



Minnesota State Zoological Board.  
Zoo-Related Organizations Files.

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Clinic Address:  
4328 Lyndale Avenue North  
Minneapolis, MN 55412

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 121046  
New Brighton, MN 55112

July 30, 2002

Mr. Lee Ehmke  
Director  
Minnesota Zoo  
13000 Zoo Boulevard  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Dear Mr. Ehmke:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Wildlife Haven to propose a partnering with the Minnesota Zoo. We are requesting the use of approximately 8-10 acres of land for the immediate placement of animal conditioning cages and the future placement of an approximately 10,000 square foot wildlife rehabilitation facility.

The Minnesota Wildlife Haven (MWH) is a non-profit wildlife rehabilitation center that cares for injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of releasing them back to nature. Many of the animals we receive have been injured or orphaned directly or indirectly from the activities of humans. The mission of the MWH reads as follows: The Minnesota Wildlife Haven provides the highest standard of medical and rehabilitative care to injured and orphaned wildlife. MWH develops and provides training and educational programs on wildlife and the environment. MWH promotes and encourages cooperation and networking among rehabilitators in Minnesota and nationwide. The MWH was incorporated in March of 2000 and has attained federally tax exempt 501(c)3 status.

The MWH operates under permits issued from the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the summer of 2001, we operated a wildlife triage center and orphaned songbird and cottontail rabbit nursery within a small room in the Animal Humane Society of Golden Valley. There we provided care for just over 1300 animals. The orphaned songbirds and cottontails were cared for on-site and the other orphans and adult animals were transferred off-site to licensed wildlife rehabilitators for further care due to the confines of the space.

This year the MWH is operating within a 1000 square foot leased space in North Minneapolis. Here we are able to care for all types of animals on-site. This space offers us much more room to work and separate areas for songbird, cottontail and tree squirrel nurseries, adult avian and mammal wards and a treatment room. As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, we have cared for just over 1000 animals after opening our doors there April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002.

During the past year the MWH has fulfilled its second mission by increasing its contact with the public through phone calls, emails and educational programs. We have taken over 100 public phone calls regarding inquiries on possibly injured animals and other wildlife questions. Through our website we have responded to over 200 email inquiries about wildlife and the environment. We have presented many educational programs for groups such as the Minneapolis animal control officers, the Minnesota Wildlife Assistance Cooperative, Springbrook Nature Center, a Minneapolis cable program, and an

Earth Day celebration for the Minneapolis Public Schools, as well as providing training classes for our staff and volunteers.

The MWH has continued to network with other wildlife rehabilitators by transferring animals needing outdoor caging to licensed wildlife rehabilitators. Also, if an animal requires more space or specialized care that our space cannot provide, we then transfer the animal to another rehabilitator or a rehabilitation center such as the Raptor Center.

The MWH is interested in utilizing approximately 8 acres of the Minnesota Zoo's property bordering Johnny Cake Ridge Road, south and east of the School for Environmental Studies. We would like to utilize the site this year to provide outdoor conditioning cages, a waterfowl nursery and adult injured animal care facilities. These cages would house convalescing animals such as songbirds and small mammals. This caging would acclimate the animals to outdoor temperatures and the natural sights and sounds of the outdoors prior to release. The caging would be located close to the future building site to facilitate future use. The outdoor cages would be protected by a perimeter fence and located back in a wooded area out of sight from the nearby road. The City of Apple Valley has already authorized the issuance of a building permit at that site for the MWH.

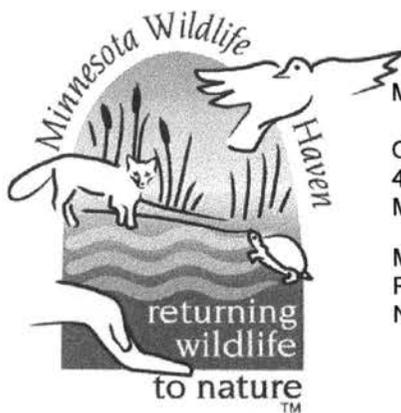
We are also making plans with the School for Environmental Studies (SES) for placement of a pole barn on their site which is located on the property of the Minnesota Zoo. The barn would be placed in a courtyard space adjacent to the animal care classrooms. This space will hold an approximately 300 square foot pole barn. This building would be used to house a waterfowl nursery and adult injured animals. The site would be easily accessible to students at the School for Environmental Studies (SES). The students would be trained to feed, clean and otherwise care for the animals in the pole barn and the outdoor cages with adult supervision. The pole barn site is within walking distance to the outdoor caging. Therefore students will be able to learn from both sites and the outdoor cages would be easily served from supplies at the pole barn. The students at the SES would also benefit from educational programs given by the veterinarians and staff of the Minnesota Wildlife Haven. Once the MWH has a permanent facility, the pole barn would be available for use by the SES.

Attached you will find plans for the pole barn, caging, and fencing. I have detailed our cost estimates for all aspects of the projects. Establishing a presence at the Minnesota Zoo will move us closer to realizing our dream of establishing a full service wildlife rehabilitation center. We hope you will support us in our endeavor to help Minnesota's wildlife. Thank you for your consideration of this project. Please contact me at your earliest convenience at home 952-432-3845 or work 952-892-7970. I look forward to speaking with you and I would be pleased to meet with you and give you any specific details you require.

Sincerely,



Katherine J. Belisle, D.V.M.  
Board Chair  
Minnesota Wildlife Haven



Minnesota Wildlife Haven

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### Outdoor Conditioning Cages (4)

Fencing	\$ 900
Prefabricated Mammal Cage (2)	1600
Prefabricated Aviary (2)	<u>2400</u>
	\$ 4,900

### Pole Barn

Prefabricated shed	\$4000
Stainless Animal Cages	3500
Scales	400
Other Caging	500
Miscellaneous Equipment	500
Portable Heater/ Air conditioner	800
Plumbing Installation	2000
Electrical Installation	<u>2000</u>
	\$ 13,700

### Surgical Suite

Anesthesia Machine	\$3200
Autoclave	2500
Surgical Instrument Pack	300
Starter Orthopedic Instrument Pack	500
Intermedullary bone pins	150
Suture Material	200
Drape	50
Caps and Masks	30
Surgical Blades	<u>20</u>
	\$ 6,950

**Project Total                    \$ 21,550**