

Thank-you for taking the time to review the attached information supporting our request.

I will first begin with a quick summary of the reason for the request, our expectations while doing business in South Huron and our intention for the property known as 70114B Grand Bend Line.

I currently am searching for a forever home for my lion cubs that I adopted last year. This is a hard thing to try and accomplish when Social Media, television, and wrong impressions and information have destroyed the image and expectation of “cat people” for lack of better words. I prefer to refer to this as being there caretaker or handler. Though in the past I had not had an immense involvement in this field, I had always had a love for these beautiful animals and respect for their existence and an interest in their position in the wild. I heard of a property in Lambton Shores being re-opening an old zoo property. As many are familiar with the current happenings and the dealings with Lambton Shores VS the current property owners and their legal disputes, I will not go into detail now but will be open to discussion upon our formal meeting. I am not currently involved in this dispute nor will there be any association with the current property owners in Lambton shores with this relationship with South Huron but to summarize my year there – I ended up volunteering and investing, in the process, adopting two lion cubs that were at risk for being euthanized or living out their lives in a horse stall. At the time I was under the impression that I was already volunteering at there forever home, and with that I would be able to ensure their safety and conservation as well as a happy healthy life at this location. It may come as a surprise to some but there are many exotic animals throughout Canada that are bought to be “petting zoo show stoppers” or “movie stars” or “house pets” then they get to big or people realize they are not meant to be pets and they essentially declare them useless. At that point many of them live out their lives in stalls, barns or are completely neglected and some end up overseas for controlled hunts. Unfortunately, most of the time at this point – they are already far too domesticated to be able to survive in the wild or be released back into their natural habitats.

I made a commitment to Pride & Joy and I am looking to purchase the property known as 70114B Grand Bend line. I have chosen this property because it is in South Huron. South Huron, Exeter and surrounding areas is a place I would like to grow my existing business. But further to that – this property is just over eight acres, is NOT located in a residential neighborhood and is set back from main roads and offers immense amounts of privacy. As you continue to review the information provided please bear in mind it is

not our intent to operate a zoo. We are simply looking to have a property that will suit the Safety and security of the cubs while providing an environment that they can grow in with the blessing and support of the community. The safety and wellbeing of Pride and Joy as well as the residents of South Huron is our first and number one priority. Upon searching for a property, we had to take Pride & Joys long term life plan and conservation as the basis of our search. The proximity of Exeter and South Hurons communities was a great selling feature for the property. Further to that – the current zoning for the property based on our current plans of conservation and recreation is a great fit. We are looking to build a forward moving relationship with the municipality and its local businesses.

We can understand if there are feelings of unease and are looking forward to further discussions and addressing any concerns during the council meeting.

Please see attached for a layout of what we think the property could look like and how Pride & Joys needs for safety, well-being, and animal enrichment can be met. The relationship that has been built with these two has taken thousands of hours of dedication, hard work, and love. We respect their natural behaviors and needs to their full extent. We work hard to ensure they are given the best diets possible through a connection built with the nutrition department at the Toronto Zoo we have been able to foster a relationship with Milliken Meats who are known worldwide for the specialty diet foods for Felids providing all of the vitamins and minerals that a large cat would get from hunting in the wild. We also provide them with different enrichment activities to keep them both physically and mentally active. Providing them with the proper daily activities, entertainment and diet will give them the opportunity to thrive and enjoy their life in captivity. I felt the need to save them, and in doing so I have learned so many wonderful amazing things about the beauty and purity of these cats. I only hope that you can afford me the opportunity to show you what someone that has the best intention for big cats in captivity and their well-being at hearts really looks like. I know that sometimes it's easy to take what is seen on television and read on social media and form a blanket opinion on anyone involved. So with an open mind I ask you to take the time to review the following.

