



**WHY
ZAA?**



MISSION STATEMENT

The Zoological Association of America (ZAA) is a non-profit membership-based accrediting organization dedicated to responsible wildlife management, conservation, and education. The ZAA upholds the highest level of professional standards in animal welfare, safety, and ethics.

The Zoological Association of America (ZAA) is one of the largest non-profit zoological organizations in the country. ZAA is made up of exotic wildlife facilities ranging in size from 2 to 1,800 acres, each with 10 to 8,000 animals in their care. ZAA is truly a unique membership organization, comprised of public and private facilities of wildlife educators, rescue facilities, wildlife preserves, small community zoos, large zoological facilities, aquariums, and conservation organizations.

ADVOCATE

ZAA advocates for its members, their animals, and for the zoo & aquarium profession. Advocacy takes many forms from meetings with government agencies and legislators, to presenting at professional and partner organizations' conferences to ensure a proper understanding of the zoological profession and its best practices.

EDUCATE

ZAA supports its members' educational programs directed at visitors and guests on the important work our members conduct. ZAA also provides professional development for members and the zoological community at large to continuously improve their knowledge and understanding of best practices.

CONSERVE

ZAA conserves by contributing directly to in-situ conservation through grants and donations, as well as providing a platform for ex-situ conservation via its Animal Management Programs (AMPs).

BENEFITS OF BELONGING

- Welcoming and collaborative membership organization
- Accreditation program
- Professional development
- Participation in Animal Management Programs (AMP)
- Legislative and regulatory updates and assistance
- Conservation initiatives and small grants program
- Annual conferences and workshops
- Marketing and public relations assistance
- Crisis management programming
- Networking with colleagues
- Animal Exchange

ACCREDITATION

As part of its core mission, ZAA accredits professional zoological facilities. Through this accreditation process, ZAA's objective is to continually uphold best practices with respect to professional standards and management. Areas that are evaluated during the accreditation process include animal care, welfare, and husbandry, veterinary care, nutrition, enrichment, security and safety, facility aesthetics and maintenance, record keeping, and a thorough review of policies, procedures, and protocols. ZAA accredited facilities are among the finest in the United States. ZAA's accredited facilities have a remarkable safety record. Some state and local governments have adopted or incorporated ZAA standards into their wildlife requirements.

ZAA-accredited facilities contribute

\$4 MILLION

annually to support conservation programs globally.

900+
Members

60+
Accredited member facilities

8+
MILLION
students reached each year through educational programs nationwide

15+
MILLION
individuals reached through accredited facilities and member organizations.

