



The rescue of animals at AAP

General

AAP is a European rescue center for primates and other exotic mammals. It was founded in 1972 and is located in Almere, the Netherlands, with a second facility, Primadomus, in Spain. The animals rescued by AAP have been confiscated from illegal trade, abandoned or offered by private owners, exhibited in illegal or disreputable zoos or used in biomedical research or the entertainment industry. Many of the animals have a history of abuse and neglect. After a careful process of rehabilitation which includes resocializing social animals in groups, long-term solutions are sought through outplacement. We aim to outplace our animals in relatively natural environments, such as reputable zoos and animal parks, either within or outside the Netherlands.

Waiting list

After arrival, all animals are placed into temporary quarantine. Unfortunately, due to limited capacity, quarantine facilities aren't always immediately available. Therefore a waiting list exists for some species. In extremely urgent cases, e.g. when the threat of euthanasia exists, AAP will appeal to its network of partner organizations and endeavor to place animals there until space is available within the AAP rescue center.

Expenses

To AAP, the interest of the animal comes first. This is why as a matter of principle we do not charge anything for taking in an animal. However, as the costs of caretaking are high and we fully depend on donations, voluntary contributions are more than welcome.

Renunciation of ownership

When an animal is handed over to AAP, a 'renunciation of ownership' must be signed by the owner of the animal. The animal then becomes property of AAP, and the former owner will no longer have any claims to it. This renunciation of ownership is unconditional and irrevocable.

Quarantine

Upon arrival, all animals are placed into quarantine for a period of six to twelve weeks. During this period the animal's physical and mental condition is thoroughly checked upon by our specialised staff. Our standard quarantine protocol includes all necessary virological and bacteriological tests. In the unlikely event that tests and observations show extremely severe behavioural disorders or diseases that could be life-threatening for other animals or humans, AAP can decide to euthanize an animal without consulting the former owner (see also under 'Euthanasia').

Birth control

AAP applies a permanent non-breeding policy for all mammals owned by AAP unless there are valid reasons to decide differently. If permanent contraception is not applied, temporary contraception will be applied during their stay at the rescue center and preferably after outplacement. Exceptions of this principle can be that the species has an official breeding program or that it is endangered in the wild.

Euthanasia

AAP very seldom carries out euthanasia. Our criterion is whether an animal – even mentally or physically handicapped – can still lead a dignified existence. This includes being able to drink and eat on its own. Only if an animal is incapable of doing this, and if this condition is permanent and

cannot be cured or dealt with, may AAP resort to euthanasia.

Visits to animals

Once an animal is handed over, AAP becomes its owner, and in principle it will not be possible to visit the animal. Most of the animals arriving at AAP need to learn how to live with members of their own kind. Visits of former owners may cause stress, which in turn will result in a regression in the rehabilitation process and confusion within the group – results that AAP wishes to avoid by all means.

Outplacement

At AAP's rescue centre, animals are getting accustomed to living in more natural environments. They learn sharing space with others of their own kind and how to assert for their own food. In short, they get a chance to learn how to be monkeys (or any other animal in question). Once an animal is sufficiently rehabilitated and declared physically and mentally healthy, we will actively seek permanent housing for it, preferably in the area of the animal's origin, or in a place that resembles its natural environment as closely as possible. Reputable zoos, reserves or animal parks are good examples. Whenever possible, we will try to keep groups of animals used to living with each other together. During transport the animals are almost always accompanied by a staff member from AAP, ensuring proper care is given to the animal during and directly after its trip. After outplacement, the animals remain property of AAP.

Media

The media are instrumental in raising public awareness and making AAP's work known. This is why AAP often seeks publicity and, with the owner's permission, has media present when animals are handed over. Footage on television and the internet will indirectly help other animals in need, by drawing attention to the issue and even getting other private owners to give up their animal.