

**From:** [joyce shiffrin](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** A bigger cage is not the answer — send Rocky the coyote to the sanctuary that will care for him  
**Date:** Friday, November 1, 2024 3:51:32 PM

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Dear Cook County Board Cook County Board,

As someone who is concerned with the welfare of captive animals, I'm writing to urge you to abandon your inhumane plan to keep Rocky the coyote at the River Trail Nature Center and ask that you instead send him to The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado.

Meeting the guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is certainly not something to be proud of, as it's well known that the USDA's standards suggest the absolute bare minimum of care. In fact, it's almost unheard of for the USDA to act decisively on behalf of any animal. Another excuse is that the Cook County Forest Preserve's Animal Ambassador Program has been around for decades. This does not mean it is acceptable to confine a wild animal in the name of education.

The 'Animals-First Approach' insisted that cage expansion is not necessary nor urgent. With recommendations like this, perhaps the "Animals-Last Approach" would be a more suitable name. Additionally, The Forest Preserve has no plans to ever provide Rocky with a companion, so he is essentially a prisoner in solitary confinement. Most people realize how cruel it is to keep any animal in a cage, and a social animal isolated, for any extended length of time. Nobody needs biased reports to prove this obvious fact.

Please reverse your inhumane decision. Don't waste Cook County taxpayer dollars on a cage for a wild animal and allow Rocky to live out his life at a legitimate sanctuary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
joyce shiffrin  
576 Eastern Pkwy Apt 3H Brooklyn, NY 11225-1609  
[jshiffrin20011213@yahoo.com](mailto:jshiffrin20011213@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Denise Gustafson](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** A bigger cage is not the answer — send Rocky the coyote to the sanctuary that will care for him  
**Date:** Monday, November 4, 2024 8:17:33 AM

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Dear Cook County Board Cook County Board,

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Meeting the guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is certainly not something to be proud of, as it's well known that the USDA's standards suggest the absolute bare minimum of care. In fact, it's almost unheard of for the USDA to act decisively on behalf of any animal. Another excuse is that the Cook County Forest Preserve's Animal Ambassador Program has been around for decades. This does not mean it is acceptable to confine a wild animal in the name of education.

The 'Animals-First Approach' insisted that cage expansion is not necessary nor urgent. With recommendations like this, perhaps the "Animals-Last Approach" would be a more suitable name. Additionally, The Forest Preserve has no plans to ever provide Rocky with a companion, so he is essentially a prisoner in solitary confinement. Most people realize how cruel it is to keep any animal in a cage, and a social animal isolated, for any extended length of time. Nobody needs biased reports to prove this obvious fact.

Please reverse your inhumane decision. Don't waste Cook County taxpayer dollars on a cage for a wild animal and allow Rocky to live out his life at a legitimate sanctuary. ENOUGH, LET HIM GO TO A SANCTUARY!!!!;

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Denise Gustafson  
75 Crystal Lake Rd Halifax, MA 02338-1001  
[jigsaw.gus@gmail.com](mailto:jigsaw.gus@gmail.com)

**From:** [Daniel Gutiérrez](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Free Rocky!!!  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 5:04:38 PM

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Please!! Free Rocky!!! Everybody feels pain and deserve freedom!!!!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Barbara McIntosh](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** FREE ROCKY  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 3:25:34 PM

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Please Free Rocky to sanctuary, Brookfield Zoo or provide a companion ASAP.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Julie B](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Free Rocky  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 9:49:10 PM

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Please Free Rocky to a sanctuary, Brookfield Zoo or provide him a companion ASAP.

He doesn't belong trapped in pet store in Lincolnwood next to cold glass.

Thank you,  
Julie Burdette

**From:** [Anita Barbagallo](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Free Rocky  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 5:36:10 PM

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Please Free Rocky to sanctuary, Brookfield Zoo or provide him a companion ASAP.

Thank you,  
Anita Barbagallo

**From:** [Megan Odle](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 7:42:16 PM

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Please Free Rocky to sanctuary, Brookfield Zoo or provide him a companion ASAP.

Sincerely,  
Megan Odle

**From:** [Lisa](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please Free Rocky ASAP  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 5:19:15 PM

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Please Free Rocky to sanctuary, Brookfield Zoo or at the very least provide him a companion ASAP.  
Thank you for reading.

