

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT

2023



AAP



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WHO ARE WE, AND WHAT DO WE DO?

AAP (Animal Advocacy and Protection) is a European animal welfare organisation dedicated to the welfare of exotic mammals such as primates, lions and tigers. Millions of them are kept in poor conditions as pets, are illegally traded or brutally exploited in circuses and other forms of entertainment. This causes unimaginable suffering. To end this, AAP rescues animals in need and advocates for better laws and regulations across Europe. Because only by tackling the causes we can really put an end to animal suffering.

AAP operates two rescue and rehabilitation centres; one in the Netherlands and one in Spain. In these facilities, rescued animals can recover from their often cruel past. Once the animals have recovered, AAP finds them a suitable permanent home.

In this summary, we share the main parts of our 2023 annual report.*

TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN THE RESCUE CENTRES

As of 31 December 2023, there were 424 animals in our rescue centres, including common marmoset Ari. He was just a few weeks old when he was found together with conspecifics in a cage in a car during a police check in Italy. At AAP, we paired him to foster parents, and he was able to grow up safely.



TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN THE RESCUE CENTRES		
Chimpanzees	:	45
Other primates	:	186
Big cats	:	26
Other mammals	:	167
Total	:	424
In Almere	:	330
In Spain	:	94



NUMBER OF RESCUED ANIMALS

In 2023 AAP was able to take in 68 animals. One of these animals is leopard Brave, who was rescued from the war in Ukraine. At our rescue centre in Spain, he enjoys a nice outdoor enclosure and gets a little braver every day.

ANIMALS RESCUED IN 2023		
Big cats	:	3
Primates	:	28
Other mammals	:	37
Total	:	68

NUMBER OF OUTPLACED ANIMALS

In 2023, a total of 108 animals were outplaced, including tigers Sanson and Merida. As of 31 December 2023, a total of 639 AAP animals had found a new home with 120 different outplacement partners.







SUCCESSSES IN LEGISLATION

AAP made some encouraging progress in 2023. Spain's parliament approved its first national animal welfare law, partly thanks to AAP's many years of campaigning! The new legislation includes a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses, as well as a positive list for mammals and other animals. Also, the European Commission took the first concrete step towards legislation for a European positive list. And AAP made the headlines in Germany with a campaign stunt to create public awareness about the need for a German positive list.

On page 6 you can read more about our successful Public Policy campaigning on private ownership of exotic pets, illegal trade and exploiting wild animals for entertainment.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

AAP cooperates with and is part of many organisations, both nationally and internationally. For example; the Species Survival Network, Positive List Coalition (Spain), Eurogroup for Animals (Brussels) and the European Alliance for Rescue centres and Sanctuaries (EARS).

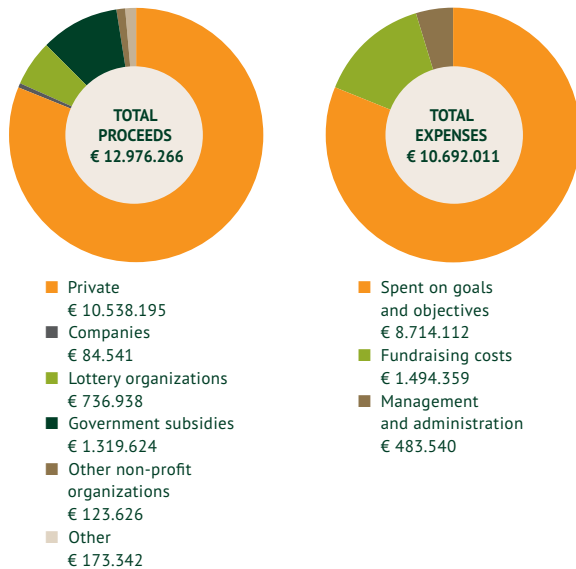
STAFF

Number of staff and volunteers:

Salaried staff: 119,6. Volunteers: 223.

TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENSES

In 2023, we could count on the support of 66,727 donors. We are thankful that so many people support the mission of AAP.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THE PIE CHARTS

Private contributions

Inheritances and legacies are an important source of income for AAP. In 2023 we received € 5,391,186 in inheritances and legacies.

Lottery contributions

The Dutch National Postcode Lottery (Nationale Postcode Loterij) supports many charities, including AAP. In 2022 we received an annual contribution of € 500,000.-. We are delighted with the support from the Dutch National Postcode Lottery!

Subsidies

AAP receives government funding for a specific group of animals. Namely, the chimpanzees that came from a Dutch laboratory. These animals will stay at AAP permanently because they are infected with HIV and Hepatitis C. The animals came to AAP in 2006 after the Government funded research centre had to stop testing on great apes, which has been prohibited by law in the Netherlands since 2003. AAP receives a subsidy from the government for the shelter, daily care and medical care of these animals and this will continue until 2036.

Furthermore, AAP receives a European grant for the European Solidarity Corps, a program in which you can work as a volunteer throughout Europe.

EXPENDITURE PER EURO RECEIVED

81.4 cents of every euro we receive is spent directly on the primary objective of AAP: the sustainable improvement of the welfare of exotic animals. Besides housing and care costs for all animals, we also spend part of these contributions on our prevention work. We spend the remaining 18.6 cents on organisational running costs. For example, expenses for fundraising, office facilities, financial administration, personnel administration and IT facilities. These expenses are necessary to make our work for exotic animals possible and to operate professionally.



