



British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums

## **BIAZA Policy on Surplus Animals**

*For the purpose of this document, a "surplus" animal is defined as any individual, which a current collection no longer wishes to house, for any reason.*

Current standards of animal management, nutrition and veterinary care make responsible zoos producers rather than consumers of wildlife for many species. With lower mortality and longer reproductive lives than those of their wild counterparts, zoo populations can rapidly outgrow available space. Breeding should not continue unchecked unless offspring can be found suitable homes. At the same time, it is recognised that contraception may not always be effective, desirable, practical or commensurate with animal health and welfare. Furthermore reproduction may be considered an integral part of the quality of life and natural behaviour of animals. BIAZA supports those members who recognise the problems caused by irresponsible breeding and disposition of animals (*Section A*), and adhere to the measures and procedures listed below (*Sections C & D*).

The disposal of surplus animals **MUST** be legal; it **MUST** comply with all international, regional and national laws, e.g. CITES Regulations and the UK Secretary of State's Standards referring to the disposal of stock, which state: *"Surplus zoo stock only to be passed to persons with the appropriate facilities, resources and expertise conforming with the Five Principles. Precautions should also be taken to ensure that recipients are likely to safeguard the animal's welfare in any subsequent transaction. If animals bred in zoos are sold as pets to the general public, a licence is required from the local authority under the Pet Animals Act 1951". (N.B. the Pet Animals Act should be eventually incorporated into the Animal Welfare Act 2006).*

### **Section A: Breeding and disposal of surplus**

BIAZA collections **MUST** breed and dispose of animals in a responsible manner. Members are expected to look at the ethos of the collections that they are sending animals to and what they stand for, not just the particular facilities for the species concerned. BIAZA collections **MUST NOT**:

- (a) send animals to zoos or aquariums with inadequate facilities and/or expertise
- (b) send animals to institutions other than zoos or aquariums which would not normally be considered suitable outlets, which may include circuses, some research institutions, animal dealers, welfare organisations involved in inappropriate reintroductions etc.
- (c) Private individuals, unless absolutely certain of their ability to care for the animal.

or disrupt the smooth running of species management initiatives by:

- (a) having animals taking up space needed for higher priority species (or individuals) in the RCP

- (b) relocating highly inbred/closely related/hybrid specimens to regions not yet equipped to deal with such problems effectively
- (c) using dealers/brokers whose records are inadequate, which may cause confusion of identities in transit
- (d) Moving animals in or out of management programmes without the approval of the programme coordinator

### **Section B: Categories of surplus**

Surplus individuals may arise through:

- (a) changing status of the taxon in the Regional Collection Plan (RCP)
- (b) exceeding demand due to an inability to predict it
- (c) exceeding demand due to large litter sizes
- (d) failure of contraceptive measures
- (e) inappropriate sex ratios
- (f) late recommendations by species managers
- (g) breeding against recommendations of species managers
- (h) inability to prevent breeding
- (i) desirability to maintain breeding for welfare, training or animal management benefits.

### **Section C: Minimising surplus**

The following measures may be taken to reduce or prevent the production of surplus:

- (a) adhering to breeding/non-breeding recommendations by species managers
- (b) planning collections nationally/regionally, thereby increasing the ability to predict demand and to breed accordingly
- (c) employing appropriate husbandry techniques (*Appendix 1*)
- (d) employing appropriate veterinary techniques (*Appendix 1*)
- (e) euthanasia (including culling) (*Appendices 1 & 2*)

*N.B. Efforts should be made to document and publish techniques to limit births for those species in regular surplus, and discussions with those directly involved should be held before the introduction of culling as an institution policy.*

### **Section D: Disposal of surplus**

*Release to the wild should not be used as a method of disposal of surplus stock. All animal release programmes should comply with **IUCN Guidelines for Re-Introduction (1995)** and see **Hall (2003)** for comments on returning large sharks and similar marine animals to the wild.*

Members covered by the Zoo Licensing Act (1981) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 **MUST** comply with the Secretary of State's current, relevant Standards referring to the disposal of stock.

Members not covered by the Zoo Licensing Act (1981) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 **MUST** comply with these Standards as a condition of membership, in accordance with Section 5.2 of BIAZA's Constitution.

It is recognised that current "custom and practice" in regard to the disposal of surplus animals may differ between taxa, but in principle the same duty of care exists for all animals.