Table of Contents

Sight Plans & Property Information

Satellite Image - Surrounding Area	1
Satellite Image - Close up Property.....	2

Safety & Security

Potential location for enclosure	3
Enclosure Entrances & exits	4
Fencing Enclosure Construction materials and designs	5
Fencing Enclosure Construction materials and designs continued.....	6
Fencing Enclosure Construction materials and designs Guillotine Doors.....	6.1
24/7 Security Surveillance.....	6.2
Additional Safety.....	6.3

Other Information and Facts

Exotic Diets and Nutrition.....	7
Exotic Diets and Nutrition and Feeding	8
Conclusion.....	9
Additional Pages Provided	

Definitions

“I” referring to Brandon Vanderwel

“We” referring to Brandon Vanderwel and Destiny Duncan

“The cats, the cubs, the lions, Pride and Joy” referring to the Exotic animals on the premises or in general

1. Satellite Image



Properties surrounding the area include zoning bylaws of agricultural, and commercial property as well as AL1, AL2, and AL2-1

If the above property is allotted the exemption for the Exotic Animal by-law #29-2014 we do not believe it will in any way cause nuisance or negatively affect any of the neighboring properties based on the current uses for the surrounding area

2. Satellite Image – Property Focus



The heavily natural forested area with variations of Pine provide great protection and noise reduction for Pride & Joy and offer them seclusion from the outside world and thus will provide the same for the community and surrounding areas from them

3. *Potential Location for enclosure*



The image above is meant to serve as an example for what phase ones and two for what the enclosure layout could look like and how they would be set up. They are not currently to scale, but give a good idea of how the safety and security would work as well as rough location

The main enclosure (black outlines) would be one large living space for them to enjoy. This area would also include guillotine doors allowing the caretaker to safely secure the cats in one side or the other (referred to as shift areas) this allows the care takers to safely enter one section of the enclosure to complete regular maintenance and cleaning as well as complete any necessary repairs and or inspections to said sections, while the cats are in the other area. The guillotine doors would be able to be operated both from outside the enclosure and inside the enclosure. This is also an important safety feature in case of an emergency or should one of the cats need veterinarian care – it is preferred they be secluded in a smaller area on their own.

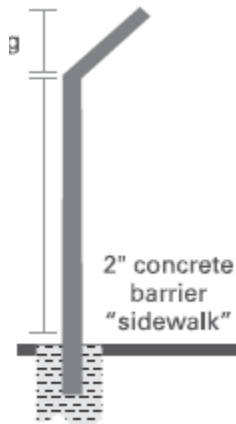
The blue outline is an example of the secondary (or perimeter) fence, placed at least 4 feet from the primary enclosure. This serves as both a standoff fence (eliminating the possibility for anyone to get too close to the cats and their enclosure) and serves as a secondary barrier to their main enclosure.

4. Enclosure entrances & exits



Note, in the photo above yellow lines are in place for examples of entrances and exits for the enclosures. Each enclosure would be equipped with a double door entry system. This system is put in place and is the ideal assurance for safety concerns for both the cats and the public. Doors that open in ensure that if a door is pushed on from the interior of the enclosure that door is being forced closed not open. The double door (more than one door to open and close to be able to actually gain access to the enclosure) ensures that IF by chance something did slip by on the first door, there is always a secondary safety measure in place (this includes disabling the ability for someone to enter that should not be - not only a cat exiting)

5. Fencing, Enclosure Construction and Design



An example of how other locations housing big cats have been given recommendation to reduce digging capabilities as well as how to create the visual barrier for the lions to reduce their thoughts of jumping

It is recommended that all large cats be housed in a primary enclosure that suits their mental and physical needs but also ensures there is no chance for them to exit the enclosure over the top, by digging and/or by way of force. Though there is no governing body or specific set of standards, guidelines, or requirements. We have based our decisions on fencing solely with the lion's best interest at heart. First the size of the enclosure – we want them to be able to grow within the enclosures, run when they feel like it and know they are safe. We want the community to also know they are safe. That being said – we have taken the time to review several different inspection reports from CAZA and other organizations, letters, and even common questions and concerns cited by a normal zoo or sanctuary guest.

