



WAZA Zoo Assessment Tool Model

Key:

ACC = Acceptable (requires no immediate attention, normal within the profession)

QUST = Questionable (should be improved or changed as soon as possible, but is not a critical matter)

UNACC = Unacceptable (must be corrected, does not meet professional standards, may be unsafe or detrimental to the zoo, its staff, its visitors, or its animals).

Highlighted = Compliance is fundamental to zoo operation

	PHYSICAL FACILITIES	Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
1	Is the zoo open to the visiting public?						
2	Is the zoo permanently sited?						
3	Is there adequate provision for disabled visitors?						
4	Are there a suitable number of rest rooms maintained in a sanitary condition?						
5	Is the method of sewage disposal adequate?						
6	Is the method for disposal of toxic/hazardous materials adequate?						
7	Are there adequate provisions for the proper storage and disposal of animal waste?						
8	If public food services are offered, are they operated under adequate hygienic conditions?						
9	Are the grounds neat and clean?						
10	Are paths and roads maintained?						
11	Are the buildings maintained?						
12	Is the general impression given the exhibits acceptable in terms of modern zoo practice?						
13	Are the plants and trees maintained?						
14	Are there facilities for civic involvement?						

NOTES:



	ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE	Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
15	Is the zoo a member of a local, national, regional or the global zoo organisation?						
16	Is there an active marketing and communications program?						
17	Does the zoo have a policy of implemented sustainable practices?						
18	Is there a contingency plan for zoo closure?						
19	Are there skills and information transfer with other zoos? a) By sending staff to zoo community meetings b) Through zoo community publications c) Through a specific relationship with another zoo d) Other (please specify)						

NOTES:



STAFF		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
20	Is the staff adequately directed?						
21	Is the rate of staff turnover reasonable?						
22	Are current job descriptions on file?						
23	Do staff members regularly meet to discuss problems and possible solutions?						
24	In general are there good working relations in the zoos?						
25	Are staff provided with an opportunity and encouraged to seek continued education and/or training specific to their current or future position?						
26	Are the CEO and staff members up to date with developments in their field of expertise?						
27	Is there a leadership succession plan?						
FINANCIAL MATTERS		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
28	Is the total financial support adequate to meet the needs of the zoo?						
29	Does the zoo have continuing financial support?						
30	Does the zoo have a contingency plan for lack of financial support?						
31	Is there a separate budget available for capital development?						
32	Is there a planned capital development programme and are adequate funds available?						
NOTES:							



	ANIMAL CARE Veterinary Care	Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
33	Is the animal collection under the supervision of a veterinarian?						
34	Does the veterinary supervision and care provided to the animals appear to be adequate?						
35	Are the veterinary facilities and procedures adequate to meet the needs of the collection?						
36	Do the animals appear to be in good health?						
37	Does the zoo maintain up-to-date records on the health of the collection?						
38	Is there a safe and effective programme for the control of pests and where necessary, predators?						
39	Are deceased animals disposed of appropriately?						
40	Are deceased animals stored away from food?						
41	Has a regular and comprehensive programme of veterinary care and surveillance been established?						
42	Does the zoo normally perform necropsies?						
43	Is there an ethical review process?						

NOTES:



	Enclosures	Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
44	Are the enclosures clean and well maintained and of appropriate size for the species exhibited?						
45	Are the enclosures of sufficient size and are the animals managed in such a way that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undue dominance by individuals is avoided? • Persistent and unresolved conflict is avoided? • The physical carrying capacity is not overburdened? • An uncontrolled build-up of parasites and other pathogens is prevented? 						
46	Is separate accommodation provided where appropriate for pregnant mothers and animals with young?						
47	Are animals kept in temporary accommodation? If yes, is their situation regularly assessed and evaluated?						
48	Do the enclosures provide for the well-being of the animals throughout the year?						
49	Are enclosure substrates, design features and furniture appropriate to the animals in terms of potential toxicity?						
50	Are enclosure substrates, design features and furniture sufficient to provide shelter for and meet the behavioural needs of all specimens displayed, especially those kept in multi-species exhibits?						
51	Is sufficient suitable equipment provided to aid and encourage normal behaviours?						
52	Do water quality methods and controls programme appear to be adequate for aquatic exhibits?						
53	Do trees within or near enclosures appear to be in a safe condition?						

NOTES:



Nutrition		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
54	Does the quantity and quality of food and drink provided for the animals appear to be adequate?						
55	Are supplies of food and drink kept and prepared under hygienic conditions?						
56	Is it apparent that food and drink are placed so as to be accessible to every animal within a particular enclosure?						
57	Is food and drink provided in such a way that: a) It meets the biological needs of the animal (time and frequency of feeding) b) It meets the behavioural needs?						
Visitors & Animal Contact		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
58	Are the animals inappropriately managed for the benefit of the viewing public?						
59	Is feeding by visitors permitted? If yes, is this on a selective basis only with suitable food sold, provided or approved by the management? If no, have adequate measures been taken?						
60	Does the zoo have animal demonstrations, shows and/or animal rides? If yes, is there a protocol to ensure the animals' well-being and safety?						
61	Are animals handled only by or under the supervision of authorised personnel?						
62	Does the handling of animals by personnel appear to be consistent with the animal's welfare?						
COLLECTION Animal Records		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
63	Are records held of all individual animals?						
64	Is the system of recording information suitable for ready examination?						
65	Is an individual member of staff designated as being responsible for the facilities' animal record keeping system?						
66	Are the collection's records protected from fire, flooding and other natural hazards?						
67	Are duplicate records stored in an appropriate separate zoo?						
68	Is the zoo an ISIS subscriber?						
NOTES:							



