



EAZA Executive Office

c/o Artis Royal Zoo
PO Box 20164
1000 HD Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 20 520 0750
Fax: +31 20 520 0752
Email: info@eaza.net
Website: www.eaza.net

AVES France
BP 6
76480 DUCLAIR
France

Subject: 'Tigerworld', Amnéville Zoo

Amsterdam, 18 May 2015

Dear M. Coret,

Thank you for your email of 16 May 2015 regarding Amneville Zoo. EAZA has been aware of the construction of the TigerWorld facility at Amneville Zoo for some time. During the development of this facility we have been in contact with Michel Louis, the owner and Chief Executive Officer of the zoo regarding his intentions, the content of the show and the facilities for the animals. EAZA has used this contact to state clearly to M. Louis that EAZA cannot accept the construction of a circus facility within the grounds of an EAZA Member.

EAZA has a variety of Codes and Standards as well as Guidelines on Animals in Demonstrations that clearly outline what we feel are acceptable practices for the accommodation, care and display of species held in EAZA Member institutions. It is also the position of the Association's Council that circuses may not be members of EAZA. Nonetheless, we also believe that before taking any action against perceived or real breaches of our Codes and Standards that the Membership and Ethics Committee of the Association must have all the facts and, that institutions have the right to defend their decisions. To this end, we have arranged with Amneville that a specialist screening team from EAZA will visit the zoo and more particularly the TigerWorld facility in June 2015. This team will include senior members of our Association and will judge the case objectively within the rules set out in our Standards. Recommendations from this screening team will be presented at the next Membership and Ethics Committee and EAZA Council meetings, during our Annual Conference in September. This is where the final decision on Membership will be made.

Regarding your second point – that Amneville is at the forefront of an expansion on French zoos of the keeping of white tigers – EAZA has a clear position statement on the intentional breeding of animals with recessive alleles, such as white tigers; the policy identifies the health and welfare issues posed by the breeding of such animals, and strongly discourages our members from doing so. At the same time EAZA does recognise that in some situations inappropriate breeding by non-EAZA Members may result in animals expressing rare recessive alleles which are in need of rescue. Therefore, providing holding and care for such animals and responding to rescue requests from local, state, or federal agencies are appropriate activities for EAZA institutions, provided that the delivery of thoughtful educational messages about the unfortunate results of inbreeding are part of any public display. In summary, please accept our assurances that we understand your concerns and are working with our members to limit the breeding and keeping of white tigers.



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EAZA thanks you and your subscribers for your concern on both of the issues of circuses and white tigers, especially as they relate to Amneville Zoo. As you will see from the responses above EAZA is aware of these issues and has procedures and policies in place to uphold the high values of our Association. We would urge patience from you and other welfare organisations while we investigate the case thoroughly – please do not mistake our necessary caution for a lack of concern or awareness.

Yours sincerely,

Myfanwy Griffith
EAZA Executive Director