EAZA

Screening Team Questionnaire

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria

Updated to Reflect New Standards August 2017

This is an official document of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria and becomes an intrinsic part of the accreditation procedure of the institution. The accreditation procedure is conducted in confidence; only the Screening team, EAZA Membership & Ethics Committee, EAZA Executive Office, chief executive officer of the applicant institution, and chairman of the institution's governing authority shall be provided copies by EAZA.

Dates of Screening: 13-14 June 2022

Name of Facility	**Zoopark Chomutov**
Country	**Czechia**
Short Name	**CHOMUTOV**
Member Number	**0136**
Membership Status	**Full Member**

Date of Opening	**1975**
Physical Size	**112 ha**
Ownership Type	**Municipal government**
Annual Visitation	**220,000**
Annual Budget	**€ 3.36 mln**
Number of Staff	**80 employees**
Number of Species	**155**

History of Institution:

Zoopark Chomutov was founded in 1975 as an open-air museum and nature park, under the name Lesopark. The park joined UCSZOO in 1992, EAZA in 1993 (first as a Temporary Member and in 1996 as a Full Member) and WAZA in 1997.

The zoo is located in the city of Chomutov, which has about 46,000 inhabitants (80,000 in the wider metropolitan area). The zoo is the region's main attraction.

The park focuses on Palearctic species, mainly mammals, birds and some reptiles. One of its main attractions is a 'Eurosafari' which can be experienced by zoo train.
Located on the zoo grounds is also an open air museum, and the zoo also manages a rescue centre for injured wildlife, a horse-riding school and a dog shelter.

In 2018 the park underwent a name change and complete rebranding.

Recent developments:
2019 – New enclosure for yellow-throated chars
2020 – New enclosure for cranes; new playgrounds for kids
2021 – Reconstruction/revitalisation of the farm area with domestic animals
2022 – Roads and paths reconstructed

A detailed master plan has been prepared to guide the zoo's development during the coming 10 years.



Please answer each question with **yes** or **no** and with either **A**, **U**, or **Q**.

If the question is not applicable, mark it **N/A**.

A : Acceptable (requires no immediate action: normal within the profession)

Q : Questionable (should be improved or changed as soon as possible, but is not a critical matter)

U : Unacceptable (must be corrected without delay; does not meet professional standards, may be unsafe or detrimental to the institution, its staff, its animal and plant collection, or its visitors)

1.	**DETAILS ON THE INSTITUTION**				
	- Stated Purposes -	**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
1	**Does the facility have a master plan?**	☒	☐	_	☐
2	**Is this master plan realistic and obtainable for the institution's current financial and knowledge capabilities?**	☒	☐	**Q**	☐

Comments:

The master plan for the zoo was presented to the screening team during the screening. The plan is approved by the city of Chomutov, which is the governing authority for the zoo, but the budget is still under discussion.

The master plan has a timeframe of 10 years and seems to be well conceived. It was prepared by an experienced company that also prepared master plans for other zoos in Czechia (Prague Zoo, Brno Zoo). It is based on a SWOT analysis of the zoo, and has long-term sustainability as one of its key drivers – not a luxury for a municipal zoo, where local elections can have a big impact. The master plan aims to maintain the zoo's focus on Palearctic species, and envisions the division of the zoo in five different ecosystem zones: water, savanna, mountains, forest, and the Arctic.

Q2: Although the screening team was positively impressed by the professional master plan, some parts of the plan seemed very ambitious. The team warned that the plans for a polar bear exhibit, for example, although fitting very nicely within the overall theme and envisioned zoning of the zoo, would require a large financial investment and involve high maintenance costs.

	- Governing Authority -	**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
3	**Do the director and governing authority (municipality, board, parent company) have a good working relationship and is the structure clearly defined?**	☒	☐	_	☐
4	**Do the governing authorities (city, board, etc.) recognise the director as the sole official liaison between itself and the staff?**	☒	☐	_	☐

	Are day to day operation decisions made by the director?	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

Before Věra Fryčová was appointed as the Director of Zoopark Chomutov in 2017, she was responsible for the city's sport and culture complex. In that capacity, she was already working closely together with the city council, and as far as the screening team could establish, the working relationship with the municipal government is good.

