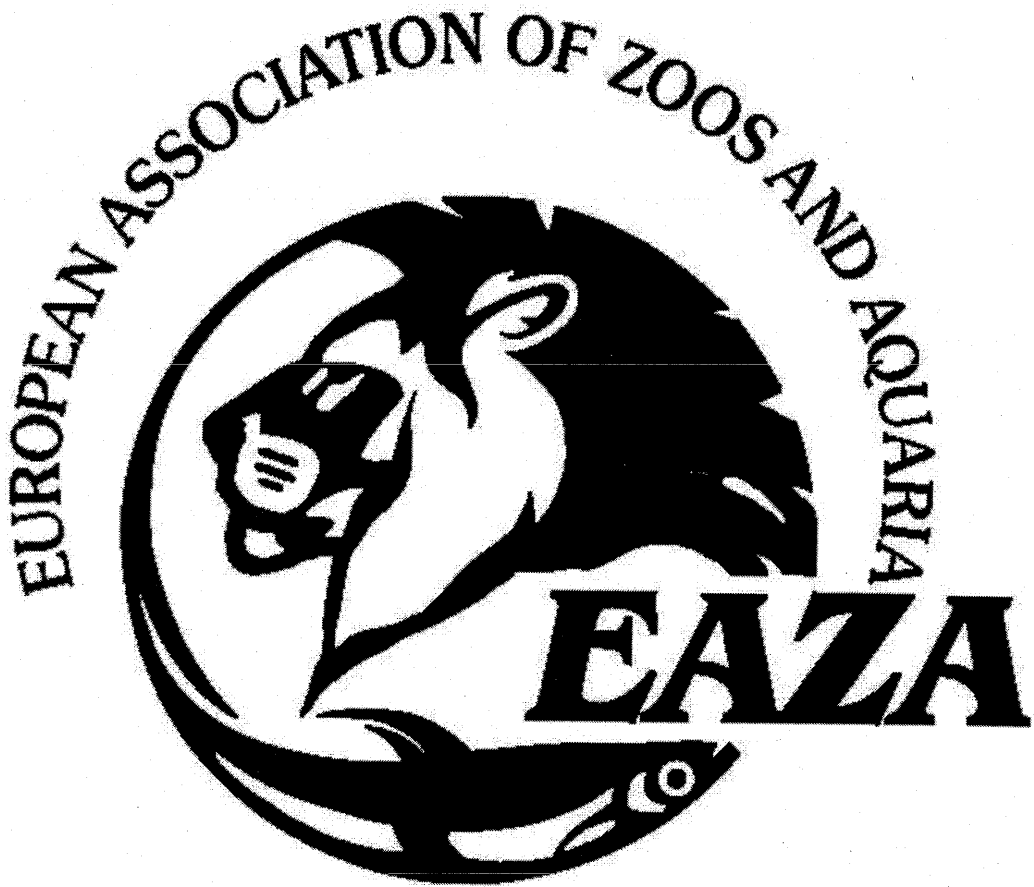


EAZA Code of Practice





EAZA Code of Practice

The EAZA Code of Practice is intended to help maintain a high standard of conduct among members of EAZA, thereby ensuring responsible stewardship of the species entrusted to their care and ensuring their position as leaders in the zoo profession.

All documents and policies referred to in the Code of Practice can be found on the 'Member Area' of the EAZA website (www.eaza.net).

Members agree to:

- Act in accordance to the EAZA Constitution;
- Support the Mission Statement of EAZA;
- Comply with the EAZA Code of Ethics;
- Comply with the EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria.

The Code of Practice is intended to help maintain a high standard of conduct among members of EAZA, thereby ensuring responsible stewardship of the species entrusted to their care and ensuring their position as leaders in the zoo profession.

1. Animal Management

1.1 Animal Welfare

Recognising that the welfare of animals in their care is of paramount importance, members provide for the environmental, behavioural and physiological needs of their animals by:

- Complying with the EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria;
- Supporting periodic evaluation of these Standards;
- Careful acquisition and disposition of animals observing existing EAZA Husbandry and Management Guidelines and other sources of information available.

