

August 21, 2015

To Katsuhiko Akimoto, Mayor of Sapporo
(Maruyama Zoo, Environmental Bureau)

From Katsuhiko Akimoto, Mayor of Sapporo
(Animal Welfare & Management Center, Public Health Office, Health & Welfare Bureau)

Recommendations for Improvement Based on the Passing of Malayan Sun Bear Ucchi at Sapporo Maruyama Zoo

In regard to the passing of Malayan sun bear Ucchi on July 25, 2015, at Sapporo Maruyama Zoo, investigation based on the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 24 of the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals (Act No. 105 of 1973; hereinafter referred to as “the Law”) revealed a failure to comply with the standards prescribed in Paragraph 1 of Article 21 of the Law. Accordingly, it is recommended that the zoo make improvements as outlined below based on the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 23 of the Law.

In light of the major social impacts of this incident, any failure to follow the recommendations or submit reports as appropriate may result in the issuance of orders for improvement, business suspension or the implementation of other measures based on the provisions of Paragraph 3 of Article 23 of the Law.

1. Violation of standards referenced in establishing the recommendations for improvement

Animal management at Sapporo Maruyama Zoo violated the provisions of Items (d) and (l) in Paragraph 1 and Item (d) in Paragraph 2 of Article 5 of the Details of the Method for the Management of Animals and Other Matters to be Considered by Type 1 Animal-handling Business Operators (Public Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 20 of 2006; see the attachment for details).

2. Recommendations for improvement

- (1) In addition to reconsidering its system for animal breeding promotion, Sapporo Maruyama Zoo should review its systems for the management of all animals in the zoo, including those relating to veterinary medicine and care for animals with particular consideration to aged and injured animals. Based on this review, the zoo should allocate necessary staff, develop plans and manuals, and take other requisite steps to establish a system for the appropriate keeping of animals according to the standards prescribed in the Law.
- (2) The person responsible for animal handling as prescribed in Paragraph 1 of Article 22 of the Law should take the lead in training all Sapporo Maruyama Zoo staff as necessary. The aim of such training should

be to impart a full understanding of the plans and manuals described in (1) above as well as requisite consideration for the appropriate keeping of animals and improvement of their environments.

- (3) To maintain the health and safety of animals, the zoo should conduct a thorough inspection of facility plans, pre-operational facilities and existing facilities, and should promptly take improvement measures as necessary.

3. Submission of improvement plans and reports on improvement results based on the recommendations for improvement

The zoo should submit an improvement plan for each item of the recommendations for improvement as described in (1) to (3) of No. 2 above to the Animal Welfare & Management Center by Friday, August 28, 2015, based on the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 24 of the Law. It should also submit a report on results achieved from the implementation of these plans to the Center by Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

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Attachment

Sapporo Maruyama Zoo: State of Compliance with the Standards Prescribed in Relevant Laws and Regulations Concerning Responses to the Passing of Ucchi