The dispersing institution should have either inspected the facilities at, or received suitable references concerning, the receiving collection. Such reassurances, regarding facilities and expertise are **MANDATORY** for all species included in Category I of the Hazardous Animals List of the *Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice (2000)*, all primates, and any other species that Council may from time to time nominate.

Whilst this high level of scrutiny should be applied for all taxa if possible, it is recognised that for certain taxa a lower level of reassurance may be appropriate. In these cases, members should use the approved BIAZA **Transfer Proforma** to establish a minimum level of information prior to implementing the transaction.

For species normally domesticated in the British Isles and part of accepted agricultural transactions, e.g. cattle, the use of the Proforma may be inappropriate and is not mandatory. In these circumstances members should follow the Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock, prepared by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) and published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF now Defra) (*Appendix 3*). In the case of other domesticated stock, the Proforma should be used when proposing relocation to another collection, institution or individual.

The following lists the facilities to which animals should be dispersed, and the precautions which should be taken to ensure that the process is completed responsibly:

(a) species coordinated through a managed breeding programme in Europe, i.e. an EEP or ESB (*Appendix 4*) or internationally managed programmes, e.g. International Studbooks, GSMPS;

1. Animals bred according to the recommendations of the coordinator should be relocated as directed.
2. Approval should be sought from the coordinator before animals born surplus to the programme are transferred from the collection.

*N.B. Responsibility for placing an animal in a suitable facility ultimately rests with the sending institution.*

(b) species not coordinated through a managed programme in Europe should first be offered without broker/dealer involvement to;

1. BIAZA Zoos & Aquariums or Accredited Associates (through BIAZA's Available and Wanted List)
2. EAZA Zoos (through the EAZA Available & Wanted List)
3. Coordinators responsible for managing the species outside Europe (if any)
4. EEP/ESB participating but not /EAZA members, through institutional surplus & wanted lists or through EAZA TAGs.
5. Zoos outside Europe associated with a national/regional zoo organisation, and where an animal is placed outside the region it should be according to each region's preferred procedure and where relevant follow the Global Species Management Plan for the taxon.
6. Other appropriate institutions, bearing in mind that it may be preferable to work with a cooperative private facility than with a zoo that declines to work in cooperation with either national or regional zoo associations.

November 2014

*N.B. Where the region is not yet equipped with a regional structure capable of making decisions on the suitability of available stock for that region, the onus is on the sending zoo to behave in a responsible manner, avoiding in particular sending potential breeding pairs of closely related stock or hybrid specimens, without notifying the receiving zoo of the potential problems this may cause.*

## **Appendix 1: Minimising Surplus**

### Husbandry techniques considered appropriate:

*N.B. Not all techniques may be appropriate for all species, and should be considered on a case by case, species by species basis.*

- only hand-rearing for pre-determined population management purposes (e.g. according to TAG or EEP recommendations)
- separation of males and females
- holding single-sex groups
- extending interval between births
- removing, shaking or freezing eggs
- euthanasia (including culling)

### Veterinary techniques considered appropriate:

*N.B. Not all techniques may be appropriate for all species, and should be considered on a case by case, species by species basis.*

