

CAZA Position Re: Animal Sanctuaries

Preamble

CAZA recognizes that in some situations there is a role for facilities known as animal sanctuaries. Such facilities can provide accommodation for animals that have been displaced through a variety of circumstances:

- zoos may close with no plan for the disposition of their collection
- zoos may have animals in their collection that would be better situated elsewhere
- No appropriate space is available within an accredited facility.

Recognizing the purpose of these facilities CAZA believes that, like all facilities holding animals, they must be fully qualified to handle the animals entrusted to them.

Position

Animal sanctuaries and other non-accredited facilities can be acceptable alternatives to the continued care of animals in accredited zoos or aquariums in some circumstances. All CAZA members must apply the following excerpts from the CAZA Animal Acquisition and Disposition Policy and Code of Professional Ethics to any decision to send an animal to a sanctuary or any other non-accredited facility.

Animal Acquisition and Disposition Policy

1. 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 such as the Animal Transportation Policy. The agreement must address the following:
 - a. The purpose of acquisition: propagation, education, research, display.
 - 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.

2. 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.

Code of Professional Ethics

AS A MEMBER OF CAZA, I PLEDGE TO:

Make every effort to assure that exotic animals do not find their way into the hands of those not qualified to care for them properly.