Responses by Sapporo Maruyama Zoo confirmed from questioning, on-site inspection and accident reporting	Animal Welfare & Management Center's views on the responses of Sapporo Maruyama Zoo	Standards prescribed in relevant laws and regulations* considered to have been violated by Sapporo Maruyama Zoo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents on tripartite cohabitation training, including plans and drafts for approval, were not created. Three bears were placed in the same enclosure despite the absence of a successful track record in such cohabitation. Although a keeper saw Umekichi mauling Ucchi during cohabitation training, the training was continued and a further such incident lasting around 20 minutes occurred on July 24. Umekichi and Happy fought when they were placed in the same enclosure in June, but not in July. They underwent eight successful sessions of cohabitation training lasting between four and seven hours, after which tripartite cohabitation training involving Ucchi was continued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No measures were taken to prevent excessive fighting among the animals in consideration of selection for cohabitation training. 	<p>○ Item (d) in Paragraph 1 of Article 5 <u>When multiple animals or animals of different species are cared for or kept, the structures and layouts of cages or other enclosures and combinations of animals to be placed in the same cages or enclosures shall be considered in order to prevent excessive fighting.</u></p> <p>● 3. Common Standards 1-(1)-e <u>When multiple display animals or display animals of different species are cared for or kept in the same facilities, their combinations shall be considered.</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohabitation training continued despite injuries sustained by Ucchi during altercations that occurred in the training on June 20 and 26 and July 6. Umekichi and Ucchi were placed in the same enclosure again on July 24. During around 20 minutes of fighting between them, no countermeasures (such as spraying water to separate them) were taken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohabitation training continued despite Ucchi's injuries. This suggests that no measures were taken to prevent adverse conditions in the sessions. 	<p>○ Item (l) in Paragraph 1 of Article 5 <u>Display service providers and trainers training animals or having them perform or engage in other activities shall consider the physiology, ecology, natural habits and other characteristics of the animals to ensure that the conditions of such work are not adverse.</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On July 17, a laceration was found on Ucchi's hind leg and an antibiotic was administered. The wound was sustained during a fight that occurred in cohabitation training on July 6. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate medical care was not provided by a veterinarian and no measures were taken in relation to the wounds sustained by Ucchi on July 6. 	<p>○ Item (d) in Paragraph 2 of Article 5 <u>When an animal is sick or injured, prompt measures shall be taken as necessary and a veterinarian shall provide the requisite medical care.</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the fight on July 24, food mixed with an antibiotic and a hemostatic agent was given to Ucchi, but was left mostly uneaten. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When it was found that the medicine had not been properly administered, other veterinarians should have been consulted and/or other administration methods should have been considered. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Umekichi and Ucchi were placed in the same enclosure again on July 24. During around 20 minutes of fighting between them, no countermeasures (such as spraying water to separate them) were taken. After the fight on July 24, a veterinarian provided Ucchi with food mixed with an antibiotic and a hemostatic agent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online video footage of the fight on July 24 indicates that careful observation by veterinarians and keepers would have revealed that Ucchi had sustained serious wounds. No measures were taken to protect the wounded Ucchi, and appropriate medical care was not provided by veterinarians. 	<p>● 3. Common Standards 1-(1)-b The manager and the person responsible for the care and keeping of animals shall <u>monitor the wellbeing of animals on a daily basis to prevent sickness and injury. In the event of animal sickness, injury or death, these parties shall have a veterinarian take appropriate measures, including determination of the causes.</u> The responsible parties shall also recognize that leaving sickness untreated or <u>failing to properly protect injured animals without due cause may constitute cruelty.</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ucchi, presumed to be over 30 years old, was not isolated despite injuries sustained during the cohabitation training on June 20 and 26 and July 6, and the training was continued on July 24. Even after being injured in the fight on July 24, Ucchi was placed in the same sleeping den as Happy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aged and wounded Ucchi was not isolated or allowed to rest, nor was she provided with appropriate medical treatment. 	<p>● 3. Common Standards 1-(1)-g <u>Animals that are sick, injured, pregnant, old or nursing shall be isolated, and necessary measures (e.g., the provision of medical care) shall be taken. Such animals shall be properly fed, watered and allowed to rest.</u></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The zoo put up signs informing visitors that the bears may fight because they were undergoing cohabitation training. However, no information was provided on why Ucchi was still on display despite her injuries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The signs put up in the zoo lacked information on the ongoing display of Ucchi (e.g., details of the background to her presence despite the injuries sustained during cohabitation training). The information provided to visitors was insufficient. 	<p>● 4. Individual Standards 1-(1)-a <u>If an animal that has a disability or is under medical care is displayed, appropriate information shall be provided to visitors (e.g., details of the background to its ongoing display). Care shall also be taken to avoid any impression of cruelty.</u></p>

* ○ Standards prescribed in Paragraph 1 of Article 21 of the Law ⇒ Details prescribed in Item 12 in Paragraph 1 of Article 8 of the Enforcement Regulations → Details of the Method for the Management of Animals and Other Matters to be Considered by Type 1 Animal-handling Business Operators

(Public Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 20 of January 20, 2006; final revision: Public Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 70 of May 30, 2014)

● Standards concerning the Care and Keeping of Exhibition Animals (Public Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 33 of April 30, 2004; final revision: Public Notice of the Ministry of the Environment No. 83 of August 30, 2013)