

FILE NO.

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Recreation and Park – San Francisco Zoo Policies and Oversight.]

Ordinance adding Section 5.10 to the San Francisco Park Code to establish the San Francisco Zoo as a facility that primarily houses wildlife, domestic and exotic animals acquired from rescue situations, donations, and/or confiscations by law enforcement authorities; and to establish a Zoo Animal Welfare Oversight advisory committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise the Board on policy priorities for ensuring that the needs of the animals are met.

Existing Law

This section is new.

Amendments to Current Law

1. Establishes as City policy that the San Francisco Zoo shall become an animal rescue facility and that future acquisitions of domestic and exotic animals come from rescue situations, donations, and/or confiscations by law enforcement authorities.
2. However, the Zoo may participate in the breeding of certain species which the Association of Zoos and Aquariums endorses in its Species Survival Programs, limited to Sumatran tigers (*panthera tigris*), African lions (*panthera leo*), gorillas (*gorilla gorilla*), giraffes (*giraffe camelopardalis*), mandrills (*mandrillus sphinx*), snow leopards (*panthera uncia*), liontail macaque (*macaca silenus*), ocelot (*felis pardalis*), mountain tapir (*tapirus pinchaque*), and yellow backed duiker (*cephalophus silvicultor*).
3. Establishes a “Zoo Animal Welfare Oversight Committee” to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the transition of the Zoo to a primarily animal rescue facility and on matters of animal welfare. Its duties include:
 - a. holding public meetings at least eleven (11) times per calendar year to discuss and hear public testimony regarding animal welfare, capital improvements, and animal acquisitions and dispositions; and
 - b. making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding:
 - (1) the definition of “Rescue Zoo” and a time-line for the orderly transition of the Zoo to such a facility at the expiration of the current lease term, June 30, 2013; and
 - (2) capital improvements, and animal acquisitions and dispositions that advance the goal of providing the best possible quality of life for animals at the facility, including but not limited to building spacious, complex enclosures that address species-specific behavior; and

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Page 1

6/11/2008

c:\staging\48508eeb-3ab7-08ecee\in\48508eeb-3ab7-08ecee.doc

FILE NO.

c No later than March 1st, 2009, the Recreation and Park Department shall provide a report to the Board of Supervisors on the progress of negotiations with the San Francisco Zoological Society to amend the Lease and Management Agreement between the City and the San Francisco Zoological Society in order to operationalize the City's "Rescue Zoo" policy. Quarterly reports shall be made to the Board of Supervisors until such time that "Rescue Zoo" policies are incorporated into the lease.

4. Present recommendations to the Board of Supervisors no later than January 1st, 2009, on proposed amendments to the Lease and Management Agreement between the City and the San Francisco Zoological Society that would operationalize the City's "Rescue Zoo" policy.

Background Information

The San Francisco Zoo is under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission and is currently operated by the San Francisco Zoo Society under a Lease Management Agreement entered into in 1993 which renews for 5 years in 2013, unless the Recreation and Park Commission gives notice to terminate or amend by November 30, 2012.