

# At a Glance



## > CAZA and Accreditation

The driving force behind Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) is a commitment to the welfare and conservation of wildlife—both in and out of its natural habitat. CAZA was established to provide a forum for the advancement of zoological parks and aquariums dedicated to conservation, science, education, and to providing a humane environment for the animals in their care.

In recent decades we have learned a great deal about the relationship between humans and the natural world, and the crucial role that biodiversity plays in the health of the planet and our collective future. CAZA believes that zoos and aquariums have a fundamental responsibility to move beyond their traditional role as exhibitors of animals to take up the mantle of stewards of biodiversity and agents of sustainable change. CAZA's mission is to help the Canadian zoo and aquarium community connect people to nature in a manner that enhances visitors' own sense of responsibility toward the natural world. Collectively, CAZA-accredited institutions reach over 12 million visitors each year, helping them engage with the more than 100,000 animals representing over 2,000 species that are in their care.

### Accreditation

Since its inception in 1975, CAZA has worked to develop accreditation standards that have become recognized as among the best in the world. Here at home, they serve increasingly as a benchmark for quality animal care and welfare; in fact, governments at all levels have been incorporating these standards into their regulatory frameworks either directly, by making CAZA accreditation a requirement for licencing, or by reference. By holding CAZA accreditation, a zoo or aquarium is announcing to the visiting public a commitment to the professional management of their animal collection, a high standard of veterinary care, professional ethics, appropriate physical facilities, adequate and professional staffing, conservation, education, safety and security, along with community engagement.

To ensure that accredited institutions maintain their commitment to CAZA's high standards, every five years, inspection teams, that include at least one veterinarian and a zoological professional, audit all aspects of a facility's operation (including animal care, enrichment, nutrition, conservation, research, education, security, public safety, financial stability and administration). If necessary, a special inspection may be conducted to review issues that may have been brought to CAZA's attention by visitors, animal welfare agencies, media, or any other concerned individual or organization.

### Partnerships

CAZA is proud to be a trusted partner of provincial and municipal governments and animal welfare organizations like local Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on a range of issues, including providing specialized assistance in enforcement actions and animal rescue and rehoming operations. While CAZA is pleased that a number of municipal and provincial governments have adopted the association's standards as a requirement of licencing of zoos and aquariums, a number of jurisdictions continue to operate with weak or in-existent standards for the keeping and exhibition of wild animals. CAZA continues to lobby for a consistent and credible set of rules and regulations from coast to coast to coast.

### What is CAZA

Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) is a private not-for profit organization founded in 1975 representing the leading zoological parks and aquariums in Canada.

CAZA does not grant or rescind operating licences or license the keeping of animals by zoological institutions. In Canada, the granting of licences is the purview of provincial and/or municipal governments.

CAZA's mission is to promote the continuing evolution of Canadian zoos and aquariums as ethical agencies of recreation, education, conservation, and science. It does this through a comprehensive and evolving framework of standards and policies based on global best practices as well as a code of professional ethics grounded in community values.

CAZA often partners with governments and animal welfare agencies such as the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) by providing training for inspectors as well as expert assistance in investigations and in the rehoming of exotic animals.

Over 12 million people visit our accredited member institutions each year. For more information visit: [www.caza.ca](http://www.caza.ca)