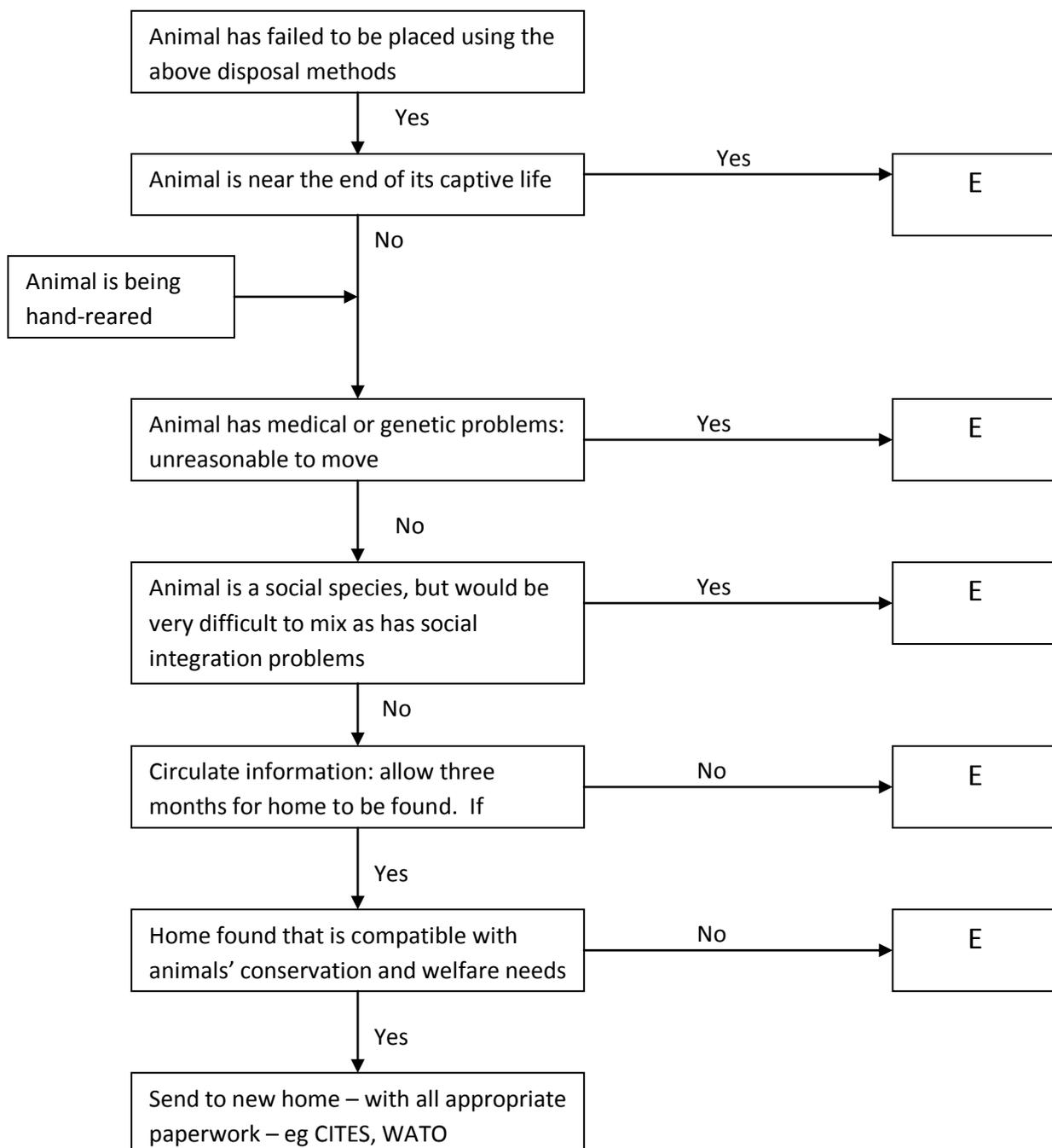
Contraception may be used wherever there is a need for reasons of population management. However, the possible side effects of both surgical and chemical contraception, as well as the negative impact on behaviour, should be considered before a final decision is made.

- hormone injections or implants in females;
- hormones given orally to females;
- PZP vaccinations of females (not yet licensed in the UK);
- sterilisation of males/females, including vasectomy and castration;
- abortion

**Appendix 2: Decision Tree (Defra, 2003) on the Placement of Surplus Stock and the Decision to Cull**

- If after contacting organisations such as BIAZA , the British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions, the National Farm Attraction Network; the RSPCA; and European Association of Zoos and Aquaria or other international bodies no home can be found for the animal that is compatible with its conservation and welfare needs;
- The Taxon Advisory Groups (contacted through BIAZA/EAZA) decide the animal cannot be used in a managed programme;
- The owner of the animal (where it was loaned to the zoo) cannot or will not find a home for it or consents to the disposal

The animal should enter the flow chart to decide whether or not euthanasia (E) is an appropriate option:



### Appendix 3: Useful References

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFRARE (Scotland) ACT 2006. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animal-welfare/AnimalWelfare/AHWSAGuidance/AHWSAGuidanceintro>

ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2006 (England and Wales) <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/act/info.htm>

CITES LEGISLATION. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species UK. <http://www.ukcites.gov.uk/>

CITES (1997): CITES Guidelines for the Disposal of Confiscated Live Specimens of Species included in the Appendices (Resolution Conf. 10.7, adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Harare (Zimbabwe), 9-20 June 1997). [www.cites.org/eng/resols/10/10\\_7.shtml](http://www.cites.org/eng/resols/10/10_7.shtml)

DETR (Defra) (1997). Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species: Guidance Note for Zoos, Museums and Scientific Institutions (GN8/97). Bristol: DETR;

DETR (Defra) (2000). Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice. Available from the Defra website <http://www.defra.gov.uk> go to wildlife and countryside / zoos.

