



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Update on Animal Health at the TPA Aviary & Zoo

For additional information:

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Frankfort, IN – January 30, 2025 – The City of Frankfort has been actively working to ensure the health and welfare of the animals at TPA Park Petting Zoo and Aviary, in collaboration with a dedicated veterinary team. This team, consisting of our local veterinarian and experts from Purdue Veterinary Medicine, has been closely monitoring the condition of the animals, providing regular check-ups, and addressing any emerging concerns.

Recently the veterinary team observed that one of the alpacas, Houston, was experiencing nutrition-related issues, likely stemming from dental health concerns. The alpaca was transported to Purdue for further dental care, where additional health complications were discovered. Unfortunately, the alpaca developed an unknown infection, which led to a rapid decline in health. Despite efforts to stabilize the animal, after consultation with the veterinary team, the decision was made to euthanize Houston to prevent further suffering. A necropsy will be conducted to fully understand the underlying health issues beyond dental concerns, and the findings will be shared with the public once available.

“I am deeply saddened by this loss and the ongoing challenges with the health of the animals at the park,” Mayor Judy Sheets said. “I have been in close contact with the veterinary team, and I am fully committed to ensuring that all animals receive the best possible care. I appreciate the public’s understanding and support during this difficult time. I will continue to work to resolve these issues and ensure the health and welfare of the animals in the future.”

In addition to the necropsy of the alpaca, Purdue Veterinary is conducting necropsies of the chickens and deer which passed earlier this month. The results of the necropsies are still being analyzed by the veterinary team, and while the process is ongoing, they have reassured the Mayor that the full results will be finalized in the coming weeks. Once the results are finalized, they will be made available to the public.

The Mayor and the Parks Department would like to remind the public of a few important points as we continue to care for the animals at TPA Park:

1. **Animal Care is Our Priority:** We are fully committed to ensuring the animals are receiving the highest quality care, nutrition, and management to support their well-being.

2. **Please Avoid Feeding or Introducing Foreign Objects:** The animals' diets are carefully managed, and feeding them or placing foreign objects in their enclosures can harm their health. Please help us ensure their longevity by following park guidelines.
3. **Ongoing Veterinary Collaboration:** Our Parks Department continues to work alongside veterinary experts to explore any necessary modifications to improve the care and management of the animals.

We understand that the health of the animals is a concern for our community, and we appreciate your continued support as we navigate these challenges. Should you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact the Mayor's office. Thank you for your understanding.