

Regulation on the Animal Welfare Committee of the Eurasian Regional Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EARAZA)

1. General Provisions

1.1. The present Regulation defines the working procedures of the Animal Welfare Committee of the Eurasian Regional Association of Zoos and Aquariums (hereinafter referred to as the Committee).

1.2. The Committee operates on a permanent basis and exercises deliberative and advisory functions.

1.3. In its activities, the Committee is guided by the EARAZA Charter, EARAZA Animal Welfare Standards, as well as by animal welfare standards of other professional associations of zoos and aquariums, in particular the WAZA Animal Welfare Strategy, the EARAZA Code of Ethics and the codes of ethics of professional associations of which the Association is a member, and other relevant documents.

2. Aims and objectives of the Committee

2.1. The EARAZA Animal Welfare Committee is established to:

- consider issues related to ensuring high standards of animal welfare and maintaining the highest possible level of the welfare of animals kept in EARAZA member institutions;
- oversee the systematic monitoring of animal welfare in EARAZA member institutions;
- monitor the development of the modern methods in the field of animal welfare in zoos and aquariums and prepare recommendations for the implementation of such methods in the work of EARAZA members;
- update the EARAZA Animal Welfare Standards on the basis of new scientific and practical evidence and with the involvement of animal welfare experts;
- provide advisory assistance to EARAZA members in the process of implementation of animal welfare assessments, introduction of new methods into practice, etc. (upon receipt of a relevant request from an institution);
- consider cases of actions by individual EARAZA members, which result in a reduction in animal welfare and in any way jeopardise the efforts to improve animal welfare and, where necessary, make recommendations to the Presidium on appropriate measures to be taken.

3. Composition of the Committee and procedure of its work.

3.1. The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, members of the Committee and a Secretary.

3.2. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be appointed by EARAZA Presidium. The Chairperson of the Committee shall appoint the members of the Committee (at least 5 people), which the Chairperson shall agree with the Presidium. Committee members may include representatives of EARAZA institutions and EARAZA Honorary members.

3.3. The term of office of the Committee members is 5 (five) years from the date of appointment; however, the membership of any Committee member may be terminated at any time by decision of the Presidium or as a result of the member's resignation. In the event of the termination of the powers of a Committee member, a new member shall be appointed at the next meeting of the Committee.

3.4. Committee meetings are held online and moderated by the Chairperson of the Committee.

3.5. Committee meetings shall be held at least once every three months, as well as when necessary.

3.6. The date and time of the meeting shall be set by the Chairperson of the Committee.

3.7. If necessary, the Committee may decide to send one or more of its members to a member institution (in particular if the institution has requested advice (see 2.1.) or if EARAZA becomes aware of problems in maintaining a high level of animal welfare in a member institution. The costs associated with such visits will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis (as appropriate).

3.8. When considering specific situations related to the work of one of the EARAZA member organisations, any employees of the organisation/other organisations proposed by the members of the Committee may be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee for a comprehensive consideration of the issue.

3.9. In case of serious violations of the EARAZA Animal Welfare Standard, the Committee can recommend to the EARAZA Presidium to apply a warning to the organisation that committed the violation or recommend to the Presidium to submit to the EARAZA General Meeting a proposal to terminate the membership of such organisation.

3.10. The Committee's decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority of votes of the members of the Committee present at the meeting. In case of a tie vote, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have the casting vote.

3.11. A meeting of the Committee shall be considered valid, if at least half of the members of the Committee are present.

3.12. All information reported at the meetings of the Committee shall be confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure.

4. Procedure for processing decisions of the Committee

4.1. Decisions of the Committee shall be formalised in minutes, which shall be agreed with the members of the Committee who participated in its meeting.

4.2. Decisions of the Committee are advisory in nature.

4.3. If any member of the Committee has a dissenting opinion, it shall be obligatory reflected in the minutes.

4.4. The Committee's decisions should be based both on the legal and regulatory instruments in force and on the professional experience and common sense of the Committee members.