

Citizen Conservation – Terms and Conditions

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Preamble

The Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH (hereinafter: CC) aims to establish coordinated conservation breeding programs in cooperation with institutional and private breeders to establish stable back-up populations. Special attention is paid to the preservation of genetic diversity, the prevention of the spread of diseases and education for sustainable development.

At the same time, CC is pursuing the goal of creating a broad social majority for the One Plan Approach through communication. This approach states that a promising species conservation policy always consists of the interaction of in-situ measures (in the field), ex-situ measures (conservation breeding and research in captivity) and the needs and requirements of the people concerned. CC sees itself as an ex-situ service provider in the sense of the One Plan Approach.

A Terms and Conditions for Participants

A1 Participants and Preconditions for Participation

A1.1 Participants

CC is open to participation by both private keepers with the required expertise and institutions, in particular zoos, but also research museums, educational zoos, rescue organisations, and other institutions in which animals are kept.

CC will provide participants with breeder specimens of selected animals, typically with the aim of propagating these. Applications for participation are accepted based upon the applicant accepting these CC terms & conditions, his or her expertise, and his or her having available a captive setup that will ensure the wellbeing of the animals. The acceptance of the terms and conditions is indicated by the applicant's signature on the placement contract".

A1.2 Expertise

All participants are required to prove their expertise in husbandry of the animal group in question. This is preferably done by presenting an official certification, when applicable. Alternatively, an applicant may prove his or her expertise to the CC Office by means of personal representation, for example by describing their personal experiences, breeding achievements, presenting publications, or providing evidence of their professional qualification. By signing the placement contract the keeper confirms that he or she has provided truthful information to this effect. Depending on the qualification of the keeper, the CC Office will determine for which category of species the applicant may be considered.

Species of Category III: Suitable for qualified beginners;

Species of Category II: Suitable for advanced keepers;

Species of Category I: Species requiring particular management (non-marketable species) as well as those that may be kept only by specialists.

The CC office has sole discretion to decide which applicant may be given specimens of which category.

A1.3 Accommodation

The participant commits him- or herself to accommodate and care for the animals according to the principles set by CC. The availability of adequate installations must be demonstrated to CC by descriptions and/or photographs in advance.

It is mandatory to refrain from socializing CC animals with non-CC animals of the same species or to put them together for offspring breeding. Also, under normal circumstances, the parent animals may not be kept together with the (sexually mature) offspring animals in order to prevent reproduction between parents and their own offspring. Exceptions are possible if this is stated in the husbandry recommendations or agreed with the CC office.

If keepers receive several groups of CC animals of one species, it is essential to keep the animals separated according to these groups, unless otherwise agreed with the CC office.

A2 Right of Ownership

All CC specimens and the offspring produced from these remain in most cases the property of the Program. (In specific cases, CC manages animals in trust that are not owned by CC. Keepers receive the animals on loan after signing the placement contract.) By entering into this agreement, they commit themselves to not pass these specimens or their offspring on to any third party unless instructed to do so by CC. It is in the sole discretion of CC to decide which specimens are to be accommodated where.

A3 Rights and Obligations of Participants

A3.1 Costs

The contracted keeper will receive CC-specimens free of charge. All costs arising from their husbandry, housing, and feeding are to be covered by the keeper. Claims for compensation for costs arising from their keeping or for raising their offspring will not be entertained.

A3.2 Husbandry Procedures

The keeper is obliged to keep the animals according to the CC husbandry guidelines. Major deviations from these guidelines must be approved in advance by the CC Office.

The CC Office as well as external consultants contracted by CC are available to the keeper for advice throughout the duration of his or her participation in the project.

A3.3 Documentation and Registration

The keeper is obliged to inform the CC Office on the development of the captive population in his or her care in accordance with the requirements of the species, generally at six-month intervals. Different species may have different requirements. These will be spelled out in the placement contract or the management recommendations for a given species.

The keeper furthermore commits him- or herself to strictly comply with all legal restrictions and obligations, in particular those relating to species conservation laws. This may include official registration, individual marking or tagging, photographic documentation, minimum husbandry requirements and arranging for required husbandry permits. The keeper is required to send copies of all relevant documents to the CC office.

In the case of transfer to a new keeper, which can only be initiated by the CC office, proof of origin documents corresponding to the CC-internal and legal requirements (if necessary including the corresponding CITES papers) must be produced and a copy sent to the CC office.

In the case of offspring produced by legally protected CC species, the participating keeper is required to issue certificates of their legal origin in accordance with existing procedural practices as determined by the authorities. These certificates are to be handed over to subsequent keepers with the respective specimens (incl. corresponding CITES papers if required), together with all required documentation. Copies of these certificates of legal origin are to be submitted to the CC Office.