	- Staff -	**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
5	**Are there clear job descriptions for all levels of staff?**	☒	☐	_	☐
6	**Do staff members have a clear understanding of their jobs?**	☒	☐	_	☐
7	**Do all levels of staff have regular meetings?**	☒	☐	_	☐
8	**Are staff members provided an opportunity and encouraged to seek continuing education and/or training specific to their current or future position (e.g. personal development programme)?**	☒	☐	**Q**	☐
9	**Are staff members on all levels experienced and knowledgeable for their position?**	☒	☐	_	☐
10	**Is there sufficient staff to properly care for the collection and to conduct the institution's programmes?**	☒	☐	**Q**	☐
11	**Is staff at the facility participating actively in EAZA in the form of committees, hosting of breeding programme management, TAG or working group positions (chairs, vice-chairs, advisors)? (EAP)**	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

Q8-10: In principle, there is sufficient staff to care for the collection. But if the zoo wants to keep up with the times, increase (and benefit from) its international cooperation and generally stay a progressive zoo, the staff will likely need to be brought to a higher level. Having more well-trained staff will benefit the zoo in many ways (e.g. better cooperation with other progressive zoos and experts, more influence on the future development of EAZA) and also improve husbandry and animal welfare (e.g. via an animal training programme, improved record keeping to monitor trends, a programme for animal welfare assessments, etc.).

Q11: Via Coordinator Aneta Konvalinková, Zoopark Chomutov manages the Bactrian wapiti EEP.
But there is definitely room for a more active participation within EAZA. Vacant positions are regularly shared via eNews and on the EAZA Member Area, and it would be great if the zoo's staff would be able share their expertise more actively with the rest of the EAZA community. Currently this is seriously hindered by the limited English skills of most staff members, however. A solution could be to offer a programme of English lessons to staff who are willing to learn.

	- **Support Organisation** - *(only when applicable)*	**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**

12	**Is there a good working relationship between the support organisation and the institution?**	☐	☐	_	☒
13	**Does the support organisation raise funds for the institution?**	☐	☐	_	☒
14	**Are activities sponsored by the support organisation appropriate and meeting the goals of both it and the institution?**	☐	☐	_	☒

Comments: Zoopark Chomutov does not have a support organisation.

- Physical Facilities -		**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
15	**Does the institution have amusement rides/playground areas near or on the institution grounds?**	☒	☐	_	☐
16	**Is the institution easy to reach by car and/or public transport?**	☒	☐	_	☐
17	**Is there adequate provision for disabled visitors?**	☒	☐	_	☐
18	**Does the facility appropriately manage its sewage, toxic materials and waste?**	☒	☐	_	☐
19	**Is the facility recycling when appropriate?**	☒	☐	_	☐
20	**Are public food service facilities clean and providing a nice guest experience?**	☒	☐	_	☐
21	**Are the grounds clean and neat?**	☒	☐	_	☐
22	**Are paths and roads in good repair?**	☒	☐	_	☐
23	**Are the buildings in good repair?**	☒	☐	_	☐
24	**Are plants and trees well-maintained throughout the institution?**	☒	☐	_	☐
25	**If off-premises facilities are operated, did the team visit the site?**	☒	☐	_	☐
26	**Are the conditions at the off-premises facility acceptable?**	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

Q25-26: Zoopark Chomutov also operates an open air museum, a horse-riding school, a rescue centre for handicapped animals and a dog shelter. The first three facilities are on or adjacent to the zoo grounds; the dog shelter is located a bit further away but still in Chomutov. The screening team visited all facilities and although it was felt that the combination of a zoo and a horse-riding facility is a rather strange one and not necessarily supporting the conservation message of the zoo, according to the zoo, it helps them connect with the local animal-loving community. The team did not find any welfare or other issues at any of the facilities.

2.	FINANCIAL MATTERS	Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
27	**Does the institution appear to be financially stable?**	☒	☐	_	☐
28	**Is there a separate budget available for capital improvements and are adequate funds available?**	☒	☐	Q	☐
29	**Is the facility able to reinvest into new exhibits, infrastructure and repair on a regular basis?**	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

Because Zoopark Chomutov is a municipal zoo, its financial situation is highly dependent on the political situation in Chomutov, and can change every time there are municipal council elections. To counteract this insecurity and to create a bit more financial stability, the zoo has developed a well-grounded master plan for the coming 10 years. In principle, this master plan has been approved by the city, but the budgets for it are still under discussion. This is why it is currently still questionable whether there are adequate funds available for capital improvements and investments into new exhibits.

