



### **Update on Lion at Tehran Zoo**

**Amsterdam 8 February 2021:** Further to our statements last week regarding reports received about the health and welfare of the male Asiatic lion at Tehran Zoo, EAZA has been in contact with the zoo's veterinarian and has received a full report about the examination and treatment of the animal. It is clear from the report that the animal has been diagnosed with Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, a relatively common condition across feline species that is treatable with broad spectrum antibiotics and other drugs. While this is a serious condition and there is a risk of pneumonia and indeed the death of the animal, veterinarians working with EAZA institutions are confident that the correct course of treatment is being taken and that this represents the best chance for a positive outcome.

Members of the public should be aware that the illness of an animal is not evidence of its maltreatment, and indeed, EAZA has seen no reputable evidence of maltreatment or negligence regarding the care of this animal. At this time of global human pandemic, we are all aware that the spread of commonly carried illness is difficult to prevent. EAZA believes strongly that all such cases involving animals in zoo or aquarium care should be judged only when the relevant facts are clear; with the facts of the case now available, we are confident that it is being handled correctly. EAZA zoos and aquariums are dedicated to the protection of species of all kinds, a mission driven by strong personal commitment, science-based evidence, and the highest levels of professional integrity. We encourage all zoological institutions to aspire to our Standards and will continue to provide supervision and assistance to Tehran Zoo over the long term under the Candidate for Membership programme.

---