically in relation to the correct use of fridges and freezers. This training must order to ensure all staff fully understand the appropriate storage of meat/fish correct storage of veterinary medicinal products and veterinary samples. (2
needs with respect to stocking density In accordance with Sections 2.1, 2.3 a meets the needs of these animals with	Annam leaf turtles held in the quarantine area does not meet the animals', space provision, temperature gradient, basking temperature or UV provision. and Appendix 9.2 of the ISMZP (2016) the zoo must provide an enclosure that a specific reference to stocking density, space (land and water), shelter and ure, water quality and temperature, and UV provision. (Immediate)
recording and reporting environmental range are identified in a timely fashion	Appendix 9.2 of the ISMZP (2016) the zoo must ensure that the system of parameters is managed such that parameters which fall outside the expected and that action is taken to rectify this immediately. Such action must be eds of the animal, and this action must be recorded and available for
managed in line with the conservation	the ISMZP (2016) the zoo must ensure that the citron-crested cockatoos are needs of the species. Specifically, arrangements must be put in place to area into a potential breeding situation. (6 months)
	of the ISMZP (2016) the zoo must ensure that individual animal records are current backlog in transferring daily report information is resolved, and
END CONDITIONS	
	Continue on page 14 if required

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Additional Conditions (if appropriate)

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Additional Conditions (if appropriate)

If page intentionally left blank please tick here 🗹	
Continued from page 14:	
If additional conditions continue on separate pages please tick here: If no separate pages used please tick here: Total number of additional pages: Total number of pages to the report: Total number of pages to the report:	
	Date signed
	17.04.24
	17.04.24

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