3.	ANIMAL CARE				
	- General Animal Welfare -				
		Yes	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
30	**Does the institution have a proactive animal welfare policy?**	☐	☒	A	☐
	- If yes, is it clear that the policy is adhered to?	☐	☐	_	☒
	- If not, is it clear that the institution has a proactive approach promoting physical, behavioural and emotional welfare?	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

Zoopark Chomutov does not have a written animal welfare policy yet. Because the screening team felt that there was a proactive approach towards promoting animal welfare, this was found to be acceptable for the time being. But it would be good to start looking into developing a proactive welfare policy for the zoo, as it is likely that there will be a stronger focus on this in future accreditation cycles.

More information can be found in the Animal Welfare section on the EAZA website.

On the topic of general animal welfare, a remark needs to be made also about the practice of wing-clipping and pinioning. Zoopark Chomutov keeps flocks of wing-clipped greater flamingo and pinioned (Dalmatian and Western white) pelicans in the zoo's large ponds. The group of pelicans is already rather old; offspring is sent to other institutions without being pinioned. Still, it would be recommended to think about whether it is desirable to keep birds like this in the future. Not allowing birds to perform one of their most natural behaviours can be considered a welfare issue. The same applies to some of the cranes.

Another topic that should be addressed here is the feeding of live prey. A zoo should ensure the highest level of welfare of all the animals that it is responsible for – also that of feed animals. Zoopark Chomutov feeds live fish to some of its birds (e.g. via a water basin that runs through the enclosure) and baby mice to young snakes that haven't been trained to eat dead animals yet. This was found to be acceptable.

	- Veterinary Care -	Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
31	Has a programme of veterinary care been established, and is it maintained under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon or practitioner?	☒	☐	_	☐
32	Does the veterinary care provided to the animal collection appear sufficient?	☒	☐	_	☐
33	Does the animal collection appear to be in good health?	☒	☐	_	☐
34	Does the veterinary staff keep up to date with trends and development in the field of wildlife veterinary medicine? (Member of EAZWV, conferences additional training, Continuing Education Credits, etc.)	☐	☒	U	☐
35	Does the institution maintain up-to-date records on the health of the collection?	☒	☐	_	☐
	Does the institution utilize ZIMS Medical?	☐	☒	A	☐
36	If veterinary facilities are provided, are they adequate to meet the needs of the collection (including quarantine, isolation, surgery, and holding facilities)?	☐	☒	Q	☐
37	Are there separation facilities available for sick, pregnant, injured or recovering animals?	☒	☐	_	☐
	Are these adequate for the collection?	☒	☐	_	☐
38	Does the institution utilise controlled animal drugs?	☒	☐	_	☐
	- If yes, are there written protocols for the use of such animal drugs and antidotes (e.g. procedures established in the event the veterinarian is not present to administer the drugs)?	☒	☐	_	☐
39	Are controlled animal drugs safely kept under lock and key with limited access by authorised persons only?	☒	☐	_	☐
40	Is their adequate capture equipment (nets, etc.) available for the collection at the institution and are staff members trained in its use?	☒	☐	_	☐
41	Is there a sufficient number of staff members trained in the use of chemical capture equipment (within national law)?	☐	☒	Q	☐
42	Is there a safe and effective programme for the control of pests and, where necessary, predators?	☒	☐	_	☐
43	Does the institution normally perform necropsies?	☒	☐	_	☐
	Are these results analysed by a veterinary professional (either internal or external personnel) to evaluate trends?	☒	☐	_	☐
44	Are deceased animals disposed of properly?	☒	☐	_	☐
45	Are deceased animals stored away from food?	☒	☐	_	☐
46	Is animal waste managed in a manner that minimizes contamination and potential environmental hazards?	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

The veterinary care at Zoopark Chomutov is provided by a consulting veterinarian who is not employed by the zoo, but working exclusively for the zoo. The screening team was informed that employing a vet is not an option, as Czech legislation does not allow this. The consulting vet is present at the zoo on working days, and the preventive veterinary care programme is checked by a state agency.
The zoo also has contracts with other veterinarians. From the AQ: *"Other vets provide specific procedures required specialised equipment or knowledge (X-ray, ultrasonic examination, specific examination of horses, surgery, etc.)".*
The rescue centre has separate veterinary facilities and its own staff, but the veterinary care is provided by the same vet.

