



## European Association of Zoos and Aquaria welcomes new Animal Health Law

**Amsterdam/Brussels, 21 April 2021:** The European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) welcomes the entry into force of the new Animal Health Law (Regulation 2016/429) and its associated acts, across the European Union.

EU veterinary legislation has long played an important role in improving the health, welfare and *ex situ* conservation of many threatened species maintained in zoos and aquariums. This new legislation will replace many previous EU veterinary rules including Council Directive 92/65/EC ‘the Balai Directive’, which previously concerned non-domestic species.

Moving from zoo animal health being governed by a Directive to a Regulation should result in a more harmonized application and implementation across Member States. EAZA views this change as a key improvement with the potential to benefit and contribute to the missions of the modern European zoological community.

*“The introduction into force of the new Animal Health Law is an important landmark for our community. Through a system of recognition and approval, zoos with high health standards will be able to move animals between Member States more easily. Such transfers play an essential role in the conservation, health and welfare of populations of many threatened species. EAZA stands ready to work with Member State authorities to improve harmonization and aid in implementation of this legislation within our sector”* comments Myfanwy Griffith, EAZA Executive Director.

Throughout the legislative process, EAZA veterinary experts have been active in ensuring that the legislation considers the unique needs of the progressive zoo community, strongly aligning with the legislation’s central concept that prevention of animal disease is better than cure.

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Established in 1992, EAZA is the world’s largest regional zoo and aquarium association, with over 400 Member institutions (341 zoos and aquariums, 13 national and sub-regional zoo associations, other affiliated organisations) in 48 countries, including in 25 EU Member States.

EAZA facilitates cooperation within the European and Western Asian zoo and aquarium community towards the goals of education, research and conservation, centred around the animals in our Members’ care. Membership in EAZA is based on strict accreditation requirements and binding Standards.

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