

AAP ANIMAL ADVOCACY AND PROTECTION

INTRODUCTION AND FACT SHEET

AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection is a European animal welfare organisation dedicated to the welfare of exotic animals such as primates, lions and tigers. Millions of them are kept in poor conditions as pets, are illegally traded or are brutally exploited in circuses and other forms of entertainment. This causes unimaginable suffering. We rescue animals in need so they can recover both mentally and physically.

Once they are rehabilitated and ready, we outplace them to carefully selected zoos and sanctuaries –creating space to help new animals in need.

Simultaneously, we advocate for better laws and regulations across Europe to tackle private ownership of exotic animals, illegal wildlife trade and wildlife entertainment. We believe that only sustainable EU-wide solutions can effectively prevent the suffering of exotic animals in the future.

AAP currently operates two leading rescue centres:

- AAP Almere (simultaneously main office) in Almere, The Netherlands
- AAP Spain, locally known as Primadomus, near Villena, Spain.
- AAP is also active in Germany and Morocco. Our work focuses on the entire EU

AAP is a member of Eurogroup for Animals, Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR), Animal Coalition (NL), Species Survival Network (SSN), European Alliance of Rescue Centres and Sanctuaries (EARS) and The Dutch Association of Charities. AAP is a CBF Approved Charity with ANBI-status, recognizing AAP as a Public Benefit Organisation in the Netherlands.

BRIEF HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AAP was founded on the 14th of April 1972 in the Netherlands. Among the successes in which the organisation participated are:

- 1978 | General ban on private keeping of primates in The Netherlands
- 1995 | General ban on keeping and/or performing with wild animals in circuses in The Netherlands
- 2017 | Launch of a large-scale project to protect Morocco's wild Barbary macaque population from extinction (*the 'Born to be Wild'-project, in collaboration with IFAW*)
- 2024 | Introduction of the Pet- and Hobby animal list (Positive List) in The Netherlands
- 2026 | Provisional Agreement on- and Royal Decree for the introduction of a Positive List in Spain



STRATEGIC AMBITIONS

Over 50 years of experience have taught us that we cannot rescue all animals in need and stop every kind of animal abuse all at once. We have therefore set ambitions with clear deadlines:

- 2030: Ending illegal trade of Barbary macaques to- and within the EU
- 2036: Ending the use of wild mammals in entertainment (circuses) in the EU
- 2045: Ending private ownership of unsuitable exotic mammals in the EU



A group of Baboons at the AAP rescue centre in Almere, The Netherlands

RESCUES AND REHABILITATION

AAP's work starts with rescuing and taking in exotic animals in need. The animals are taken to our rescue centres in The Netherlands and Spain. In our Spanish rescue centre, we not only house primates, but big cats like lions and tigers as well. Upon arrival, animals first go into quarantine, where they receive a medical check. We also review their mental health by observing their behaviour.

Our team of wildlife veterinarians, behavioural experts and experienced animal caretakers dedicate themselves every day to helping the animals recover both physically and mentally (rehabilitation).



OUTPLACEMENT

When the animals are rehabilitated, they are ready for outplacement. We are in contact with a large and carefully selected network of zoos and sanctuaries in- and outside of Europe to provide the animals with a place where they can stay for the rest of their lives. At the same time, this creates space in our rescue centres for other animals in need.

ANIMALS IN NEED

Every year, we receive a large number of alerts and rescue requests for animals in need. These alerts and reports come from the public, local, regional, and national authorities, other animal welfare organisations and rescue centres. We assess every request, but if we don't have the capacity to take in the animal ourselves, we consult with partners to find the best solution for each individual animal.

The mammal species that AAP is able to take in range from primates such as chimpanzees and Barbary macaques to big cats, including lions and tigers, and smaller exotic cats like servals and caracals. We also rehabilitate other exotic mammals, e.g. raccoons, suricates, squirrels and degus.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

AAP works with 130 paid staffers in The Netherlands, Spain, Brussels, Germany and Morocco. Furthermore, roughly 228 volunteers contribute to AAP's work in every layer of the organisation. All costs for the operation of the organisation and the two rescue centres are covered by donors.

CONTACT

Peter de Haan

Press Officer NL/EU

+ 31 (0) 6 1775 2325

Peter.de.haan@aap.nl

