

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Dennis J. Kintigh
 Mayor of Roswell

Dear Mayor Kintigh,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA to urge the city of Roswell to retire the animals confined to archaic and inadequate facilities at the Spring River Park & Zoo to reputable sanctuaries with expansive habitats. At the very least, the city should immediately begin renovating the zoo to provide for the animals' welfare adequately.

On February 25 and 26, two wildlife veterinarians visited Spring River and prepared the attached expert reports, which detail numerous welfare concerns—many of which stem from inadequate enclosures. I've also included an expert opinion of Spring River's living conditions for the bears and mountain lions, compiled by [REDACTED], an authority on bear and big-cat husbandry with over 25 years of experience.

The bears and mountain lions are confined to concrete pits, which cause numerous physical maladies, including wear to paw pads and joints, sores, lesions, and hair loss from excessive irritation on hard surfaces. The experts observed that both bears had patchy hair loss and that one of the mountain lions had an abdominal lesion—all of which may have been caused and are at least exacerbated by the animals' confinement on concrete. The mountain lions are also overweight, which may be, in part, attributable to the lack of opportunities for exercise. It's been documented that these four animals pace back and forth in the concrete pits—which not only wears their paws and joints but also indicates ongoing psychological distress and is a sign of poor welfare and suffering.

Several other animals are confined to cramped and old-fashioned corn-crib cages with concrete flooring and limited enclosure complexity. This can lead to both physical and psychological problems. Lemurs were observed to be overweight, which may be because of a lack of adequate space and environmental enrichment. A bobcat was observed pacing repeatedly, which is a stereotypical behavior indicative of psychological distress and may also be attributable to a lack of adequate space.

PETA recently received information indicating that the zoo plans to expand the bear pit. Making an already inadequate enclosure larger would not address the underlying issue of confining large, far-ranging animals to concrete pits that wreak havoc on their bodies and don't allow for adequate sensory stimulation. These animals require large, naturalistic habitats in which they can roam, dig, den, and engage in other types of natural behavior. We'd be happy to discuss how the zoo could work to renovate its facilities in order to close *both* the bear and mountain lion pits permanently. We've also twice offered to help place these animals in a reputable sanctuary—at no cost to the city—where they'd be able to roam acres of naturalistic habitats, and we stand ready to facilitate this transfer.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this urgent matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,



Brittany Peet, Esq.
 Director, Captive Animal Law Enforcement

PEOPLE FOR
 THE ETHICAL
 TREATMENT
 OF ANIMALS
 FOUNDATION

Washington, D.C.
 1536 16th St. N.W.
 Washington, DC 20036
 202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
 2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
 Los Angeles, CA 90026
 323-644-PETA

Norfolk
 501 Front St.
 Norfolk, VA 23510
 757-622-PETA

Oakland
 554 Grand Ave.
 Oakland, CA 94610
 510-763-PETA

PETA FOUNDATION IS AN
 OPERATING NAME OF FOUNDATION
 TO SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

AFFILIATES:

- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)