



**For immediate release
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“TURN TINA’S ZOO INTO SANCTUARY” SAYS REPORT

Greater Vancouver Zoo should become home for native animals unable to live in wild, say Vancouver Humane Society and Zoocheck Canada

The Greater Vancouver Zoo, which held Tina the elephant for more than 30 years, must stop keeping exotic animals for public entertainment and become a sanctuary for indigenous animals that cannot be released into the wild, says a report published today by the Vancouver Humane Society and Zoocheck Canada. The report will be presented to the zoo today (August 7) at their offices at 504 – 264th Street in Aldergrove at 12:00 noon.

The report says the zoo should stop breeding animals or buying new ones and accommodate only native species. Existing exotic species, such as lions, rhinos and giraffes, should not be replaced when they die, with the extra space being used to create better conditions for remaining animals, says the report.

“The Greater Vancouver Zoo, in it's current form, is outdated and provides little education or conservation value. By phasing out the exotic animal displays and moving toward becoming a sanctuary for native wildlife, the zoo will be providing an essential service to both the community and animals.”, said Julie Woodyer, Campaign Coordinator at Zoocheck Canada.

The report criticizes the zoo’s operations to date, detailing unkept promises to improve the animals’ conditions – including those of Tina’s. It lists a number of interim measures that should be taken to improve the environment for the existing species held by the zoo. These include more space and the introduction of environmental and behavioural “enrichment” programs to provide stimulation and to encourage natural behaviours.

Peter Fricker, Campaigns Coordinator for the Vancouver Humane Society said: “The zoo’s record speaks for itself. Tina should never have spent 30 years in such poor conditions. Now Tina is free, but what about the other animals? We don’t want them to go through what Tina did.”

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