

4.3 Policy – Animal Transaction

Contents

1. Purpose.....	1
2. Definitions	1
3. Scope	2
4. Policy Contents	2
5. Issue Resolution	4
6. Accountability	4
7. Proviso	5
8. Board Approval	5

1. Purpose

- 1.1 In addition to meeting all regulatory requirements, this Policy is to ensure animal transfers involving Zoo and Aquarium Association (Australasia) members are conducted in an ethical framework that reflects other relevant industry positions (e.g. the WAZA commitment on the ethical sourcing).
- 1.2 This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following policies, procedures and guidelines of the Association:
- (a) Guidelines - Veterinary Management of Transactions
 - (b) Animal Reintroductions and Restorations
 - (c) Code of Conduct
 - (d) Policy - Accreditation
 - (e) Policy - Membership

2. Definitions

- 2.1 In this policy, unless the context requires otherwise:
- ASMP** – Australasian Species Management Program
- ASMP Program** – an ‘active’ ASMP managed program, including Conservation Program, Population Management Program or Monitored Program
- CITES** – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

EEP – European Endangered Species Program, the collaborative species management programs operated by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria

GSMP - Global Species Management Plan

IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature

Open exchange – Whereby member zoos freely provide a specimen(s) to another member zoo without the expectation of a reciprocal specimen(s) of that or another species.

SSP – Species Survival Plans (Programs), the collaborative species management programs operated by North America’s Association of Zoos and Aquariums

VPC - Vertebrate Pests Committee

WAZA – World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

3. Scope

- 3.1 This Policy relates to any animal transaction involving an Association institution, including transfers, acquisitions or dispositions, and transactions between Association members or involving an external party.
- 3.2 The Policy relating to animal reintroductions, restocking and restoration activities involving acquisition from the wild for breeding, captive breeding for release and movement of animals for release can be found at 4.4 Animal Reintroductions and Restorations. Guidelines on Veterinary Management of Transactions can be found at 4.3.2.
- 3.3 This Policy is supported by Guidelines relating to Animal Transactions.

4. Policy Contents

- 4.1 Association members are responsible for determining those Acts, Regulations and Standards that are relevant to all animal transactions.
- 4.2 Association members must ensure the long-term welfare of the animal(s) being transacted. The sending institutions must be satisfied that the receiving institution can demonstrate an ability to cater for the care of the animal(s) consistent with the principles of contemporary welfare.
- 4.3 The Association insists members seek animals from legitimate sources such as other ZAA members, members of other well-known zoo associations, or other suppliers of wildlife that act consistently with all relevant legislation and regulation.
- 4.4 For animal transactions that involve external parties (e.g. farming, private individuals, commercial entities, other), it is the responsibility of members to ensure that such transactions involve a thorough assessment of the legal status of such operations. Consistent with the WAZA position, animals should only be acquired from legitimate sources which should include the ability to provide accurate details on the history of the animals, evidence of captive breeding where that is claimed, and the facilities that the specimen has previously resided in.

