

## **CAZA Policy Re: Animal Acquisition and Disposition**

### **Preamble**

With the advancement of reproductive technology and improved husbandry techniques developed by zoological facilities, many species in captivity have shown dramatic increases in their reproductive rates. This has helped establish long-term preservation of endangered species in captivity as a form of insurance against extinction. It has also resulted in acquisitions of captive-born animals and developed a new challenge for the zoological community; excess or surplus animals. The introduction of coordinated reproductive programs such as SSPs has been useful but the majority of species are left to individual institutional management. As institutions strive for self-sustaining populations, the need to acquire and dispose of animals to optimise the institutions carrying capacity and collections genetic diversity remains.

### **Policy**

To maximize the education and conservation potential of zoo and aquarium collections and to manage them as consistently and professionally as practicable, it is important for each institution to define acceptable methods for the acquisition and disposition of animals that are consistent with the guidelines incorporated into this policy.

This policy applies to the acquisition and disposition of specimens of wild species. Animals commonly designated as domestic should be acquired and disposed of in a manner consistent with good agricultural practices and subject to relevant laws and regulations

### **Policy Specifications (Mandatory)**

1. Legal restrictions on the acquisition or disposition of animals must be observed.
2. The institution must be concerned that the manner of disposition or acquisition be in the best interests of the animals, the species, the institution and the public it serves.
3. Live animals may be disposed to or acquired from animal suppliers having the qualifications and facilities to care for the animals in

accordance with the CAZA Code of Professional Ethics. The source from which the suppliers have obtained the animals must be acceptable within CAZA guidelines. Similarly, the ultimate destination of animals sent to suppliers must be disclosed and approved before animals are sent to them.

4. A medical history, normal diet and a management/husbandry summary must accompany or precede an animal relocation.
5. Animals will not be sold, traded or otherwise transferred to any organization or individual for the purpose of being hunted.
6. When making surplus animals available to private individuals or non-accredited institutions, the institution surplusing the specimen must utilize an agreement form that requires the recipient to adhere to the CAZA Code of Professional Ethics, the Animal Acquisition/Disposition and other applicable CAZA policies. The agreement should address the following:
  - a. The purpose of acquisition: propagation, education, research, display, other.
  - b. How does the facility/individual qualify to have the acquisition?
  - c. A detailed description and sketch or photograph of the housing facilities for the animal being acquired and all management protocols.
  - d. Copies of all necessary permits or licenses to possess the species.
  - e. A recommendation from a representative of at least one CAZA facility and/or appropriate alternate
  - f. Provision that the animals in question might have to be returned or re-housed should accommodation or husbandry prove to be unworkable or inappropriate.
7. A signed statement must be included in the transaction agreement stipulating that the recipient will comply with the above. This agreement must be kept on file and made available to the Accreditation inspection committee or to the Ethics Committee if requested.

## **Policy recommendations (Discretionary)**

1. Animals should be introduced to, or removed from the collection only upon the recommendation of the appropriate curator or other responsible authority and upon approval by the Director of the Institution in accordance with policies approved by the governing authority.
2. Animals may be acquired or disposed of by purchase or sale, exchange, loan or gift from/to a CAZA accredited Institution, other qualified institutions, qualified individuals, or CAZA registered animal suppliers in accordance with the CAZA Code of Professional Ethics Live animals may be acquired from research facilities.
3. Live or dead animals may be disposed of to a research project whose protocol has been approved by the Canadian Council on Animal Care or the equivalent.
4. Animals may be captured in the wild subject to relevant laws and regulations. The need to occasionally introduce new genetic stocks into a captive population is well documented. Threat to the survival of certain species may justify capture for captive breeding programs.
5. Suitable live animals may be released into their native ranges or other areas according to relevant laws and regulations and to the general health of the specimen.
6. Animals may be humanely euthanized if other modes of relocation are not feasible or desirable.