

WAZA Regional and National Associations Open Meetings: 14-17 Oct, 2013



Second Session of the WAZA Associations meeting, held in the Seabrook Room of the Disney Conference Center

Associations Meeting I

14 October 2013, Seabrook Room,
Disney Conference Center

Sally Walker, WAZA Associations
Chair opened the meeting and
welcomed the participants.

Facilitators: Jörg Junghold, WAZA
President and Sally Walker, WAZA
Associations Chair

Recorder: Miranda Stevenson

Attendees: Listed end of report

A meeting of association chairs
and others interested was
scheduled on 14 October to
discuss pending issues. There was
a change in programme by Jörg
Junghold to discuss advancement
of zoo associations working more
together in the future, in order to
be more effective and avoid
alleged competition. This was the
result of a futures workshop
entitled 'Global Zoo Community'
that had been held prior to the
WAZA council meeting and
attended by invited directors and
carefully selected chairs of the
national/regional associations.

Some interesting and controversial
issues were discussed during this
meeting including methods of
improving communication and

cooperation and better branding.

It was decided that a one-day
workshop would be held sometime
in 2014, possibly before the next
WAZA meeting. In the meantime
the National/Regional Associations
need to discuss this further with
their respective boards.

Associations Meeting II

17 October 2013, Seabrook Room,
Disney Conference Center

This meeting picked up the issues
which were not discussed on 14
October and had been pending for
some time.

First on the Agenda there was a
talk about the WAZA Decade of
Biodiversity by Dr. Tiago,
Education Director of WAZA. Tiago
began the meeting by bringing the
Association Presidents, Chairs and
other attendees up to date about
the the prestigious WAZA Decade
of Biodiversity project, a brainchild
of Dr. Gerald Dick, Executive
Director, WAZA. Tiago explained
how to locate the materials and
suggestions available from the
WAZA website. He also explained
that the materials are limited for
use to WAZA members and also
members of associations that are

WAZA members. In the case of
the latter they must use them with
the regional/national association
logo not the WAZA logo.

Discussion of suggested and pending issues

**1. Individuals and
organizations for and against
zoos :** *discussion on which
associations are having these
problems and how they are dealing
with them. The US have IDA and
PETA. IDA focus on anti-zoo
members in city councils to get
their agenda heard. This is
particularly true of elephant
issues. CAZA have the Born Free
Foundation BFF Canada; they tried
to stop elephant moves. In
Europe, BFF have launched a
campaign against all solitary
elephants. It was suggested that
we may need an elephant centre
in Europe like the one in Florida,
USA. A survey of these
organizations and their modus
operandi would be useful including
identification of the networks.*

Lesley Dickie reiterated the case of
the solitary elephant in a
Romanian Zoo, which resulted in
her receiving personal abusive
emails. She produced a fact sheet

which was sent to the 'saner' emails. There followed a discussion on whether to respond to such emails or not. Drive fishery problem has been targeted by some groups and they have identified WAZA as the body that can sort this out. They are claiming that WAZA is supporting the hunt. Eight thousand emails in one week were received on this. Social media is frequently used, e.g. friends, on some abused animals. However, there are differences between countries, e.g., Sweden does not actually have an anti-zoo problem, but zoo standards are high in Sweden. There was a discussion on the strategy of actually joining these groups, and talking to them. In Brazil they are also having problems with elephants but it is sometimes not a good idea to talk to the groups as they have fixed and immovable ideas. Animal Rights organizations often just want money and these campaigns raise funds. It is essential to know the organization that you are dealing with and how ingrained their anti-zoo stance actually is e.g. RSPCA, BFF and CAPS. CAPS are trying to link to other European Associations.

It is a good idea to be out front and proactive, e.g. explain why you feed whole goats to your animals and why it is good for them (Landau). In France the Zoo Association went directly to the government about the ENDCAP report on French Zoos. It is a good strategy to partner with the 'good' welfare group e.g. EAZA work with Eurogroup. They managed to get the wording of a letter changed through this relationship.

In Australasia the RSPCA will endorse the accreditation system of ZAA. However, this is not true in every country, sometimes there is not a group you can align with. There is a big problem in Germany with Animal Rights Groups and the development of standards for zoos. In the past we may not have taken some of these groups seriously enough, in Germany they

have considerable political lobbying influence.

2. Organizational structure:

It was agreed that this issue would be better done by communication and then put on the web site. Action: Sally Walker to coordinate information already sent.

3. Euthanasia: there are considerable national legislative and cultural differences. In Sweden they can breed and cull. It is important to be honest and open and not lie about it. Also we need to be honest about the alternatives to euthanasia – we need to be much more open about the breed and cull issue to the public. Basel Zoo euthanized two lion cubs with no adverse public reaction. There was a general feeling that you have to be consistent and honest, and do not cull reindeer in December! There are differences in perception between species: apes and antelope for example. We also need to be honest about the negative effects of contraception.

In the US there is a strong anti-culling response; they prefer contraception. Disney also has culling problems when managing nature reserves belonging to the company as it has to protect its image. There is also the issue that most people don't understand the difference between ethics and welfare. The example was give of two male macaques that were euthanized at Newquay Zoo – the Sparticus effect can be very important in these instances; it is very important that the zoo community provides support when these issues arise. Kolkata zoo had a very old lion/leopard hybrid and there were complaints about its condition, this time the animal welfare lobby insisted on euthanasia. It was stressed how important it is to get good papers into peer reviewed journals and a reference list on the WAZA website would be a useful resource. We need to work with veterinary associations over this issue. It was noted that EAZA are hiring an

animal welfare officer who might collate these documents. It was noted that some organizations have a euthanasia policy, EAZA, ZAA, AZA.

Action: please send to Sally Walker who will coordinate these and make them available.

4. Animals in shows: There is a problem in the use of the generic term show – as it has circus connotations. Animal training sessions – education demonstration etc are better terms. It was noted that the content was very important.

Action: associations to share any policy documents they have on this.

AOB

Phrase 'animals in captivity' can we find another term? Suggestions were: animals in human care, animals in zoological settings. There are also problems with the impression given by the word 'sanctuary' over 'zoo'.

SW thanked everyone for coming and contributing. She will produce minutes and requests attendees to please send their policy/policies on organizational structure, euthanasia and animal shows to her as decided in the workshop so these can be circulated to all Chairs.

Note from Chair: In future meetings, I will not serve as Associations Chair but will participate in my capacity as SAZARC Director. I appreciate the help, support and friendship from the Associations Chairs.

Participant List (next page)



World Association of Zoos and Aquariums | **WAZA**
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