RESULTS LEGISLATION AND POLICY

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS FROM 2023

- It looks very much like the positive list for mammals in the Netherlands will come into effect on 1 July 2024 – and implementation can begin.
- The Spanish parliament approved an animal welfare law, which includes a ban on wild animals in circuses as well as a positive list for mammals and other animals.
- In September 2023, AAP launched a big campaign in Germany to create public awareness about the need for a German positive list.
- By putting out a tender for a feasibility study of an EU-wide positive list, the European Commission took the first concrete step towards using this tool to reduce the risks involved in keeping exotic animals as pets.
- As part of our wildlife trafficking programme, an evaluation of the Born to be Wild project was conducted in 2023.

In 2023, our Public Policy campaigning continued to focus on three programmes.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF EXOTIC PETS - POSITIVE LIST

The most significant results from 2023:

- In 2022, we started laying the foundations for intensive campaigning for a positive list in Germany. This was followed in 2023 by a successful public awareness campaign in Berlin. Here, what was publicised as the opening of a new online shop for exotic pets – WYLD – was actually an AAP stunt. This campaign increased awareness in Germany of the risks involved in keeping exotic animals. Its objective was to accelerate development of a positive list for pets, and it did kick-start a policy process, working towards a national ban on the use of wild animals in circuses and a positive list for mammals. Legislation is still being drafted, so a law has yet to come into effect.
- We have also intensified our lobbying for an EU-wide positive list. Working in partnership with Eurogroup for Animals (EfA), we have put pressure on European agencies to support a European positive list for mammals that are allowed to be kept as pets.
- The news on a positive list for the Netherlands is that the Minister responsible has provided the European Commissioner with notification of a feasibility study among enforcement authorities. This is a formal step towards the Dutch positive list coming

into effect as planned on 1 July 2024. The Minister has also announced an exemption for red and fallow deer (species that are not on the positive list), with the aim of broadening public support.

- In 2023, AAP saw its efforts in Spain rewarded with a successful result. After years of tireless campaigning at local, regional and national levels – all aimed at ending the use of wild animals in circuses and the adoption of a positive list – the first national animal welfare law was approved in the Spanish parliament in March. The law includes two sections that are important to AAP: a ban on keeping wild animals in circuses, plus a legislative basis for developing a positive list to regulate exotic pet ownership.
- AAP has also made a contribution to the creation of positive lists in other EU member states.

STRUCTURED ASSESSMENT FOR POSITIVE LISTS

Further progress was made in 2023 with the development of a model that can be used by policymakers throughout Europe as the basis for creating a positive list. The definite model should be ready by the beginning of 2025. This project was made possible by an earmarked donation from the National Postcode Lottery in 2022.



WILD ANIMALS IN ENTERTAINMENT - CIRCUS BAN

- With the adoption of the new animal welfare law in Spain, which puts an end to the use of wild animals in circuses, the InfoCircos alliance could also come to an end. InfoCircos was set up in 2015 as a coalition between AAP and three other Spanish animal welfare organisations, with the aim of preventing further use of wild animals in circuses in Spain. We marked the end of InfoCircos after eight years with a small heart-warming gathering at AAP Spain, in the company of the Spanish director-general of animal rights and members of the coalition. InfoCircos had been successful in bringing about changes to regional laws in 12 of the 17 Spanish regions, and with the introduction of 500 local bans across the country. It had also successfully lobbied for stopping Ministry of Culture grants to circuses with wild animals. All this led to a rapid decline in the number of Spanish circuses still working with wild animals – a negligible number in 2023, when the national law with a definite ban was approved.
- By 2023, 23 of the 27 EU member states had regulated the use of animals in circuses in one way or another. Because this is done in different ways, and the type of regulation is so diverse (from complete bans on using animals to bans on a small number of wild animals), AAP has been lobbying for an EU-wide ban on the use of all wild animals in circuses.

- In 2023, the Public Policy team looked into possible new issues for AAP to explore within its 'Animals in entertainment' programme. The decision-making process will take place in 2024.
- *The Darkness behind the Spotlights* was a 2023 publication. Findings from our own analysis showed that 65 of the 73 circus animals rescued by AAP in the period 2015-2021 had severe veterinary or behavioural problems on arrival. As many as 58 of these animals had even sustained multiple traumatic injuries during their time at a circus. *The Darkness behind the Spotlights* report gives yet more proof of the damage inflicted on the health and well-being of wild animals in circus environments.

ILLEGAL TRADE

- In 2023, the Public Policy team looked into possible new issues for AAP to explore within the 'Wildlife trafficking' programme. The decision-making process will take place in 2024.
- Up until 2016, AAP had campaigned for increasing the protection status of Barbary macaques. This was successful, resulting in the protection level being raised from CITES appendix 2 to CITES appendix 1. In 2023, we commissioned an external study into the impact of this so-called uplisting of the species. The final report is expected at the beginning of 2024.
- Read more about Barbary macaques and our Born to be Wild project on page 16 of the annual report.



*This summary is not the official annual report of AAP and contains only excerpts of the AAP official annual report 2023. The AAP official annual report has been prepared according to Dutch reporting guidelines and audited by an external auditor. It is only available in Dutch and can be found via the AAP website www.aap.nl/jaarverslagen.