In accordance with the CC goal of generating knowledge on key species, data on keeping and observations regarding the animals should also be forwarded to the CC office so that they can contribute to the information known about the species in the program.

A3.4 Transfer or Relocation of Animals

CC coordinates where specimens are housed and which specimens are brought together for the purpose of reproduction. This may require that individuals be relocated from one breeder to another. CC will try to be considerate of individual breeders' wishes, but establishing and maintaining the population as directed by the manager of the respective studbook must take priority. If a keeper wishes or has to discontinue the husbandry of specimens made available to him or her by CC, CC is obliged to take these specimens back at any point of time. Keepers may thus exit the program any time they wish.

Keepers should make such intentions clear to the CC Office as far in advance as possible in order to enable the CC Office to find adequate subsequent keepers.

A3.5 Transport

In the case of a change of caretaker or housing location within CC, the new keeper will be responsible for the transport of the specimens involved. The new keeper is also to cover the costs for this transport.

Transport is to be either by personal collection or by contracting an authorised courier.

All transport must be in strict compliance with legally prescribed procedures as well as those stipulated in the CC husbandry guidelines for the respective species.

A3.6 Evaluation of Husbandry Conditions

The keeper declares his or her willingness to grant access to evaluators, as announced by CC in advance, to the animal housing for the purpose of evaluating these and the CC specimens kept in them.

A3.7 Participation in external Communication

It is encouraged that owners, in agreement with CC, are available for the external communication of the program (e.g. enabling the photographing of CC animals, providing pictures, participating in interviews, etc.). In doing so, they undertake to represent the content-related goals of CC to the outside world as well. Provided picture material can be used by CC free of charge for any form of publication in connection with CC (e.g. for social media, website, own publications, press pictures, articles). The image authorship will be named unless this is expressly objected to.

A3.8 Goals of Husbandry

The goal of keeping specimens is usually their reproduction according to the goals defined by the studbook. However, the studbook can also impose a temporary breeding stop (e.g. if individual animals cannot contribute to the maintenance of the genetic diversity within the CC population and a transfer elsewhere is not desired or possible).

In this instance, the keeper is obliged to prevent the continued reproduction of the animals concerned as much as possible.

In certain cases a keeper may obtain animals without the immediate intention of reproduction, if this appears to be reasonable on the part of CC.

A4 Animal Welfare

A4.1 Prophylaxis and Quarantine

It is the explicit goal of CC to reduce the spread of diseases in the managed populations as much as possible, both inside and outside of CC. For this purpose, the prophylaxis and quarantine measures for the respective group of animals listed in the animal health appendix and or the husbandry guidelines must be observed, including any necessary veterinary examinations. CC covers the costs for these examinations.

A4.2 Animal Welfare during Husbandry

The keeper is obliged to arrange for veterinary medical care as necessitated by animal welfare laws if health issues surface in CC-specimens while in his or her care. The costs for such treatments are to be covered by the participant.

In justified cases, the CC office can arrange for examinations or veterinary tests to be carried out on the CC animals in a participant keeper's care. The CC covers the costs for these examinations.

B Program Guidelines

B1 Organisation

The Citizen Conservation Foundation gGmbH emerged from an initiative launched in 2018 by Frogs & Friends e.V., the Association of Zoological Gardens e.V. (VdZ) and the German Society for Herpetology and Terrarial Science e.V. (DGHT) and was registered as a non-profit GmbH in the commercial register on March 16, 2022.

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B1.1 Internal Organisation

The highest body of CC is the shareholders' meeting, consisting of representatives of the three shareholders Frogs & Friends e.V., Association of Zoological Gardens e.V. (VdZ) and German Society for Herpetology and Terrarial Science e.V. (DGHT).

The Supervisory Board is responsible for monitoring CC's operations. It consists of representatives of the shareholders and other partner organisations.

The operational business is the responsibility of the executive management as well as the corresponding departments of CC. These include, among others, the CC species managers, who are responsible for the management of the species as well as for the support of the CC participants.

In order to ensure the quality of the program in terms of both content and business in the long term, CC's Scientific Advisory Boards play a key role.

B1.2 Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board is composed of representatives from science, veterinary medicine, zoos, conservation organizations, business, media, authorities and private owners. Depending on the topic, they advise CC individually or in specialist groups. For example, CC has an advisory board for each animal class it manages, which meets at least once a year and plays a fundamental role in developing the content of the breeding programs and the principles of species management. The items B2.1 to B2.5 listed below are discussed and decided upon in the relevant Advisory Board. The final decision rests with CC, although in the event of a decision deviating from the Advisory Board's vote, this must be justified in writing and forwarded to the Advisory Board for information.

