

Animal Transfers Policy

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1. Purpose

This Policy establishes an effective, accountable and transparent framework for managing animal Transfers to which an Association member/s is/are party. It ensures compliance with prevailing legislation and regulation in both the source and recipient localities, and also ensures that Transfers are conducted with organisations, businesses, companies, and/or individuals operating legally, ethically and, sustainably with due consideration for ongoing welfare experiences for the transacted animal/s.

2. Scope and exemptions

This Policy applies to all animal Transfers, to which an Association member/s is/are party; except for Transfers listed in *Appendix 1 “Scenarios Exempt from Animal Transfer Policy.”*

3. Policy Statement

The Association supports animal Transfers where the source, recipient and any third parties are compliant with all relevant legislation and regulation relating to the movement and/or Transfer and/or trade of animals.

Unless otherwise endorsed, animal transfers must only be with organisations, businesses, and/or individuals determined by the Association Member to be operating responsibly, legally, ethically, sustainably, and

where the recipient is able to maintain/improve welfare outcomes for the proposed transferred animal(s). See *Appendix 2 – Due diligence and considerations for animal Transfers*.

An organisation, business, and/or individuals are assumed to be operating legally if they are a member of a recognised regional zoo/aquarium association with WAZA affiliation.

Association members should freely transfer animals between each other acknowledging that the recipient should reimburse the sender for all reasonable transfer-related costs unless negotiated otherwise.

For SMP species, Transfers must be as per endorsed recommendations.

Any issue/concern that arises and is not covered by this Policy, but falls within the purpose of the Policy, will be included and addressed by the Board of the Association, or their delegate, in the best interest of the Association and its membership.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Compliance

The Director/CEO/Owner of an Association member or their delegate shall ensure that any animal Transfer involving their institution shall satisfy the requirements of this Policy, and the requirements of all relevant legislation and regulation.

4.2 Reporting

Reporting to the Association Office is required where a proposed Transfer is in conflict with any aspect of this Policy or SMP recommendation; including if there is a financial exchange for any scenario not listed in *Appendix 1 “Scenarios Exempt from Animal Transfer Policy”*; or if it is reasonably foreseeable that the Transfer could bring disrepute to the industry. The Director/CEO/Owner of an Association member or their delegate is responsible for reporting such variances to the Association Office in advance of the physical transfer occurring.

It is recognised that from time to time, that a transfer may be proposed that is in conflict with the contents of this Policy. In these circumstances the details of the transfer will be escalated to the AMC.

4.3 Records Management

Association members must maintain all records relevant to administering this Policy.

4.4 Issue resolution

Should any conflicts arise during the transfer process, every attempt should be made to resolve these in the first instance through consultation with the relevant TAG Convener and the AMC. 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 Association’s Complaints Policy framework.

The sending institution retains the right to cancel the transfer if transfer terms cannot be agreed upon. Both parties are responsible for notifying Director, Conservation & Population Management.

5. Related Documents

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following policies, procedures and guidelines of the Association:

- Code of Conduct

- Regional Species Planning and Management Policy
- Accreditation Policy
- Member Policy
- Procedure - Animal Transfers Procedure
- Veterinary Management of Transactions Guidelines
- Animal Reintroductions and Restorations Guidelines

6. Definitions

AMC: Animal Management Committee

SMP: Species Management Program

Formal Recovery Program: A government agency endorsed recovery plan, conservation advice or equivalent].

The Proponent: The individual/party/organisation proposing the Transfer.

Relevant legislation and regulation: legislation and regulation applicable to locations of Association members, including but not limited to Australian federal, state and territory; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; and South Pacific.

Reputable: Operating without posing reputational risk to the Association or its members.

Sustainable: Operating without detriment to a wild animal population

TAG: Taxon Advisory Group

WAZA: World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

7. Approval and Review Details

Approval History	Details
Approval Authority	Association Board
Relevant Committee and/or Stakeholders	Animal Management Committee
Original Approval Date	3/04/2011
Last Review Date	21/06/2024
Next review date	21/06/2029

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

Amendment History Approved / Amended / Rescinded / Reviewed	Authority	Date	Description / Notes
Approved	Board	21/06/2024	Clarified definition Formal Recovery Program
Approved	Board	30/04/2019	Amendments made to modernise the Policy in line with the evolving global acquisition / disposition landscape
Approved	Board	04/05/2015	Amendments focusing on provision of positive animal welfare outcomes; the use of external agencies; etc.
Approved	Board	27/03/2013	Criteria added to item 9

Appendix I – Scenarios Exempt from Animal Transfers Policy

1. Animals that are collected from the wild as a part of a Formal Recovery Program.

The collection of animals from the wild (as a part of a formal recovery program), has the potential to produce a negative or detrimental impact on the remaining (if any) wild population, particularly if the population is small. Animals collected under this scenario are included in the exempt list as it is determined that the benefit of removal of the animal(s) from the wild (in the interest of supporting species recovery through intensive management) outweighs the risk of losing the species to threatening processes.

2. Animals that are released to the wild as a part of a Formal Recovery Program.

The release of animals to the wild (as a part of a formal recovery program), may be considered by some as compromising the welfare of those animals. Every effort should be made to appropriately prepare animals for life in the wild and increase the likelihood of survival. These animals are included in the exempt list due to the benefits that these releases bring to species recovery. Monitoring must occur to determine that there are no unforeseen risks associated with release.

3. Rescued/injured/orphaned animals that are released to the wild following care and treatment.

Wildlife that has been brought to Association members may undergo prolonged periods of care before being assessed as suitable for release. Release presents risks such as predation or uncertainty re food acquisition that are not present whilst in the care of Association members. The rationale for including these animals in the exempt list is because a welfare assessment may find that release results in reduced welfare compared with remaining in captivity. Members are encouraged to monitor fate of released wildlife.

4. Common species that are commercially traded within Australia and New Zealand.

ZAA members engaging in commercial animal transactions must seek to determine that the supplier/recipient is accredited under a well-recognised and credible program, or assess supplier/recipient to provide assurance around humane and ethical approaches to animal care.

5. Animals determined by the proponent through proponent-based due diligence, to be sustainably sourced from the wild.

Animals determined by the proponent to be sustainably sourced from the wild. This exemption recognises the challenges associated with those species that produce large litters/clutches such as fish, and invertebrates, that provide challenges for housing of offspring when captive breeding occurs.

Appendix 2 – Due Diligence and Considerations for Animal Transfers