The perimeter fence (secondary safety measure) for the enclosures will be built using a minimum of 8 ft chain link fence and will also include an electric wire around its perimeter to deter any jumping and climbing

The primary enclosures will also be built using primarily chain link fence. These will be 10 ft tall and will be secured along the ground and the main supports will be of adequate spacing to provide proper stability. The primary enclosure fencing will also include an inward angled overhang at roughly 45 degrees. All enclosure entrances and exits will be locked

6. Fencing, Enclosure Construction and Design continued

Please note the minimum gage to be used for an enclosure compromised of chain link fence has been commonly noted at 9gage and we plan to follow this guideline.

We have already contacted some of the local fencing companies in the surrounding areas to get pricing, timelines as well as some recommendations.

6.1 Fencing, Enclosure Construction and Design

Guillotine Doors



Above is an example of guillotine doors to be utilized where suited to be able to close off different sections of the outdoor enclosures and will also be used to close and isolate indoor access etc.

6.2 24/7 Property Surveillance

The Property will be equipped with 24/7 video surveillance, focusing primarily on the enclosures of the cubs as well as focusing on all entrances and exits to and from the property. This will allow us to monitor their safety and security 24/7. As well as prevent any unwanted visitors from accessing the property without authorization.

6.3 Additional Safety

Signage will be posted at all entrances and exits warning all citizens of potentially dangerous animals, all enclosures and fences will have routine maintenance and inspection, emergency plans will be in place

7. Exotic Diet and Nutrition

All large cats are Carnivores, in the wild a Lions “perfect diet” would be between 4.5-11 kg depending on sex and size. *Realistically it is not uncommon to see a lion in the wild, eat mass amounts upwards of 40kg in one feeding and then not eat for 15 days.* That being said, in captivity there is a lot less roaming and less energy exerted during the hunt – we aim to feed between 4-6% of total body weight and adjust food intake based on several factors which include growth, overall appearance, activity level and temperature. Like most animals, these lions have adapted to the northern temperatures and even got a winter coat this year much like a cat or dog, they are currently still shedding like crazy!

Through the winter months we tend to feed a bit more, to help them “fatten up” for the cool seasons. Their base diet currently consists of a mixture that we have purchased through one of the best Felid food suppliers. We fostered a connection with the Toronto Zoo Nutritionist and were able to form a great working relationship with their main food supplier Milliken Meats. This food has become the base of their diet and their number one source for the nutrition they need and would normally lack from a life in captivity and from not hunting wild prey. This is not the only source of food they are currently fed, this base meal for them consists of ground up meat mixture that is mixed with 25 years’ worth of researched vitamins and minerals to suit their nutritional needs.

Crude Protein %	22
Crude Fat %	7.6
Crude Fibre %	2.1
Calcium %	0.44
Phosphorous %	0.43
Magnesium %	0.02
Zinc mg/kg	28
Taurine %	0.07
Vitamin A IU/kg	5860
Vitamin E IU/kg	70
Vitamin D IU/kg	580

8. Exotic Diet, Nutrition and Feeding

On top of their base diet, they are also provided boned meats with each meal. This consists of a variety of different species depending on the time of year, season, and product availability. Most commonly it is chickens, some whole with feathers, without feathers or butchered. The feeding of bones is essential for their oral hygiene and digestive system. This part of feeding is also imperative for their enrichment and mental well-being.

For you to understand the level of respect and the type of relationship we have built with these cubs we will attach photos for your viewing. We have made mealtime for them a time to be excited but also a time for us all to spend together, it's a quiet time and a great time for bonding and an opportunity for us to build a trusting relationship with them. They have been consistently fed and follow an extremely strict feeding regimen. This is not meant to indicate that they are not dangerous and we would never recommend anyone trying this on their own without hours and hours of patience, and safety precautions, but it is important for you to see just how domesticated they really are. We have an incredibly special bond with these cats, and this may seem to be bazaar, but we understand their signals and moods and respect their communication. But in doing this, they have learned that there is no reason to be aggressive, their food from their dishes that we bring in is theirs, we don't ever take it from them and we don't allow them to take from each other, and in that have been able to provide them with a sense of security. In doing that we have been able to eliminate some of the aggression that often comes from large cats in captivity. Although the ultimate life for these cats is of course in the wild where they can live a happy and free for perhaps 8-12 years. That was not the fate they were given. Even at the time of their adoption, they were far too domesticated to have ever been able to have the skills and ability to survive in the wild, now they have us and will likely live the next 12-18 years here in the sanctuary.



