



Import & keeping of exotic animals in Europe

Existing concerns and risks – Current challenges to meet

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FVE Conference Conclusions

- Set up clear definitions of animals – domesticated animals, wild animals bred in specific farms, wild animals born in the wild or in captivity, etc. Make a list of the different categories of animals, defining the ownership requirements and responsibilities according to the concerned species.
- Harmonised legislation concerning ownership and import should prevail in the Europe, not forgetting its proper enforcement with regular inspections on site and strict border controls, especially in airports, BIPs and ports. A close collaboration and interaction of CITES and the custom services is very important
- An EU label could be created encouraging good practices in pet shops, farms or zoos. Penalties should be harmonised throughout the EU and strong enough to discourage illegal trafficking. Traceability, meaning identification and registration of exotic animals in a central data base, should be used and harmonized
- Education and training for everyone. This includes dissemination of information to the public and potential owners on husbandry of different species and their special needs as well as on the risks for the public health, zoonosis, the health of endemic species and the environment. Training of the professionals working at certain posts, in order to ensure a high degree of professional competence and preparedness is also necessary.
- For certain species or list of animals, a certificate of ownership assessing the capacity to own exotic animals and obtained after an official examination should be mandatory.

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- Contrary to the spirit of the treaty of Roma, free movement of certain species or list of animals through the EU should not be allowed or be strictly restricted.
- In order to fight illegal traffic in the countries of origin, which are usually impoverished, prevention programs should be developed. Information and local economy are the two key pillars of this action which should be encouraged.
- Collaboration between national competent authorities shall be enforced. Ask for permission a species to enter a country before start transportation procedures.
- Look into the possibility of conducting relevant studies before granting permission for a new species entering a country, in order to identify any potential risks for the regional ecosystem.