



2024 Capital Investment Request

The Minnesota Zoo is proud to be a state agency

Animal Hospital Project - \$35 million [HF 3629] Mission-critical emergency project



Current facility: the treatment room has remained unchanged since 1976 - lacking necessary equipment to treat animals onsite.



Future facility [conceptual]: as we look to the next 40 years, we are in need of a modern day hospital that is able to keep pace with modern day veterinary care.

Project Summary: This is a mission-critical project for the Minnesota Zoo. The Zoo’s animal hospital, built in 1975, predates the opening of the Zoo. The complexity and expertise of veterinary medicine and its practitioners - like human health - have significantly advanced over four decades. The Zoo has outgrown its physical space caring for more than 5,000 animals. We must meet current and anticipate future standards of care for the animals at the Zoo by building a new animal hospital to meet the challenges facing us today and into the future.

Project Description: This project will provide a modern veterinary technology and best animal care practices by providing a(n):

- Ambulance bay for safe animal transport
- Intensive Care Unit for small and large animals housed at the Zoo
- Animal surgical suite and aseptic holding facilities for large animal species
- Conference and education programmatic space for visiting veterinarians, school children and Zoo guests through facilitated programs and experiences
- Medical equipment storage area
- Biosecurity control measures and patient isolation capacity

It is important to note, despite each of these is a critical attribute to the safety and functioning of any animal hospital, none of these attributes exist in the current facility.

The Zoo’s current animal hospital facility:

- Poses safety hazards for both animals and humans
- Houses inadequate HVAC and plumbing systems - that are beyond repair
- Houses outdated electrical services
- Will not [or in some cases, does not] comply with evolving laws and standards of USDA, US Fish & Wildlife, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Questions? Contact Missy McGrath, Legislative Advisor
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