



SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CA 95616

(530) 752-1360
fax (530) 752-2801

WWW.VETMED.UCDAVIS.EDU

February 26, 2016

Mr. Douglas G. Myers
CEO and President

Mr. Robert B. Horsman
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Gentlemen:

As we approach the Centennial Celebration of the San Diego Zoo, allow me to provide this letter of commendation on behalf of the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM). I am delighted to provide such a letter for this auspicious occasion. Even before the specialty of Zoological Medicine was established in 1983, the San Diego Zoo was a leader in the fields of veterinary care, animal husbandry, and animal welfare.

The San Diego Zoo stands out from its peers for a number of reasons. Besides maintaining the highest standards of excellence in their field, it is also a world class research and conservation organization, providing innovative ways to manage endangered and exotic animals in zoo settings as well as to ensure their survival in the wild. San Diego was one of the first zoos to create living spaces for animals that more closely resemble their natural habitats rather than the old concrete and chain link fences from zoos of yore. That one change made a huge difference in the lives of captive animals, enhancing their quality of life by giving them a place to feel comfortable, to relax, and to not always be on exhibit 24/7.

The linkage between UC Davis and the San Diego Zoo is one of which our school is justifiably proud. A number of veterinary school alumni and graduates of our residency programs have worked at the San Diego Zoo or the Safari Park, and, in addition, several of our faculty have spent their sabbatical leaves or portions of their careers at the zoo. Indeed, Dr. Murray Fowler, founder of the Zoological Medicine Service and specialty in our school, spent time at your institution and went on to leave his legacy at our school and at the Sacramento Zoo, where he shared his knowledge and experience gleaned from his time in San Diego.

In addition to the above connections, graduates of the SVM San Diego Zoo Global joint residency programs in Zoological Medicine, and Zoo and Wildlife Pathology, can be found in zoos, academic programs and specialty practices across the United States and internationally. These individuals have made and will continue to make significant contributions to the science of captive and free-living wild animal health.

In summary, the San Diego Zoo has done a tremendous job at helping society understand issues around wildlife and conservation. It is helping to educate the public on challenges facing animals globally, so that they in turn can help prevent the extinction of these beautiful creatures.

On behalf of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis, we send our very best wishes for a special centennial celebration, and many more years of successful efforts on behalf of animals around the globe.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Lairmore
Dean and Distinguished Professor