

To: Animal Acquisition Committee

From: W.A. Rapley
Executive Director
Conservation, Education and Research

Subject: **AFRICAN CRESTED PORCUPINE - NEW SPECIES ACQUISITION**

Date: 2010-05-03

Summary:

This report is requesting approval to acquire African crested porcupine (*Hystrix africaeaustralis*) as a new species for the Toronto Zoo.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that approval be given to acquire 2.2 or 0.2 African crested porcupine to be exhibited in the existing caracal exhibit in African Savanna.

Financial Implications:

Financial implication is for the shipment only in the amount of \$1,500.00 as the animals would be on exhibit loan or provided gratis.

Background:

We currently house 2.0 Caracal lynx in a small exhibit in the African Savanna. These animals were a bachelor non breeding group and a fairly large species for the size of the exhibit. This resulted in animals pacing and several public complaints. Future collection plan recommendations are to place these animals in two separate facilities in the USA for breeding. These animals will go out on a breeding loan. This will allow us to bring offspring back if a more suitable exhibit becomes available.

Comments/Discussion:

In discussions with staff, we have been looking into a small mammal that is more conducive for the size of the exhibit. African crested porcupines are the largest porcupine species in Africa. Being a large and impressive species, the African crested porcupine would be a good addition to the collection in the Africa Savanna.

African Crested Porcupine

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There are 2.2 animals currently surplus at the Central Florida Zoo. These animals would be available for the Toronto Zoo either on exhibit loan or gratis

John Tracogna
Chief Executive Officer

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Executive Director
Conservation, Education & Research