

To: Animal Acquisition Committee

From: Dr. William Rapley,
Executive Director
Conservation, Education & Wildlife

Subject: **AQUISITION OF LIONS**

Date: 2011-12-16

Summary:

In 2011, the Toronto Zoo lost their dominate male and female African lions due to old age related illnesses. We currently have two male neutered lions and would like to bring in some young lions to start a new breeding pride. Importing lions from South Africa will bring new genetics to the North American population.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Animal Acquisition Committee approve the acquisition of one male and two female lions (*Pantera leo krugeri*) from South Africa to bring new genetics into Canada.

Financial Impact:

The financial impact for animals and shipping costs is \$45,000 CDN and will come from the Toronto Zoo Animal Acquisition Fund.

Comments/Discussion:

Lions are very charismatic animals and very popular with Zoo visitors. We have had an aging non reproductive pride and recently lost 1.1 lions due to age related issues. Importing 1.2 young lions will be a great addition to the Toronto Zoo and hopefully increase attendance in 2012.

John Tracogna
Chief Executive Officer

W.A. Rapley, D.V.M., M.Sc.
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