

Acquisition and transfers of zoo animals

The Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland is the umbrella organization for zoos in the British Isles and almost all of the larger zoos are members. The Federation helps to define and set standards for its member zoos, and membership of the organization carries certain obligations. The most recent of the Federation's policy documents sets out obligations and recommendations for its membership regarding animal transactions. These are set out under the headings *Animal Acquisitions*, *Disposal of Surplus Animals* and *Use of Animal Dealers in Animal Transactions*. The booklet includes five appendices and these cover: minimizing the production of surplus animals; useful references; guidelines for EEP coordinators (persons managing species breeding programmes in Europe); the current European Association of Zoos and Aquaria recommended code of practice on screening for infectious diseases when animals are moved between zoos; and a pro forma that must be used to record all pertinent information when animals are transferred between collections.

This policy document is aimed at ensuring high standards of welfare in the acquisition, disposal and transfer of zoo animals. Setting out mandatory policies for Zoo Federation member zoos, it is essential reading for all involved in the keeping of zoo animals in the British Isles. It is a valuable document which deserves to be used as a model for the development of similar policies for zoos elsewhere in the world.

The Federation of Zoos Animal Transaction Policy. November 1999. Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland. 7pp plus 9pp of appendices. A4 ring-bound. Available from the publishers, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, UK (E-mail: fedzoo@zsl.org).