

## **MESSAGE FROM WAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

September, 6, 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are writing to all of you to let you know that Wild Animal Orphanage in San Antonio, Texas "WAO" is officially closing its doors. The Board of Directors unanimously voted on August 31, 2010 to dissolve WAO and place our beloved animals in other sanctuaries. We wanted to let you know as soon as possible so you have the facts to dispel any rumors and to ask for your help. We are attaching a copy of our Board resolution, which sets forth our intention and an overview of the time line.

Here are the highlights:

- 1) Beginning May 1, 2010 the current Board of Directors of WAO assumed responsibility for the management of WAO after prior management was dismissed for failing to provide proper management of WAO.
- 2) We have been cooperating with the office of the Texas Attorney General, Charitable Trusts Division, (the "AG") in their investigation of WAO. This investigation has been going on for many years, as some of you know. Although the AG predicated agency support upon this dissolution resolution, the Board and animal keepers agreed that closure is in the best interest of the animals at WAO.
- 3) Our goal is to place all 323 animals within the next 60 days. We know that is an ambitious goal. However, let us be clear: we will not euthanize any animals unless a veterinarian determines it is medically necessary, and we will not close our doors until every last animal has a home.
- 4) There has been some talk of a person putting together a coalition of donors who would be a part of a nonprofit organization, buy the property, and acquire the USDA licenses from us to care for the animals. We are open to such offers, provided that an offer (a) involves entirely separate leadership with a track record in animal care and organizational management; (b) involves a facility and animal care plan that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act; (c)

has the support of the USDA and IFAW; and (d) is backed by a substantial financial base. Since such plans are not inconsistent with our Board resolution, and in the absence of a firm offer, we are proceeding with the plan set forth in the Board resolution. Regardless of any offers, any animals whom we have committed to be placed with another sanctuary will be placed with such sanctuary.

5) We greatly need your support. About 1/3 of our animals are on the list to be placed (although some are still pending approval from the receiving sanctuary). Therefore we need to find homes for at least 2/3 of our population. In addition, we need financial support to continue to feed and prepare the animals for transport (ie, veterinary care and tests); to pay our animal caretakers; and to keep the lights on.

6) We are looking for a nonprofit organization who will receive donations on our behalf and disburse them to us as needed to pay for the expenses mentioned in #5 above. We believe we will be able to fund raise in these final moments if we have an established, reputable intermediary. Please let us know if you can serve in this capacity.

Thank you in advance for your support. We deeply appreciate it. For those of you who have already reached out with your support of medicines and food, thank you so much. Our hearts are warmed with your kindness and support during this difficult transition.

Please direct all offers to help and any questions about this letter or Board resolution to Michelle, and please direct all media inquiries to Suzanne.

Please forward this email to your friends and colleagues who are not on this email list but who might be able to help in some capacity.

Warm regards,

Michelle Anthony-Cryer, President

Chris Smith, Vice President

Suzanne Straw, Secretary