Acquisition, exchange and transport		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
69	Are there adequate facilities for crating and transporting animals?						
70	Do the facilities' acquisition and disposition activities fully comply with the WAZA Code of Ethics?						
71	Does the zoo utilise wildlife in off-site situations (shopping malls, schools, events)?						
72	If yes to # 71, a. Does the zoo make certain that the off site programmes do not cause undue stress for the animals? b. Is there sufficient transportation and care provided whilst the animals are off site? c. Are animals kept separate from the collection especially following an appearance off site? d. Do formal animal training programmes provide for the well-being and overall health of those participating?						
Collection Plan		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
73	Does the zoo have an up-to-date collection plan?						
74	Is animal identification adequate and implemented						

NOTES:



SAFETY & SECURITY Enclosures, Barriers and Exits		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
75	Are the enclosure barriers designed, constructed and in such a condition to contain animals within the desired enclosures?						
76	Are the enclosures free from vegetation or other items that would aid animal escape?						
77	Are barriers designed, constructed and in such a condition that they cannot trap or represent a hazard to visitors, especially children?						
78	Are standoff barriers designed to discourage children from climbing through or over them or from sitting on them, without providing features likely to cut or cause injury?						
79	Are gates/doors to enclosures containing hazardous animals securely locked at all times?						
80	Do gates/doors to enclosures appear to be as strong and effective in containing the animals as the rest of the enclosure barrier?						
81	Where appropriate, are adequate standoff barriers provided to prevent direct contact between visitors and enclosures containing hazardous animals?						
82	Are surfaces where visitors are likely to be walking whilst looking at exhibits even and non-slippery or grassed?						
83	Where appropriate are warning signs displayed in respect of enclosures containing hazardous animals and in respect of enclosure barriers that include any electrified section?						
84	Do buildings and structures to which the public have access appear to be safe?						
85	Is the perimeter boundary of the zoo clearly defined?						
86	Is the perimeter fence independent of all animal enclosures?						

NOTES:



Drive-through exhibits		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
87	Is a satisfactory system of double-gates provided for enclosures containing dangerous animals?						
88	Is the type of grid or gate system adequate?						
89	Is there a satisfactory alternative method of opening or closing mechanically operated gates in the event of power failure or other emergency?						
90	Are satisfactory precautions and emergency procedures applied in respect of visitors where hazardous animals are kept in drive-through enclosures?						
91	Do operators of mechanically operated gates have a clear, unobstructed view of the gates under their control and of the area in the vicinity of the gates?						
Emergencies		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
92	Is first aid readily available to the staff and public?						
93	Are emergency procedures and equipment adequate in the case of major injury or death from a large or venomous animal?						
94	Are there procedures and equipment in place in the event of a dangerous animal escape?						
95	Are emergency drills conducted on a regular basis?						
96	Are there sufficient exits from the zoo for emergency situations?						
97	Are personnel adequately trained in first aid?						
Health & Safety		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
98	Are personnel who handle animals adequately informed regarding common zoonoses?						
99	Can personnel safely service all exhibits?						
100	Are service areas adequately protected from visitor access?						
101	Does the zoo make use of firearms?						
102	If firearms are used, are they kept in a secured area?						
103	If firearms are used, are personnel regularly trained in the use of firearms?						
104	Does the zoo have written procedures for working with hazardous animals?						

NOTES:



CONSERVATION		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
105	Does the zoo; governing authority and personnel actively participate in local, regional, provincial, academic, national and international conservation endeavours? Describe how:						
106	Does the zoo participate in any of the following conservation initiatives: a. Educational programmes/materials that increase public awareness on the importance of preserving ecosystems? b. Training programmes that provide field experiences? c. Programmes that aid the transfer of relevant technology to the field? d. Programmes that purchase land or contribute funds to establish reserves e. Field research programmes and development of economic incentives to preserve ecosystems?						
107	Is conservation included in the message of the zoo to the visiting public?						
108	Does the zoo practice energy conservation and environmental management?						
EDUCATION		Yes	No	Acc	Qust	Unacc	N/A
109	Does the zoo have an education programme?						
110	Is the education programme under the direction of a paid professional trained in education?						
111	Do the educational facilities meet the needs of the zoo?						
112	Do personnel have an adequate and accessible library?						
113	Do the exhibits and collection demonstrate an educational theme?						
114	Does the zoo have a documented educational policy?						
115	Does the facilities education programme address the role of zoos/aquaria in conservation?						
116	Are exhibit graphics legible?						
117	Is the collection identified and interpreted for the visiting public?						
RESEARCH							
118	Does the zoo employ research personnel?						
119	Does the zoo participate in any form of research? Describe how.						
120	Does the zoo have cooperative research activities with colleges and universities?						



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