B2 Management of CC-Species

B2.1 Incorporation of Species into the Program

The decision for species to be included in CC is guided by both scientific and societal goals and frameworks. Criteria for listing a species in CC include its level of endangerment, the need to collect scientific data, the possible existence of a scientifically managed and sustainable reserve population in captivity, the value for environmental education and public outreach, and strategic aspects such as reducing wildlife imports or smuggling.

Decisions are made based on widely accepted sources of information and evaluation (for example the IUCN Red List and the Regional Collection Plans of EAZA).

B2.2 Classification of Species in CC

Generally, CC species are classified into three categories:

Category I: Species for which marketing of surplus animals is excluded. They remain in CC or may be transferred to other scientifically managed breeding programs (e.g. EEP).

Category II: Species maintained only by advanced participants; marketing of surplus animals is possible in principle, but may be subject to species-specific conditions.

Category III: Species that can also be maintained by knowledgeable beginners in animal husbandry; marketing of surplus animals is always possible.

B2.3 Definition of Propagation Goals and Management Requirements

CC, according to common practice in population management of wild animals in human care, defines how large the population of a species in CC should be and how many holdings are targeted (depending on external factors such as the number of available founder animals, the existence of complementary breeding programs, etc.). This is accompanied by the definition of specific requirements for the studbook and the management of the species (e.g. choice of the analysis tool to be used), including the decision whether the species in question should be included in the international animal database ZIMS.

B2.4 Genetic Screening

CC will arrange for the genetic screening of specimens entering the program by a qualified laboratory if recommended by the advisory board. This is meant to ensure that they are a good genetic fit for the CC breeding program for their species.

B2.5 Animal Welfare

It is an explicit goal of CC to reduce the spread of diseases in the managed populations as much as possible, both within CC and outside. To this end, the quarantine measures listed in the relevant annexes must be observed for the respective animal group and any necessary veterinary examinations must be carried out.

The costs for these examinations are borne by CC.

B2.6 Coordination

Recommendations for breeding are always made for Category I and II species, for Category III species they are usually made in accordance with current practice in zoo animal population management (see also B2.3). On this basis, CC decides which animals are kept and set for breeding by which CC participants. This is to ensure the preservation of the genetic diversity of the founder animals.

B2.7 Administration of Participants

CC evaluates the expertise and the husbandry installations of the participants according to their specifications, concludes the hiring contracts and monitors their compliance, if necessary also by on-site inspections, which can optionally also be carried out by authorized experts.

CC obtains stock development information and other husbandry information from participants and manages stud books.

CC is available to the participants for questions regarding the content and accompanies them in questions of official reporting requirements/keeping permits. In an annex to the hiring contract, participants confirm by signature that they report their animals to the authorities in accordance with the legal situation.

B2.8 Marketing

species can be marketed (e.g., by giving them to licensed dealers) by CC. Marketing may also be an explicit breeding objective, e.g., to alleviate smuggling pressure on species or to reduce wild-caught imports. If marketing does not seem promising because sufficient demand for the animals in question is not expected, CC can also impose a breeding ban on individual participants or the entire species within CC.

Profits arising from such marketing initiatives are channelled back into the CC project.

Appendix Animal Health

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The following information and recommendations on animal health in the various animal groups have been compiled to the best of our ability and reflect the current state of research and practice.

1) Prophylaxis and quarantine measures as well as veterinary examinations for amphibians

Before each change of owner, skin swab samples from the animals are sent to an appropriate testing laboratory (in agreement with CC) for testing.

The samples are always examined for the chytrid fungus Bd (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*). In addition, an examination for Bsal (*Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*) is carried out for all caudates and for frogs determined by CC. If there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, CC may additionally arrange for testing for ranavirus.

If possible, fecal samples should also be sent in beforehand for examination for parasites whenever the animals are moved to a new location.

If required, participants receive a test kit from CC (dry swab and fecal tubes, packaging, examination form) as well as information on the proper collection of samples.

Participants will collect samples according to the instructions and send them to an appropriate testing laboratory.

The animals may only be passed on after the test results are available and corresponding release by negative findings or after consultation with CC.

The costs for these examinations are covered by CC.

Additional procedures specific to individual species may be listed in the respective breeding guidelines or may be determined by CC.

2) Prophylaxis and quarantine measures as well as veterinary medical examinations for fish

The animals are to be kept in quarantine for four weeks after acceptance and observed for clinical abnormalities.

It is recommended that clinically abnormal individuals be isolated from other animals for the benefit of the entire population.

If clinical abnormalities occur, targeted sampling must also be carried out. For example, moribund or deceased fish are to be sent to an examination laboratory for sampling and diagnostics, where a dissection including parasitological and bacterial examinations is carried out.

Participants will receive an information sheet from CC about the proper storage of deceased animals and their packaging and shipping to a testing laboratory named by CC.

The costs for these examinations are covered by CC.

Additional procedures specific to individual species may be listed in the respective housing recommendations.