The cleaning ritual we sit through with them after supper

9. Conclusion

At this time, now that you have reviewed our intentions, as well as our plans for the core part of securely housing the animals and how we plan to help ensure the community feels safe. We would like to focus for a moment on the reasons why a lion would even ever try to escape from an enclosure or why they get out and how we plan to prevent that through providing not only the best possible secure enclosures, but also by providing them with a lifestyle that allows them to thrive. We want you to have the proper information available to you to be able to make an educated decision on this matter. It can be found based on research that most times, lions are quite content to be in the same familiar place – but there are a few reasons, they may want to leave and accompanying that are the ways to help reduce this.

Human error has proven to be a good reason for accidents happening in the past for other facilities across Canada. Based on our research of the potential escapes, or “free roaming” large cats most have been almost solely from human error, and lack of the proper security measures, protocols, and training in place. Rather than hiding from these facts and trying to sugar coat everything we want to help educate the council in their decision. Whether the error is thinking they have time to enter the enclosure, but the cat gets closer sooner then expected and manages to slip or push by, or someone forgetting to properly latch or lock the mechanisms in place on the doors, most facilities do not currently use a double door system and this is the main reason an actual escape or incident occurs. In implementing this system, we are reducing this possibility by being one step ahead of human error, if for some reason something like this happened, we have the secondary fencing area. This would prevent the cat from being able to go anywhere or get out. Not only will the secondary fencing assist in eliminating this potential problem so will the doors opening inward instead of outward. There are plenty of facilities that have been noted for their doors swinging OUT of the enclosure, meaning in the process of opening and closing the doors if the cat chooses to lean on the fence they are forcing it open. With plans to use doors that swing in, if a cat chooses to lean on a door, they will in fact just be forcing it to close.

Another topic we would like to cover that we have studied, and compiled hours' worth of research, experiences and previous inspection and articles of other facilities worldwide is animals physically jumping out of there enclosure. To start – this is not something that has happened often with lions. Lions are not ambitious; they often sleep 15-20 hours in a 24-hour period. Especially when it is hot outside. Though they can jump, they rarely

feel the need or desire to exert that much energy. In most cases where something like this has happened it has been because of lack of the mental health and enrichment support provided to them. Another reason would be lack of appropriate diet causing hunger or aggression. Consider being placed in a beautiful area, and being given everything you could ever need to be happy, you have your best friend, you have your favourite drinks, your favourite activities, and your great neighbours that stop by and see you and hang out, you're given the best of the best food available to you, and you even have a maid that comes in and cleans up after you. You have never known anything other than that, but you're happy and the people that care about you check on your health and wellness daily and if you seem down or unhappy they offer you new things and new ways to have fun and new meals and they may even move you into a new area just a few meters away for you to explore. Do you think you would want to leave? The point of the analogy above is for you to understand that a well-cared for lion – is a happy lion. Many people in this field have taken the magnificent opportunity to house such a beautiful animal and the opportunity to be a part of the education and conservation of them for granted. They think they can throw them in a 10'x20' box and say "hey look I have lions aren't they awesome" but they aren't concerned for the overall well being or life of the animal they are unfortunately often only concerned about their bottom line and that spectators are well entertained and get the thrill. This is not what we are about. Our number one goal is to provide the BEST life that can be offered to these lions with the hand that they were dealt. The best way we know how to do this is to build a trusting relationship with an open-minded municipal council, that is looking to expand their tourism and grow their local economy. In order to do this we decided to take this approach, the approach where we come in up front, like previously discussed with Mr. Best in our zoom meeting we are not looking to make enemies, we want to build a relationship with this community and have their blessing, we want to expand our other real estate and property management business in the surrounding areas and coming across this property was the perfect opportunity for many reasons.

