



WAHG

WELLINGTON
ANIMAL HOSPITAL
GROUP

BOULEVARD ANIMAL HOSPITAL - PAARL

Tel No: 021 863 3187
72 Berg River Boulevard, Paarl

FRANSCHHOEK ANIMAL CLINIC:

Tel No: 021 876 2504
Village Artisan, 54 Cabriere Street, Franschhoek

www.wahg.co.za

2 June 2023

Veterinary report and reply to Final Warning #EAW/05/19

I conducted a veterinary inspection on Tuesday 30 May 2023 and deliberately arrived before the management staff. At the time the area was under load shedding with generators running the bare essentials. The facility's electricity was only reconnected the previous night after cable theft on Thursday 25 May 2023. Despite this, the cages were clean and the animals content. We discussed the points highlighted in the final warning issued and compiled a list of comments to each concern. I will add a few more comments to this list. Read this report in conjunction with Exotic Animal World's reply.

- 1a i) Black-capped lori unfortunately bonded with Bibi (Eclectus) who's an obsessive preener. I would advise against separating them.
- iv) Bibi, the Eclectus, seen at CEAH for sporadic beak trims
- v) Mufasa, the lemur, is kept singly due to his diabetes treatment, but also due to a severe fight with another male last year. His, and the other adult male's scrotum takes on a red colour seasonally. No ulceration or inflammation observed.
- b i) Not hair loss, but obesity in this marmoset. Since arrival at the facility he's been on a strict diet and is making good progress.
- ii) As stated, nothing acute here. Chronic scarring present and arrived with this. Unfortunately these scarred areas are prone to re-injury and is constantly monitored. Topical cleaning and treatment advised. No evidence of metabolic bone disease
- c i) Blue tonged skink arrived as an adult and in a poor state in 2007. I've known it since 2011. No change in conformation since then.
- ii) No evidence of stomatitis or respiratory disease. In excellent condition
- iii) Keep in mind that adult male green iguanas are typically coloured in shades of green, brown and orange. Old scarring present on this specimen from what I suspect may be burns.
- iv) No evidence of respiratory disease. Large adult pythons never shed in one neat piece. This is not poor shedding or a sign of disease, but perfectly normal.

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6. Heating is provided throughout the aviaries and reptile enclosures through either IR lamps, ceramic IR heaters or heating cables/mats. Admittedly some of these heat sources were off due to load shedding, but immediately utilized when the power returned. Back-up generators are in use and a new solar system is being installed from 1 June. The sides of the blue-tongue skink enclosure is rolled up for direct access to sunlight (weather permitting). Heat sources are in place with in all the reptile enclosures, but I have advised fitting thermostats to avoid runaway temperatures.

In the Old Kitchen, both the corn snake and carpet python had heat pads under the cages. I suspect this was overlooked with the inspection. The stick insect heat pad has been removed and will be utilised in the leopard gecko enclosure. Keep in mind that neither leopard geckoes nor corn snakes require any supplemental heating in our climate. Both are temperate species.

7 a) old chicken wire mesh is being replaced/removed

b) Electrical wiring around aquariums were originally installed by a qualified electrician. New cladding being put up to better hide and protect wiring from tampering.

8 Air quality was found to be good and excellent ventilation is provided when weather permits opening of the sides

9 b) This a temporary enclosure after the recent fire. Carpet pythons vary from semi-arboreal to arboreal, depending on the subspecies. Even the most arboreal are successfully kept and bred in so called rack systems. This individual was making full use of its IR basking lamp on 30/5/23. Again, I've advised fitting thermostat to avoid runaway temperatures form the heat pads. Reptiles may not be allowed to get in direct contact with heat pads.

c) The ball python is fed outside its enclosure and, thus, at no risk of ingesting substrate. Heating pads and thermostats have been discussed. Sand is a perfectly suitable substrate provided it is kept clean and enough humidity (humid hide) is provided for shedding and respiratory health.

11. Any potentially dangerous animals are identified and removed from display or isolated from visitors. Seasonal aggression can be a concern in adult male iguanas and they are constantly monitored.

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d iv) All Guinea pigs are treated with ivomec on arrival and receive another blanket ivomec treatment in Spring. Any individuals showing symptoms are caught out and treated. I pointed out three in this enclosure and one in an outside enclosure in need of treatment.

f i) All the ferrets are neutered. The white ferret, along with all the others, were examined and no evidence of parasites, dermatitis or even pruritus observed. We have recorded seasonal alopecia affecting mostly their tails in the past. The ferrets are treated with Revolution when required. Vaccination in ferrets against Rabies and Distemper can be done, but there is currently only a handful of rabies vaccines and no canine distemper vaccines registered for use in ferrets in South Africa. Side effects from vaccines are well recorded.

g ii) the straw under the hides proved to be dry despite heavy rain the previous night. I did however advise providing even deeper bedding for the leopard tortoises.

h) self-explanatory. These birds are all rescued, previously injured birds or human imprinted birds from Eagle Encounters and were given sanctuary at Exotic Animal World. All are feeding well and in good health. Some are very accustomed to humans, some are not. Some fly better than others, but their individual needs are seen to.

2 Unsuitable interaction between individuals have been addressed. The lemurs have been and will continue to live in harmony with the birds around them. Not a single incident has occurred where lemurs attacked or harassed birds. Similarly, the chinchillas tend to fight with each other and have been split into separate groups, with birds or the marmoset as company, without any further concerns. I have advised to provide more climbing and hiding opportunities for the chinchillas, though. The guinea pigs in the lovebird enclosure (outside area I) cohabit peacefully and no altercations or wounds were observed. The rabbit seen in the Spotted Eagle Owl enclosure was the only companion the Suni bonded with. The owls have never attempted to chase or catch it and barely notices wild birds entering and leaving the enclosure. Regardless, this rabbit has been removed from the enclosure. The chinchilla, and its companion, were found to be jumping around the elevated shelves and tubes provided. They have adequate access to food, water, hides, heat in the form of IR lighting and cage enrichment.



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In conclusion, Exotic Animal World has, to a degree, become the last haven for unwanted pets or injured, even confiscated, wildlife. This is one of the few remaining facilities to offer this service. Dedicated staff put in hours of time and labour every day in order to provide the best possible care for the animals there. This is not a task they take on light heartedly. Doing this job, takes dedication and a true love for the kept. Most of the animal here arrive in a dire state with years of neglect, abuse, inappropriate care or nutrition. Some will never fully recover, but they will have a chance to live out the end of their lives in a protected and loving environment.

The biggest challenge will always be visitor education. These animals are the ambassadors of their species. By elaborating about each animal's origin and history, the general public and visitors to the park will have a better understanding of the individual animal in front of them as well as the specialised care involved in keeping exotic animals successfully.

There will always be room for improvement and we value the SPCA's input. I trust we can take hands and assist Exotic Animal World in their important task.

Dr Egbert Compion BVSc