**From:** [Cat Demian](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please Free Rocky to sanctuary, Brookfield Zoo or provide him a companion ASAP!  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 4:52:23 PM

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**From:** [Shane Bell](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** PLEASE FREE ROCKY!  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 5:25:49 PM

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Please Free Rocky to sanctuary, Brookfield Zoo or provide him a companion ASAP!!!!

**From:** [Jackie Freeman](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please Free Rocky  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 4:08:37 PM

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**Please Free Rocky to sanctuary,  
Brookfield Zoo or provide him a  
companion ASAP.**

**From:** [Sue](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please Help!  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 5:21:59 PM

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To: Cook County Board Members

I hope that you truly care about animal welfare. If you do, please help Rocky the Lonely Coyote get out of that lonely cage and moved to a wildlife sanctuary, the Brookfield Zoo, or at the very least, provide him with a coyote companion.

In the spirit of giving season, please open your hearts and minds and help this poor boy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzanne Gonzalez  
Concerned Taxpayer

**From:** [kathleen.sullivan@comcast.net](mailto:kathleen.sullivan@comcast.net)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please stop this unnecessary cruelty  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 4:10:25 PM

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Dear Board of Cook County:

I have been following the Rocky story for years. I am so very upset and disappointed that after all of the community outreach research you have still not allowed Rocky to go to a sanctuary. Please allow Rocky, the lonely coyote, to go to The Wild Animal Sanctuary, and at the very least, slowly and carefully introduce a coyote companion to him, so he will have companionship and warmth this coming winter.

Thank you very much for taking action for Rocky!

Kathleen

4010 Phyllis Rd.

Northbrook, IL 60062

[kathleen.sullivan@comcast.net](mailto:kathleen.sullivan@comcast.net)

**From:** [Jamie Kordack](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Please!  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 3:30:32 PM

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Free Rocky to sanctuary, Brookfield Zoo or provide him a companion ASAP.  
Please and Thank You!

Jamie Kordack  
Huntley, IL

**From:** [Jill McElroy](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Rocky  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 9:57:06 PM

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Hello,

Please, please free Rocky to the Wildlife Animal Sanctuary or Brookfield Zoo, and let him live as humane of a life as possible, as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
Jill McElroy

**From:** [karen elger](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Rocky the Coyote  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 3:49:10 PM

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Dear Cook County Board,

Please free Rocky the coyote; who is a pack animal, to The Wild Animal Sanctuary.

At the very least please research and find a suitable coyote to be slowly introduced as a companion.

Thank you  
Karen Elger  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ester Gonzalez](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Rocky the Coyote  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 7:58:02 PM

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Dear Cook County board,  
Coyotes are very social wild animals. Having him locked up for years in Cook county is cruel.

Please consider setting Rocky the Coyote free to a rescue, Brookfield Zoo or provide him a companion ASAP.

Please don't play with Rocky's life.

Thank you for taking my comment.

- Ester Gonzalez, concerned citizen

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Michele Miedlar](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Rocky  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 3:35:22 PM

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Please free Rocky to sanctuary or get him a campaign.

Michele Miedlar

**From:** [kathy stein](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Rocky  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 7:18:01 PM

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Please let Rocky go to Sanctuary. Why continue his suffering?

**From:** [GLORIA CARBAJAL](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Chicago Alliance For Animals](#)  
**Subject:** Rocky  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 6:53:21 PM

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Please free Rocky to a sanctuary.

Thank you,  
Gloria Raquel Carbajal

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**From:** [Nicole Gianni](#)  
**To:** [CookCounty Board \(Secretary to the Board\)](#)  
**Subject:** Veterinarian with concerns  
**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024 9:06:22 PM

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Hello,

I am a veterinarian and lifelong Chicagoan, with concerns about a coyote named Rocky being held in a small, cramped, unnatural pen in solitary. Coyotes are social beings that live in family groups. He is often seen pacing in a stressful, repetitive manner and exhibiting signs of zoonosis that come with prolonged confinement. He should be moved immediately to Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo, or another much larger, more well-fit facility to accommodate his needs. I am concerned about his welfare and the message we are sending to children about confining wildlife in tiny, barren cages.

Thank you,

Nicole Gianni, DVM

[Nmgianni@gmail.com](mailto:Nmgianni@gmail.com)

872 806 7870