We understand that upon reviewing this, the current happenings in your neighbouring municipality as well as Netflix documentaries and social media platforms make it exceedingly difficult to take what we are saying as honest and genuine. All we can ask at this time is for you consider the immediate need for Pride & Joy to have a forever home. For you to try and comprehend the level of commitment and love we have for these animals. Our need to give them the absolute best we can give. We want the council members of South Huron to know that though we were previously housing the

cats at the facility in Lambton shores, it was to our understanding that the dispute with the township would long term be resolved and based on documentation and back up we had accessed we believed that the property owner's truly did have the chance to stay once courts had resolved any issues. In the end we made the decision to sever all ties and make the conservation and well-being of these cats our only and main priority. In doing that we have found a very temporary accommodation for them, for which we hope to bring them home from soon. We want to be able to be in full control of the life they have a right to while they spend there years in captivity and we want to do that with the blessings of the members of the community we are in. We want to do whatever we can to address any concerns and questions that may be present. As discussed with Mr. Best during our meeting on Friday May 29th we are very different from any of the images that would most definitely be present in everyone's minds right now given the "Exotic Joe" and "Roaring Cat Retreat" happenings that are in the forefront of every platform available to people right now. We understand that it is difficult to ask council to make such a decision based on the information and guidance that is available in Ontario right now. We have done our very best to gather any and all information available from any committees, inspectors, facilities etc that are currently acting in Ontario. As Ontario currently has a law against owning a Pitbull but does not give any rules or guidelines to owning or breeding these Exotic animals. This makes it difficult to declare a set of standards and follow them. We would welcome the day that Ontario puts in force and enacts a law for housing and or becoming care takers and handlers of Exotics. At least then we could provide proof and paperwork to show that we are in fact in this for the right reasons and we do in fact meet all necessary health and safety measures set forth.

I find it helpful to compare those of us wishing to properly house these magnificent animals for the purpose of conservation and education much like the legal hunters and gun owners we have here in Ontario. There are good and responsible people that own guns and operate them respectfully with public safety at the forefront. Though extremely dangerous and even considered to be deadly. When the laws and guidelines are respected you can take an extremely dangerous and deadly weapon and use it for the right reasons. In the wrong hands it could be a tragedy, incidents happen every day around the world involving gun ownership and guns. But we do not allow it to ruin the future of hunting, conservation, and sport, or to set a blanket stereo type of "the type of person" that would own a gun. We only allow others mistakes to teach us what we will not and should not do in the future. We use these examples to set higher standards of expectation. We continue to respect the guidelines and allow those that are in

possession of them to continue participating in the conservation and education needed as long as they do so responsibly and respectfully. We in Ontario foster and encourage those relations to young Hunters and farmers alike, to be sure that conservation is continued in future generations to come. Our hope is to make just a small stride in that direction by earning the trust and respect of the people of South Huron. In doing that we believe as our relationship and trust grows, we will be able to work with the municipalities blessing to conserve and protect these animals, as well as educate members of the community and visitors to the area.

We are looking forward to appearing at the meeting on June 15th 2020 and hope to work with you all in the future.

After reviewing the above – Please note we have provided additional information regarding safety and security in the conservation of “Big Cats” and how to meet safety standards recommended by SPCA, WSPA ZooCheck, MNR, and any other body providing guidance and information regarding sanctuaries, zoos, farms, retreats, and conservation facilities housing big cats. We have a lot included a few photos. We made our decisions on safety, fencing, and security, based on what we believe to be the highest standards available and plan to meet and exceed any expectation or standard in an effort to keep the cats safe and the community safe and secure. At this time we would like to remind you that we are not trying to sugar coat the entire field, or trick you into thinking there isn't some major flaws in the current ownership in Ontario, the information provided has been compiled over several different articles and hours of education, studying and research, But will give you a good comparison of how we plan based on what you have heard from us so far to separate our selves from the current stereo types and “bad stigma” for lack of a better terms





