September 8, 2022

**Statement to Canadian Government and Parliament**

**from *Jane Goodall Act* Coalition**

As Canada’s leading animal advocacy organizations and zoos, we publicly call on all federal Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Senators to do everything in your power to prioritize the *Jane Goodall Act* for passage into law this Parliament. Based in science and Indigenous values, this urgently needed legislation will protect wild animals in captivity, enhance public safety, and support wildlife conservation. Wild animals held in unsuitable conditions and species facing extinction cannot afford for you to wait. Moreover, Canadians deserve immediate protection from risks posed by dangerous wild animals in captivity (including an estimated 4,000 privately-owned big cats), animal-transmitted diseases, and invasive species.

Supported by Dr. Jane Goodall and authored by the Honourable Murray Sinclair, and now sponsored by Senator Marty Klyne, the *Jane Goodall Act* will establish the world’s strongest legal protections for captive wild animals. Bill S-241 will protect animal welfare and public safety in relation to over 800 wild species, including big cats, bears, wolves, hyenas, elephants, certain non-human primates, walruses and other pinnipeds, and dangerous reptiles, including crocodiles, giant pythons, and venomous snakes. The proposed protections include a ban on new captivity of affected species at roadside zoos and as pets in private ownership, with a mechanism to protect additional wild species in the future. The *Jane Goodall Act*, Bill S-241, also proposes a transparent and accessible licensing framework for animal care organizations – including sanctuaries and accredited zoos – that meet certain criteria, including the highest professionally recognized standards of animal care and whistleblower protection.

Further, of great importance, the *Jane Goodall Act* supports executive and legislative action to curb the unsustainable global wildlife trade, including bans on elephant ivory and rhino horn, as well as measures to address poaching of bears and reptiles in Canada.

Protecting wildlife is not a partisan issue. It’s a national and international issue – one that should concern everyone. The *Jane Goodall Act* is Canada’s chance to lead and make a difference for our fellow creatures at this pivotal time for the natural world. We therefore ask you – as federal Ministers, MPs, and Senators – to lead the way on Canadians’ behalf and prioritize the *Jane Goodall Act* for passage into law as soon as possible.

Zoocheck Inc.

Animal Justice

Assiniboine Park Zoo

The Calgary Zoo / Wilder Institute

The Granby Zoo

Humane Canada

Humane Society International / Canada

The Jane Goodall Institute of Canada

The Montreal Biodome

The Toronto Zoo

World Animal Protection Canada