DEFRA (2003). Circular 02/003. Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended by the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment)(England and Wales) Regulations 2002) ("the 2002 Regulations"). Available from the Defra website <http://www.defra.gov.uk> go to wildlife and countryside / zoos. Annex G will be of particular use.

EAZA (2000) Working Procedures for EEP Coordinators. <http://www.eaza.net>

EAZA (2001) Code of Ethics in: EAZA Membership Directory (2003). <http://www.eaza.net>

EAZA (2011) Euthanasia Statement. <http://www.eaza.net>

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL (1996): Report on the Welfare of Outdoor Pigs. MAFF Publications: London SE99 7TP.

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL (1993): Report on the European Commission Proposals on the Transport of Animals. MAFF Publications: London SE99 7TP.

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL (1985): Report on the Welfare of Livestock (Red Meat Animals) at the Time of Slaughter. MAFF Publications: London SE99 7TP.

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL (1997): Report on the Welfare of Dairy Cattle. MAFF Publications: London SE99 7TP.

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL (1990): Advice to Ministers on the Handling and Transport of Poultry. MAFF Publications: London SE99 7TP.

GLATSTON, A.R. (1998): The control of zoo populations with special reference to primates. *Animal Welfare* 7: 269-281

HALL, H. 2003. The release of sharks from public and private aquariums. *Re-introduction News* 23, 10-13.

IATA. IATA Live Animals Regulations. New edition published each year, 2003 was edition 30. Montreal, Canada: International Air Transport Association and available from the IATA web site. [www.iata.org](http://www.iata.org)

IUCN. (1980) Guidelines for Transport and Preparation for Shipment of Live Wild Animals and Plants. Gland : IUCN

November 2014

IUCN-THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION (1995): Guidelines for Re-introduction. Prepared by the IUCN/SSC Re-introduction Specialist Group. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/rsg/rsgcdrom/PDFs/English.pdf>

IUCN (2000a) Guidelines for the Prevention of Biodiversity Loss Caused by Alien Invasive Species. Invasive Species Specialist Group. [www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/pubs/policy/invasivesEng.htm](http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/pubs/policy/invasivesEng.htm)

IUCN (2000b) Guidelines for the Placement of Confiscated Animals. IUCN/SSC Reintroduction Specialist Group. <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/rsg/rsgcdrom/PDFs/EnglishConfGlines.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (2002): IUCN Technical Guidelines on the Management of *Ex-situ* Populations for Conservation. Prepared by the SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and approved at the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the IUCN Council, Gland, Switzerland, 4<sup>th</sup> September 1987. <http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/pubs/policy/exsituen.htm>

LACY, R. (1991): Zoos and the Surplus Problem. *Zoo Biol.* **10**: 203-297

MAFF (1990 *et seq.*): Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock. MAFF Publications: London SE99 7TP.

MOHAN, P.J., HEMDAL, J. & LOISELL, P. 1997. Tropical lunkers: a fatal attraction for big fish? *Aquarium Fish Magazine* **9**, 60-67.

PRIMATE SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN (1997): The Control of Captive Primate Populations. (Available from the BIAZA Office).

PRINCÉE, F. (1994): Strategies for Replacement. *EAZA Yearbook 1994/95*

THONEY, D.A., WARMOLTS, D.I. & ANDREWS, C. 2003. Acquisition of fishes and aquatic invertebrates for zoological collections. Is there a future? *Zoo Biology* **22**, 519-527.

WELFARE OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT (DEFRA, 2007). Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/transport/eu-transportreg.htm>

WORLD ZOO ORGANISATION-INTERNATIONAL UNION OF DIRECTORS OF ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS (1993): The World Zoo Conservation Strategy. (Available from the BIAZA Office and from the WAZA website

<http://www.waza.org/conservation/wczs.php>.)

WORLD ZOO ORGANISATION-INTERNATIONAL UNION OF DIRECTORS OF ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS (1995): Zoo Future 2005. Formulated at the 1995 Futures Search Workshop of the World Zoo Organisation-IUDZG. (Available from the BIAZA Office.)

WAZA (2005). Building a Future for Wildlife: The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy.

[www.waza.org](http://www.waza.org).

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA (2003a): Code of Ethics. Ratified at the Annual General Meeting of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) November 2003, Costa Rica. (Available from the BIAZA Office and from the WAZA website [www.waza.org](http://www.waza.org)).

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AND AQUARIA (2003b): Guidelines on the acceptance of seized or confiscated animals. Ratified at the Annual General Meeting of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) November 2003, Costa Rica. Proc 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Switzerland: WAZA.