

February 2, 2009

Craig Piper, President and CEO  
Denver Zoo  
2300 Steele St.  
Denver, CO 80205-4899

Dear Mr. Piper:

We're writing to invite you to participate in PETA's Economic Stimulus Plan, which will provide a lifetime supply of fruit or a \$1,000 donation toward animal care for every animal currently at the Denver Zoo if the zoo agrees to stop breeding animals and reinvents itself to become a sanctuary or a modern "virtual zoo." If the zoo became a sanctuary, it would provide much-needed homes to exotic animals rescued from circuses, shoddy roadside zoos, and private homes where they are kept as "pets." A virtual zoo facility, alternatively, would feature animatronics and/or video footage of wildlife in its natural habitat.

As you must know, authorities around the country regularly seize tigers, bears, primates, and other exotic animals from basements, backyard cages, apartments, and hellish roadside zoos, and there is precious little space for them at accredited facilities. More often, authorities are unable to enforce existing laws and remove animals from miserable and unsafe conditions because there simply is nowhere for them to go.

It is time for the zoo community to stop producing more animals at taxpayers' expense and instead turn its efforts and resources toward assisting the thousands of captive exotic animals in this country who so desperately need your help. The public would embrace the concept of a "rescue zoo" and would eagerly follow the progress of sick and abused animals as they are rehabilitated and nursed back to health. Alternatively, humane alternatives to holding animals captive—such as virtual-reality exhibits—can provide visitors with an exciting, educational experience.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Wathne  
Captive Exotic Animal Specialist