“Import & keeping of exotic animals in Europe”
Follow-up from the FVE Conference

Wild Animals in Captivity
Animal Welfare, Law and Enforcement

Brussels, 19 June 2013

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Contents

- Focus on Import and keeping of exotic animals as pets
- General information on the event
- Identified concerns
- Proposed solutions
- FVE follow-up
Import & keeping of exotic animals in Europe

Existing concerns and risks – Current challenges to meet

Brussels, 4-5 October 2012
Participants from:

- Animal Welfare NGOs
- Pet trader associations
- Pet owners associations
- CITES
- EU Ministries
- EU Institutions
Topics

- Animal health risks
- Animal welfare risks
- Public health risks
- EU, National and International legislation
Identified Concerns

- Lack of awareness/ knowledge
  - What an exotic species is?
  - What are the reasons for taking it out of its native place of residence?
  - What are their specific needs?
Identified Concerns

- Animal health and welfare risks
  - Capture methods
  - Transport methods
  - Pet-shops/Internet sales
  - Captivity/life with humans
  - Irresponsible ownership
  - Import of new pathogens for indigenous species
Identified Concerns

- Public health risks
  - Zoonotic diseases
  - Aggressive behavior
  - Accidents
Identified Concerns

- Environmental concerns
  - Unwanted pets
  - Escapes

- Disruption of local ecosystem
- Invasive species
Identified Concerns

- EU, National and International legislation
  - Lack of appropriate and harmonized legislation
  - Gaps in legislation leave space for movements of such species without appropriate control
Conclusions/Proposals

- Define what exotic species means
- Raise awareness on responsible ownership
- Need for more education and training
- Develop rules of ownership
- Develop harmonized legislation to cover also commercial use of these species
- Work on fighting illegal trafficking
FVE follow-up
CALLISTO Project

**Companion Animals multisectorial interprofessional Interdisciplinary Strategic Think tank On zoonoses**

January 2012 – December 2014

- Provide an overview of zoonosis coming from pets
- Identify knowledge and technology
- Propose targeted actions
- Disseminate the results

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Unprecedented increase in the keeping of wild animals

- Primates is one of the highest risk groups
  Rabies, Herpes B virus, Monkeypox, Tuberculosis, Enteric bacteria, Pasteurellosis, Parasites, etc

- Rodents are the most widespread wild pet in Europe
  Skin infections, Enteric bacteria, Plague

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- Less common are skunks, raccoons, fennec foxes
  Rabies, Coronavirus
- Sugar glider, Brushtail possum
  Tuberculosis,
- Bats
  Rabies and other viruses
- Reptiles
  Salmonellosis, Tuberculosis, Parasites
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First conclusions

✓ Zoonosis can be transmitted to other animals

✓ Zoonosis via an exotic animal might be a severe risk for public health
FVE follow-up
FVE-BFF Survey

- Following FVE Conference on exotics
- Addressed to veterinary practitioners
- Objective: Identify exposure of veterinarians in their daily work
FVE follow-up
FVE-BFF Survey

- Launched officially during the FVE GA on 8th June
- Available in five languages
  EN, FR, DE IT, ES
- Deadline: 9th August 2013
Thank you for your attention!