1.2 Collection Planning

- Members should maintain written Institutional Collection Plans (ICP) in accordance with the EAZA Guidelines on Institutional Collection Planning. An ICP should be based on the institution's conservation, educational and research goals and objectives;
- Members participate in the EAZA Regional Collection Planning and in EAZA (breeding) management programmes;

- Members participate in scientifically based coordinated breeding programmes at national, European and global levels;
- Members observe the EAZA policy on acquisition and disposition of EEP species;
- Members provide information to approved European Endangered Species Programmes (EEPs), European Studbooks (ESBs), Monitoring programmes and International Studbooks as requested;
- Members observe the IUCN Technical Guidelines on the Management of *ex situ* Populations for Conservation.

1.3 Breeding and Population Management

Acknowledging responsibility for all animals produced within their collection:

- Members limit breeding to avoid unacceptable levels of surplus and/or the irresponsible disposition of animals. However, the culling of surplus offspring is to be preferred to breeding restrictions which might affect individual or group well-being;
- Members having considered alternative solutions may cull animals in a manner that ensures a quick death without suffering. This may be controlled by local customs and laws but should always be used in preference to keeping an animal alive under conditions which do not allow it to experience an appropriate quality of life;
- Members are selective in the methods of contraception having regard for the side effects of both surgical and chemical contraception, as well as the impact on the animal's behaviour;
- Members do not practice unnatural selection in breeding non-domestic species unless it can be demonstrated that the result of such breeding will assist in delivering a positive message about conservation values and the conservation of wildlife.

1.4 Movement of animals

- Members observe the EAZA Code of Ethics in acquisition and disposition and transfer of animals.

1.5 Record Keeping

- Members keep detailed animal records in a transferable format.

1.6 Information Sharing

- Members recognise the value of sharing knowledge, ideas and experiences, and disseminating professional information and advice to other members.

2. Conservation

- Members, recognising that the furtherance of wildlife conservation is an important objective of EAZA:
 1. Promote and support biodiversity conservation;
 2. Allocate resources to conservation efforts;
 3. Engage visitors in conservation issues and projects;
 4. Regularly evaluate and document conservation efforts (also through the EAZA conservation database) to demonstrate their on-going effectiveness and make that information available.
 5. Ensure that the programmes comply with the IUCN/SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group Guidelines (1998) and/or are endorsed by the relevant wildlife management agencies, when conservation programmes involve introduction or re-introduction into the wild or the restocking of wild populations.
- Members adhere to the World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy.

3. Education

- Members observe the EAZA Education Standards (2001). Members support education as an effective tool for the promotion of knowledge and understanding of the natural world, and also the need for conservation and sustainability. Recognising how well-placed zoos and aquaria are to use this tool, a strong educational content should be evident throughout the each zoo's activities.

4. Research

- Members facilitate appropriate non-invasive and humane research on animals in their collection by approved researchers;
- Members encourage and support their staff to collect and record data, to carry out relevant research and to publish and/or present the results of these efforts, recognising the role that the animals in their care could take in furthering scientific knowledge;
- Members observe the EAZA Research Standards (1997).

5. Operations

5.1 Visitor Services

- Members endeavour to provide visitors with the highest qualities of amenities and experience, recognising that the total experience of visitors influences their view of the institution and other members.

5.2 Human Safety

Recognising the uniqueness of zoos in holding a diversity of species, including potentially dangerous animals, due attention is given to the health and safety of staff and visitors, members:

- Comply with health and safety legislation;
- Make continued efforts to resolve any potential threats to the safety of staff or visitors, along with complying with all statutory requirements;
- Have a written safety and emergency plan that is regularly reviewed and updated.

5.3 Natural Resources Management

- Members aim to implement practices that are ecologically sustainable (e.g. improving energy efficiency, recycling/re-use of water and/or materials, use of ecologically grown wood, organic food, sustainably harvested fish, etc.), recognising that zoos could and should present themselves as environmentally responsible facilities.

6. Publicity and Marketing

- Members ensure that when zoo animals are used in a zoo marketing campaign the welfare of the animal(s) used is at no time compromised, and that a positive and respectful image of the animal(s) is projected, acknowledging that the way animals and zoos are portrayed by the media can impact on public perceptions.
- Members ensure that publicity resulting from cooperative efforts includes recognition of the contributions of other parties, acknowledging the benefits of collaborative efforts.
- Members are encouraged to participate in EAZA Conservation Campaigns, to promote zoos as conservation-oriented institutions.
- Members promote EAZA, its programmes, and advertise the benefits of membership.

Adopted by the EAZA AGM on 25 September 2004