

San Antonio Zoological Society

Gilbert F. Vazquez, President
David S. Hermann, 1st Vice President
John V. McLaughlin, 2nd Vice President
Camille L. Denton, Secretary
Frank Z. Rullenberg, Treasurer

Executive Committee
Gilbert F. Vazquez, Chairman

Mary Rogers Barrall
Chris Ballito
Camille L. Denton
Karen Diaz, M.D.
William A. Fenn
David S. Hermann
John V. McLaughlin
Frank Z. Rullenberg
Michael G. Sweeney

Board of Directors

Gineta, Nancy Coparba
Wayne S. Alexander
Jann Christian Amherst
Gary P. Aymes
Robert J. Barnes
Mary Rogers Barrall
Chris Ballito
Albert M. Bledensham, III
John D. Bray
Don H. Brullfette
Morris G. Camp, Jr.
Freddie E. Carvers, III
Narborna P. Colo, Jr.
Camille L. Denton
Karen Diaz, M.D.
Andrew Diehl, M.D.
Elizabeth M. Feldman
Eric Fisher

Sandra Laurel Ford
William A. Freed
Dmyki C. Gmy
Shannon Gunn
Kimberly Harrison
Timothy M. Havers
Joe H. Haynes
David S. Hermann
David S. Hurlbly
Mark M. Johnson
Analee E. Johnston
Kathleen R. Kennedy
Heather Haynes Kraft
Mark E. Krenger
Pete Kujawa, M.D.
Avery S. Lebat
Martha Landsman
Robert Lallmer
Steve C. Lewis
Jann H. Mican
Theresa McCord
John V. McLaughlin
Mike Melnik
William G. MJI
Kirkland Moe
Rolando B. Pablos
George P. Parker, Jr.
Howard W. Paak
Marnel Polanco-Prats
Richard Peraz
John Pevero
Diana Puympo
Cynthia C. Robinson
Frank Z. Rullenberg
Gregory D. Seay
Jayne Sharp
Tom W. Shock
Cory Gaihey Simms
Louis H. Shumberg
Nancy H. Shumberg
Michael G. Sweeney
Mark L. Thornton, M.D.
Jon Turner
Gilbert F. Vazquez
Caroline R. Walker
Dolores F. Whalesa
F. Michael Wood, Jr.
Pamly Wyatt
Karen Lee Zachry

Directors Emeriti

Walter N. Cortigan
Rugby Ferguson
Valerie Quentinn
George C. Hxon

Executive Director Emeritus
Lara R. DiSabato

Honorary Directors

L. Larry Mays
B.J. Paul McCombs



Executive Director
J. Stephen McCusker

December 22, 2008

Mr. William White, Chair
City of San Antonio
Animal Care Services Advisory Board
7551 Callaghan Road
Suite 200
San Antonio, TX 78229

Dear Mr. White:

As a courtesy, I am replying to your letter dated November 19th, 2008, which was not mailed to us until December 6th, 2008.

Your comments regarding Lucky are all based on both biased and bad information.

1. Her physical and mental health has not and will not "continue to deteriorate."
2. We are well aware that elephants are social; we will provide appropriate companionship.
Elephants are not migratory (as determined by real science); they are directed by needs for food, water, and reproductive potential.
Your lifespan information is wrong and was probably based on an accumulation of old, poorly developed data.
3. Your comments directed toward "Phase III" are totally inaccurate. There are definite plans for Lucky's future.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen McCusker
Executive Director

JSM:jpb

3903 N. St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, TX 78212-3199

Phone (210) 734-7184
Fax (210) 734-7291

www.sazoo-aq.org



Cc: Laura C. McKieran, District 1
Shannon R. Espy, DVM, District 2
Carole Abitz, District 4
Kathleen McGowan, District 6
Randolph E. Murdock, District 7
Ron Aaron, Vice Chair, District 8
John Bellett, District 9
Sallie Scott, Secretary, District 10
David Garza (City Official), Mayoral

November 19, 2008

Mr. Stephen McCusker
Executive Director
San Antonio Zoo
3903 North St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, Texas 78212-7183

Dear Mr. McCusker:

Recent events have cast light on the plight of Lucky, the elephant. As her physical and mental health continues to deteriorate we, the City of San Antonio Animal Care Services Advisory Board, are concerned about her future.

There are many reasons why elephants do not thrive in zoological gardens but please consider this:

1. Elephants are social as well as migratory animals and survive much better in the wild. In zoos, they averaged 38 years of life versus 68-70 in natural settings.
2. There are no plans for Lucky's future. Phase III of the zoo expansion calls for a 2 African elephant display. Asian and African elephants are two different species and must be kept apart.
3. There is a no cost alternative that will ensure a happy life for Lucky. The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee has pledged that they will relocate Lucky to their refuge and absorb all costs.

After many years of faithful service to San Antonio, it is time to retire Lucky and allow her to enjoy life with her own kind. Therefore we, the ACSAB respectfully request that the zoo and its advisory board do as other progressive cities have done and surrender Lucky to the elephant preserve in Tennessee.

It is the humane thing to do.

The honor of a reply is requested within 20 days of receipt of this letter.

Respectfully,

Laura C. McKieran, District 1
Shannon R. Espy, D.V.M., District 2
William White, Chair, District 3 ←
Carole Abitz, District 4
Kathleen McGowan, District 6
Randolph E. Murdock, District 7
Ron Aaron, Vice Chair, District 8
John Bellett, District 9
Sallie Scott, Secretary, District 10
David Garza (City official), Mayoral

cc: Mr. Gilbert F. Vazquez, Head of Board, San Antonio Zoological Society

*William White, Chair, City of San Antonio Animal Care Services Advisory Board
7551 Callaghan Road, Suite 200, San Antonio, Texas 78229*

CERTIFIED MAIL

William White, Chair
Animal Care Services Advisory Board
7551 Callaghan Rd. Ste. 200
San Antonio, Texas 78229



7009 1A30 0001 5172 6782



U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
78229
DEC 06 '09
EAMJUNT

\$5.32
00081325

78212



0000

Mr. Stephen McCusker
Executive Director
San Antonio Zoo
3903 North St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, Texas 78212-7183



7821273193