- 4.5 Institutions agree to freely exchange all relevant information relating to the animal transaction including future intended use of the animal (receiving institution) and health, behaviour, ancestry and management history (sending institution) at the commencement of negotiations.
- 4.6 Institutions are required to provide full details of relevant permits including any associated conditions upon request by institutions involved in an animal transfer.
- 4.7 The transaction of any ASMP Program Species (to or from an organisation) must be consistent with endorsed recommendations and should be under the facilitation of the relevant Species Coordinator. No program specimens are to be transacted out to external parties (other than wildlife agencies in the case of Conservation Programs) unless the formal ASMP processes endorse the transfer based on one or more of the following:
- (a) There is overriding benefit to the program;
 - (b) Specimen(s) transacted out of program are non-breeding unless:
 - (i) Transfer of breeding specimens results in a positive contribution to the ASMP population (of the same or another species)
 - (ii) The species can be readily acquired by members from external parties (e.g. widely held by non-members in Australia or New Zealand);
 - (iii) The species is not part of a formal recovery effort;
 - (iv) The specimen(s) is/ are not required as part of an inter-regional relationship.
- 4.8 Specimens released outside of membership may be required to be provided under a standard loan arrangement and all specimens are to be micro-chipped (where appropriate).
- 4.9 If the transfer from outside of the membership involves an acquisition of an ASMP program species, institutions should ensure that the specimens are acquired in accordance with program recommendations and offers benefit to the program.
- 4.10 Member institutions agree to transact ASMP Program Species to other members on an open exchange basis, or may enter into loan agreements (including any offspring produced) when sending animals to Associate Member institutions. Any loan animal(s) remain the ultimate responsibility of the sending institution until such time that the loan is ended or a full transaction has taken place.
- 4.11 Members should review, and develop a contingency plan/documentated safeguards for any transactions where it is sought to:
- (a) place small numbers of a species for which replacement specimens will be difficult to acquire;
 - (b) where introduction of new animals will be challenging;
 - (c) where evident health/behaviour issues hold future implications (e.g. Herpes-B virus in Macaques).

- 4.12 The member transferring those specimens is encouraged to supply those animals under a loan agreement in order to maintain an interest in, and responsibility to, those specimens under the principles of all of life care.
- 4.13 Where members are seeking to place animals representing a significant zoonotic disease risk (e.g. Herpes-b virus in Macaques), the sending institution has a duty of care to ensure that the receiver has appropriate practices and safeguards in place for the protection of their animal collection, staff and the community.
- 4.14 Association members should freely transact animals between each other acknowledging that sufficient reimbursement for the cost of transport associated with the transfer typically rests with the receiver is required.
- 4.15 Association members should minimise commercial transactions associated with wildlife. These commercial transactions should only be with legitimate entities and only where the end point of the transaction is known.
- 4.16 Members may acquire specimens that originate from the wild in collaboration with government agencies and/or non-government agencies to place specimens resulting from seizure, rehabilitation or rescue or other clearly defined reasons. In the event of wild collection, there should be no detriment to wild populations (this may not apply under the auspices of a recognised government conservation program e.g. population salvage).
- 4.17 Members holding fishes and aquatic invertebrates should be able to demonstrate a process of assessing sustainable practices of any harvest of fishes and aquatic invertebrates for management in aquaria. Aquarium members must be able demonstrate that acquisition of marine species are not the result of poisoning or dynamiting of reef ecosystems.
- 4.18 Extreme Vertebrate Pests Committee (VPC) Threat Category species must be only transacted in line with the agreed Management Plan (Australia only), unless the species is widely kept in the private sector (e.g., American Bison, Arabian Camel, Blackbuck, Guinea-pig).
- 4.19 If a formal complaint is received by the Association resulting in an investigation that brings the status of a member into question, the Association reserves the right to review all impending transactions.

5. Issue Resolution

Should any conflicts arise during the transaction process, every attempt should be made to resolve these in the first instance through consultation. Where the Association member(s) is/are unable to resolve such conflicts, assistance should be sought from the Association office and may be elevated through the ZAA Complaints Policy framework.

6. Accountability

The Directors/CEOs of Association members shall ensure that any animal transactions at their institution satisfy the requirements of this Policy.

7. Proviso

The intent of this policy is to provide a framework for the majority of activities undertaken by Association members/subscribers. Any issue/concern which arises that is not covered by this policy, but falls within the purpose of the policy, will be included and addressed by the Association Board, or their delegate, in the best interest of the Association and its membership.

8. Board Approval

This policy was approved by the Board of the Association on 02/12/2010.

Revision Record

Approved / Amended/ Rescinded / Reviewed	Date	Description
Approved	27/03/2013	Criteria added to item 9
Approved	04/05/2015	Amendments focusing on provision of positive animal welfare outcomes; the use of external agencies; etc.

This document should be reviewed within 5 years of the date of approval or last review.