



Information about CARETAKING

Intended for foreign organizations that offer animals for rescue or want to mediate in such cases

GENERAL

AAP, a sanctuary for exotic animals, is a non-profit organization, that has served as a reception centre for primates and other exotic animals since 1972. The animals that are taken care of by AAP, come from seizures by the authorities or are brought to AAP by individuals and other organizations. The animals are brought in from all over Europe. Generally, AAP offers temporary reception. If possible, the animals are after rehabilitation accommodated at other renowned institutes (animal parks, sanctuaries, reserves etc.) all over the world. Those animals for which no outplacement is possible, can count on lifelong care in AAP's facilities in Almere or in our new centre in Spain: "Primadomus" Life Time Care Centre.

AAP in Almere takes on average around 150 primates under its care (varying from Common Marmosets to chimpanzees) and about the same number of other small to medium mammals (coati's, raccoons, skunks, etc.). The animals are taken care of by a group of dedicated employees, with among others specialized animal keepers, a professional veterinarian and behavior specialists.

On arrival at AAP, all animals go into quarantine from 6 up to 12 weeks. During this period, the animals get a virology, bacteriology and parasitology examination, according to the quarantine protocols for the specific specie. The animals don't leave the quarantine before their health can be fully guaranteed. In the case of virologic disorders, which may cause a threat to humans or animals, euthanasia if unfortunately the only option.

After the quarantine period, the rehabilitation phase starts for the social animals. The ultimate goal is entry in a social group with congeners. On arrival at AAP, many animals are traumatized. They have very often spent years in loneliness under for them bad circumstances. Of course, integrating these animals in a natural group requires a careful approach.

AAP carries out rehabilitations according to a specific treatment plan, which is drawn up for each individual. Every introduction is fully guided by our behavior experts, also the observations before, during and after the process. If necessary, the medical team gives assistance. The rehabilitation of animals is very often a long process, which requires regular adjustments. Fortunately, all the efforts eventually result in a more natural life for the animals, more than they ever had.

AAP is the official sanctuary for primates and small/medium-sized mammals that are seized by the Dutch government (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality). AAP is recognized in accordance with the European Zoo Guidelines (99/22/EC) and the Veterinary Guidelines (92/65/EU).

PRACTICAL

Reception Policy AAP accepts European applications for taking care of all animals within its specialism (primates and small to medium-sized mammals), regardless of species, gender, age, protection status or health. The animal must be legally brought into The Netherlands under the applying (veterinary) law. AAP does on principle not rescue animals which come from parties that simply replace the handed over animals by other animals. For taking care of animals from such circumstances, there should be measures taken to stop these actions. We work closely together with local government and animal welfare organizations.

Reception number and information Every application for rescue receives a unique administration number. Use this number for all correspondence and communication with us. We need some basic information of every presented animal, to be able to take up the application. It is necessary that this information is actual and complete to streamline the reception process.

Waiting list AAP follows the rule that reception is only then reliable, if we can give sufficient space and care to the animals. As the problems are bigger than our reception capacity for certain animal species, we are forced to work with a waiting list for those cases. The owners (or a party that represents them) of animals that are placed on that waiting list remain fully responsible, also financially. Only after arrival in our centre, after the transfer document has been signed, AAP will take the full responsibility for the animal.

Mediation: As a result of our extended worldwide network, it is sometimes possible to place or replace an animal immediately. This doesn't just reduce waiting time, but is sometimes to be preferred for an animal that we cannot place with its own species in our centre. Every application is automatically checked on this aspect.

Expenses Placing animals in our centre, taking care of them and replacing animals, costs a lot of money. AAP is financially fully dependant on donations and sponsors (individuals and companies), for the greater part of Dutch origin. AAP appreciates greatly when parties which offer or mediate in animals give a financial contribution. If desired, fund raising activities can be organized collectively (see chapter Publicity). In some cases, we will charge the costs made. If applicable, this will always be discussed with you in advance.

Publicity: An important aspect of Stichting AAP's work is giving information about keeping exotic species as a pet. By highlighting the dramatic consequences for the animal and the natural population, combined with the owners' disappointing experiences, AAP tries to incite people to think it over. Publications in our own periodicals or on the internet are important instruments, but to reach a large audience, national and international media attention is also of great importance. For AAP, publicity is also a way to inform existing benefactors and sponsors, and to recruit new supporters. In the Netherlands and increasingly also abroad, AAP is a subject in documentaries and animal programs on television. For example in 2004, a series in 12 episodes about the work of AAP was on Dutch television, and the various aspects of reception, care and finally the replacement of the animals was showed. An extended archive is essential to be able to bring a clear message. Therefore, many projects are filmed and the background stories are documented in detail. We hope that you will cooperate as well, as announcer or mediator. Obviously, projects with involvement of foreign animal care organisations, zoos or governments, appeal the attention of the local press. This can be used for educational purposes, but these moments can also pre-eminently be used for mutual fundraising activities. The financial means can be used for paying the transportation and further care of the animals.

Transport: In general, transporting animals to Almere must be paid by the party which offers the animals. Our staff of the Caretaking department is willing to advise on this matter. Should you have a practical or Financial problem during the organization of the transport to Almere, please contact one of our staff members. We highly recommend you to start the transport preparations (especially the organization for the required documents) very amply before the actual transport will take place.

CITES: All primates (and all the other mammals that are mentioned on the CITES-lists) need a EU CITES certificate for the import in the Netherlands from other EU countries. Usually the authorities in the exporting country provides for the certificate. In specific cases, it can already be provided for an

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animal that is in your possession. If not, we highly recommend you to apply for the certificate, apply before the actual transport will take place (preferably when you present the animal for care), to prevent delays. For any questions about CITES certificates, please contact our Caretaking department.

Health certificate: For the import of primates (and a few specified other mammals) from EU countries to the Netherlands, a health certificate according to EU Regulation 92/65 is required. This must be given 24 hours before export by the responsible veterinarian authority of the exporting country. For the import of animals which are not covered by the EU Regulation mentioned, a health certificate given by the treating veterinarian will do. For any questions about health certificates, please contact our Caretaking department.

Health: We explicitly recommend to test animals that are placed on the waiting list on relevant bacteriologic, virologic and parasitic diseases. This doesn't only makes it possible for us to anticipate on the specific animal's arrival, but is also important for the people who take care of the animal until its arrival at AAP.

For further information or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us.

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See also:

www.aap.nl
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