Q34-36: The veterinary facilities at the zoo are basic and rather old-fashioned (see photos at the end of this report). Some procedures (e.g. x-rays) are carried out at a veterinary clinic located 3 km from the zoo. Surgical procedures are generally carried out in the enclosure (acute surgeries) or at the vet clinic as well.
Veterinary records are kept on paper; the screening team considered it unlikely that the current vet will start using ZIMS for Medical.
The screening team was also not convinced that the vet keeps up to date with trends and developments in the field of wildlife veterinary medicine. She is in contact with vets at other Czech zoos (e.g. Prague, Dvůr Králové), but apart from that, she is not part of a larger network (such as the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians) and does not attend relevant events.
So, although the animal collection appeared to be in a good condition at the time of the screening, it was felt that there is a need for a thorough review of the veterinary care at Zoopark Chomutov.

Q41: Only the vet can use the dart gun. This is not an ideal situation. If possible, it would be recommended to train relevant staff members in the use of chemical capture equipment as well, to ensure that there is always someone present who can sedate an animal, if needed.

Q42: The pest control programme is overseen a specialised company, but it is managed by the vet and carried out by zoo staff.

Q43: The majority of the necropsies is done at the zoo. When necessary, dead animals are sent to the state laboratory in Prague for a post-mortem examination.

Q46: Animal waste is collected regularly by a specialised and certified company.

	- Animal Enclosures -	**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
47	**Is the general impression given by the exhibits acceptable?**	☒	☐	_	☐
48	**Are the animal enclosures clean and well maintained?**	☒	☐	_	☐
49	**Are primary enclosures suitably complex to meet the behavioural, physiological and emotional needs of the animals? (primary = most amount of time spent, could be indoor holding in winter or temporary holding)**	☒	☐	_	☐
50	**Is the animal provided free choice on the use of the exhibits? (Ex: not locked out beyond what is required for cleaning/maintain/enrichment).**	☒	☐	_	☐
51	**Is it apparent that the enclosures are of sufficient size and that the animals are managed in such way that:**				
	1. Undue dominance by individual animals is avoided?	☒	☐	_	☐
	2. Persistent and unresolved animal conflict is avoided?	☒	☐	_	☐

	3. The physical carrying capacity of the enclosures is not overburdened?	☒	☐	_	☐
	4. There is not an overcrowding for resources? (benches, access to food, etc)	☒	☐	_	☐
	5. All animals which are in visibly adjoining enclosures appear to be those which do not interact in an excessively stressful way?	☒	☐	_	☐
52	**Are animals kept in temporary accommodation?**	☒	☐	_	☐
	- If yes, is their situation regularly assessed and evaluated?	☐	☒	**Q**	☐
53	**Are separation facilities adequate for all species exhibited?**	☒	☐	_	☐
54	**Do enclosures provide for the well-being of the animals throughout the year?**	☒	☐	_	☐
55	**Do trees within or near animal enclosures appear to be in a safe condition?**	☒	☐	_	☐
56	**Are the aquatic water circulation and life support systems adequate?**	☒	☐	_	☐
57	**Do the water quality methods and controls programme appear to be adequate for the aquatic exhibits?**	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

In general, the animal enclosures at Zoopark Chomutov are spacious and give a good impression. Because of the zoo's focus on Palearctic species, most of the enclosures are furnished in a way that mimics the species' original habitat. The enclosures are clean and although they are not the most modern or aesthetically pleasing (some older enclosures are rather heavy and could use some rust remover and a new coat of paint, for example), they are functional and generally meeting the needs of the species kept in them (with only a few exceptions – see Q49).

Q49: There are a few enclosures that are too small or otherwise not meeting EAZA Standards:
- The rabbit 'flat' in the farm area. These enclosures are too small and do not allow the rabbits to express their natural behaviour.
- The small terrarium in the education area, which also houses a rabbit. Same as above. See also the comments with Q76 and Q145.
- Some of the temporary housing (see also Q52).

Q52: There are several places where animals are kept in temporary accommodation, e.g. injured parrots in an off-show keeper area, a crane in an off-show enclosure, the pheasants near the reindeer enclosure, the ducklings and the birds for breeding eggs for the snakes in the pelican winter housing, the Siberian weasel in the isolation facilities (because the other female has cubs). In addition to this, there are also several empty cages in off-show areas that are still dirty from their previous inhabitants.
According to the *EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals*, EAZA Members are expected to provide a high standard of accommodation for all the animals in their care, both on-show and off-show, permanent and temporary. It would therefore be recommended to regularly review the situation of animals in temporary accommodation, and making sure temporary accommodation is ready for a potential future need for the separation or isolation of animals, it would be advisable to keep these facilities clean like the rest of the zoo.

