



Animal Transactions Policy and Procedures

Policy

The sustainability of animal collections at Gondwana Park Zoo requires regular transactions of animals between approved partners. Occasionally sustainability may be supported by acquisition and disposition transactions with external parties. This policy sets out the guidelines for transactions between partners and external parties.

Objectives of this policy

- To ensure the welfare of the animal(s) being transferred is the highest priority during the entire transfer process.
- To establish procedural guidelines for transactions to be adhered to by all transacting parties.
- To ensure the wellbeing and safety of the community during the animal transfer period.
- To ensure the environment is minimally impacted by the animal transfer.

All animal transactions must satisfy all legislative requirements as appropriate.

Policy

1. All animal transactions between partners must provide for the long-term welfare of the animal involved. Where GPZ conducts an animal transaction with an external party all parties must adhere to GPZ's agreed welfare policy.
2. All animals must be properly prepared for transport. Transport should be arranged around the welfare of the animal, so as to minimise discomfort and distress.
3. The sending institution must disclose all information about the animal(s) being transacted, including:
 - a) specimen(s) origin;
 - b) current and historical medical records, including issues affecting related specimens or specimens housed in the same or adjacent enclosures;
 - c) behaviours;
 - d) breeding history;
 - e) dietary requirements; and,
 - f) paternity/parentage.
4. An agreement regarding cost of the transaction and associated transfer must be reached before the transfer takes place.

5. GPZ shall not transact animals to circuses or the film and television industry.
6. GPZ and its transacting partners are required to ensure suitable quarantined practices are carried out.

Procedures

In addition to meeting all the legislative requirements and regulations for transacting animals, GPZ commits to transfer animals in a way that prioritises the welfare of the animal above all else.

General provisions

When transporting animals, GPZ and its transacting partners must:

- provide suitable containment for the animal (e.g. transport box, container) based on its needs
- provide a suitable method of transport (e.g. plane, truck) that caters for the animal's needs
- develop transport plans detailing:
 - the animal
 - the nature and length of the intended journey
 - the weather and travel conditions
 - the time the animal will be deprived of food and water prior and during transportation
 - planned rest stops
 - people required
 - contingencies for illness or travel disruption
 - the need for appropriate climate control
 - emergency procedures
 - provision of any equipment such as veterinary supplies
 - cancellation process
- develop a route and timing of transport that minimises transit times and the potential for disruptions
- schedule travel during a time of year where the conditions are optimal for the animal's health and wellbeing
- outline the requirements for sedation with the assistance of a veterinarian
- clearly document all the terms for the travel arrangements and gain consent in the form of signature from all parties involved.

Transport boxes/containers

When selecting the transport box/containers the animal(s), GPZ and its transacting partners must:

- consult people with knowledge and experience in transporting the species
- check all transport boxes/containers prior to transport to ensure they:
 - are strong and durable
 - provide room for the animal to be comfortable
 - are safe and secure
 - have adequate ventilation
 - protect against visual stress

- allow for faeces, urine and spilled food without interfering with the animal
- handle safely
- are properly and clearly labelled with contact details for both sender and recipient (including out of hours and emergency contact numbers)
- anchor transport boxes when in transit
- clean and disinfect transport boxes and containers between use.

Transport conditions

- For some species, training and conditioning in advance of transport can help reduce stress on the animal during transit.
- Staff from the receiving centre should ensure they are fully familiarised with the particular specimen prior to its arrival and have adequate housing and food to meet its needs.
- With some animals (e.g. apes and elephants), the sender's keeper will need to stay with the animal until it is fully settled in its new environment.
- Animals should be contained and transported individually to avoid injury.
- The transport environment should be climate controlled for the species.
- Adequate ventilation and fresh air must be supplied.
- Food and water should be provided to the animal at agreed times set out in the transport plan.
- Animal records should be sent prior to the transport commencing so as to avoid delays at the receiver's end.

Upon arrival

- The animal should be checked ASAP by a veterinarian or appropriate staff member.
- The receiving party should inform the sending party of the animal's safe arrival at the earliest possible time.
- The animal should be released from its transport box or container at the earliest practical time.
- The animal should be provided with food and water at the earliest practical time.