

# Sample positive list vetting checklist for exotic (wild) animals



All following criteria should be met before an animal species qualifies for inclusion on a Positive List.

1. **Jurisdictional capacity:** Local, regional and provincial/territorial authorities and/or other officials have a duty of care to citizens, animals and environments. The people charged with the development and review of Positive Lists therefore must possess the expert knowledge and skills and/or have unlimited access to regular impartial skilled experts and/or rely on properly vetted species information from other jurisdictions to comprehensively assess all relevant issues pertaining to the keeping of an animal as a pet by the general public. Prior to an animal species being added to a Positive List, they must also determine that their jurisdiction has the capacity to provide relevant oversight and enforcement.
2. **Disposition of animals:** Local shelters, rescues and other relevant official agencies and bodies must have the capacity to receive, house, manage and rehome animals included on a Positive List.
3. **Animal health and care:** Qualified veterinary medical knowledge and advice and, when required, independent, expert biological advice, must be available and locally accessible regarding each animal species' health and welfare needs.
4. **Human health and safety:** The animal species must not pose a relevant threat to human health and safety resulting from zoonoses, poisoning, envenomation or physical injury. Qualified medical knowledge and advice must be easily available on all aspects of the animal's potential threat to public health and safety. An animal species cannot look like or possess identical features and markings that make them difficult to tell apart from animal species that pose a threat to human health and safety.
5. **Environmental safety:** The animal species must not pose a threat to the environment or to native wildlife populations by becoming an invasive species if released or escaped or through introducing novel diseases into the environment in case of release, escape or disposal of contaminated materials, such as waste, water or used substrates, from the animal's captive environment.
6. **Conservation status:** The animal species must not be classified in relevant legislation at the local, regional, provincial, national or international level as endangered, threatened, of special concern, of special interest or otherwise recognized as being threatened in the wild in home-range countries. Nor can an animal species look like or possess identical features and markings that make them difficult to tell apart from related endangered or threatened species.
7. **Animal welfare:** The welfare of an animal must not be compromised due to being kept in domestic home environments. The animal must have space and conditions that allow for a full, normal range of species-typical movements, including but not limited to running, swimming and flying at speed and expression of a full range of the species' natural behaviours.

**Additionally, the following welfare criteria must be satisfied:**

- The natural biological, behavioural and lifestyle of the animal species must be understood and comprehensively studied in the wild and independent, peer-reviewed scientific information about the species must be readily available.
- The animal species' nutritional, thermal, humidity, lighting, landscape and furnishing requirements must be known and can be comprehensively and easily met in a captive environment.
- The lifespan of the exotic animal species must not normally exceed 15 years.
- The total body size (length from tip of snout to end of tail) of the adult animal of a particular (sub)species must not exceed 1 meter.
- The animal species is not naturally wide-ranging or migratory.
- The animal is not a nocturnal species.
- The animal has received a score in one or more recognized animal welfare assessment/pet suitability frameworks or tools, such as EMODE, reflecting the ease of keeping of such animal.