

Dena Gudaitis  
26 March 2004  
National Zoo Story  
TRT: 1:03

Anchor intro:

AT THE NATIONAL ZOO IN WASHINGTON,  
CONGRESS HAS ORDERED AN  
INVESTIGATION INTO NUMEROUS ANIMAL  
DEATHS. DENA GUDAITIS REPORTS...

---

VO:

ALLEGATIONS OF POOR ANIMAL CARE,  
NEGLECT, MISDIAGNOSIS AND RUNDOWN  
FACILITIES ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION BY  
THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.  
CONCERNS BECAME PUBLIC AFTER TWO  
RED PANDAS DIED AFTER EATING RAT  
POISON BURIED IN THEIR YARD. THE  
VETERINARY RECORDS WERE CHANGED  
AFTER DEATHS OF DOZENS OF OTHER  
ANIMALS AND A ZOO PATHOLOGIST HAS  
ACCUSED THE ZOO OF TRYING TO COVER  
UP MISTAKES.

ACADEMY SPOKESMAN BILL  
KEARNEY SAYS THAT THE ZOO NEEDS TO

FIX THESE CONCERNS TO SAVE ITS  
TARNISHED REPUTATION.

Bill Kearney: 12

“The committee would like to see this zoo as  
the nation’s zoo moving towards being a zoo  
of excellence.”

BUT A VISITING PRIMATE RESEARCHER IS  
SEEING IMPROVEMENTS.

Barbara King: 13

“ I think that the zoo has acknowledged some  
problems and is working to correct them. But,  
meanwhile what’s been lost are the many  
research successes and the positive  
contributions of the staff.”

Out cue:

NATIONAL ZOO OFFICIALS DECLINED TO BE  
INTERVIEWED. YET, ZOO DOCUMENTS  
INDICATE THE INSTITUTION IS WORKING TO  
CORRECT THE PROBLEMS CITED IN THE  
ACADEMY’S PRELIMINARY REPORT. THE  
FINAL REPORT WILL BE RELEASED THIS  
SUMMER. REPORTING FROM NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, DENA GUDAITIS.