



## Justification for Exception to Policies

1.) **Exception to the no breeding clause:** Occasionally a sanctuary may be involved in an approved USDI endangered species survival program. A case by case evaluation will enable ASA to accept those that are breeding for the right reasons and eliminate those that are concealing their commercial purpose. In most cases a viable plan for wild release will be required for ASA approval of the breeding exception.

2.) **Exception to no commercial activity, allowing free roaming public access to resident animals:** Some zoological facilities assist in the rescue and placement of unwanted animals. A case by case evaluation will allow ASA to accept those that can be a valuable asset and eliminate those that are involved in the surplus breeding and trade in animals. This exception shall not be construed to apply to facilities commonly referred to as "roadside zoos," or "roadside attractions." These facilities generally breed, sell or trade animals, or use them commercially, and their facilities are usually substandard.

3.) **Exception to utilizing sanctuary animals for exhibition clause:** There are many sanctuaries that are licensed by the USDA that give excellent guided educational presentations to schools and the general public, emphasizing the injustices of keeping wild and exotic animals as "pets." A case by case evaluation will allow the ASA to accept these worthwhile organizations and eliminate those that use animals for commercial purposes. Additional housing requirements may be required that includes enclosure design that allows animals to go "off exhibit" by providing unimpeded access to a privacy area.

ASA is striving to form an alliance of all organizations that can contribute a vital service to thousands of homeless animals, many of whom are killed unnecessarily. We believe that more animals can be saved by improving communication and cooperation among rescue groups and sanctuaries. ASA realizes that there are dozens of acceptable ways to provide high quality housing and care for animals. ASA therefore pledges to make a considerable effort to impartially evaluate individual cases to avoid unfairly denying membership to any organization.