Q56-57: The grey seal exhibit and all pools are supplied with water by an artificial branch of a small river. The water quality is monitored by a government organisation and the zoo does have a backup source of water in case the water channel runs dry. The future otter enclosure is planned to have a filtration system.

- Enrichment and Equipment -		Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
58	Is species-appropriate enrichment built into the day to day animal care and is there evidence that it is taking place? (Schedules, daily records etc.)	☒	☐	Q	☐
59	Is enrichment evaluated for success?	☒	☐	_	☐
60	Is there a standardized procedure for approval of enrichment?	☒	☐	_	☐
61	Do enrichment programmes include a range of enrichment categories e.g. physical habitat, sensory, novelty, feeding behaviours, cognitive and social?	☒	☐	_	☐
62	Is there a specific budget for enrichment?	☐	☒	A	☐
63	Are staff provided and allocated time for the production, implementation and evaluation of enrichment?	☒	☐	_	☐
64	Are enclosure substrates, design features and furniture sufficient to provide shelter for and meet the behavioural needs of all specimens displayed, especially those kept in multi-species exhibits?	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

The enrichment programme is managed and supervised by the curator. There are no detailed schedules or records, but considering the large, natural enclosures and the high level of husbandry, the screening team found that this would not necessarily be required at Zoopark Chomutov. Nevertheless, it would be good to work towards incorporating the enrichment programme into an overall proactive animal welfare policy for the zoo (see also Q30).

- Training -		Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
65	Is there an animal training programme at the facility?	☐	☒	Q	☐
	- If yes, are the training sessions tracked for progress?	☐	☐	_	☒
66	Is it evident that only positive reinforcement techniques are employed?	☐	☐	_	☒
67	Does the animal training promote positive animal welfare through e.g. cognitive stimulation, positive social interaction, aid in husbandry or health checks?	☐	☐	_	☒
68	When training is conducted in front of the public, is it conducted in a manner deemed to provide an educational and conservation message in line with the ethics of EAZA's 'Demonstrations' document?	☐	☐	_	☒
	- Is there a protocol to ensure the animals well-being and safety during the training session?	☐	☐	_	☒
	- Do formal animal training programmes provide for the well-being and overall health of those participating?	☐	☐	_	☒
	- Do holding/off-show facilities for animals in demonstrations meet EAZA Standards?	☐	☐	_	☒
	- Do animals in demonstrations participate in population management				

	programmes? (as recommended for the species and individual)	☐	☐	_	☒

Comments:

No animals receive training at Zoopark Chomutov. And although the screening team did not see an urgent need for specific training (e.g. no animals needing to be shifted or other problems needing to be solved with animal training), the development of an animal training programme would still be beneficial. The screening team recommended to start with medical training for relevant species, to make medical procedures and potential treatments easier and less stressful for the animals.
The EAZA Academy regularly offers courses and workshops on animal training. Some recordings or sessions dedicated to animal training at EAZA events are also available online, for example from the EAZA Annual Conference in 2021 (link to example 1, link to example 2).

- Nutrition -		**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
69	**Does the quantity and quality of food and drink provided for the animals appear satisfactory?**	☒	☐	_	☐
70	**Are diets formulated with the advice of veterinarians, species experts or nutritionists?**	☒	☐	_	☐
71	**Are supplies of food and drink kept and prepared under hygienic conditions?**	☒	☐	_	☐
72	**Is it apparent that food and drink are placed to be accessible to every animal within an enclosure?**	☒	☐	_	☐
73	**Are animal diet sheets available for all species and accessible to staff?**	☒	☐	_	☐
	Are they utilized in the nutrition centre?	☒	☐	_	☐
	Are diets evaluated, updated and approved in a standardized manner?	☒	☐	_	☐
74	**Is food and drink provided in such a way that:**				
	(1) It meets the biological needs of the animal (e.g. time and frequency of feeding)?	☒	☐	_	☐
	(2) It meets the behavioural needs (e.g. placement)?	☒	☐	_	☐
	(3) Contamination is minimised?	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

The zoo kitchen is located near the office buildings. From the AQ: *"Animal feeding facility is separate building with dedicated equipment (i.e. fridges, freezer..) and dedicated responsible staff Preparation is being processed according to defined and written diet"*.

Zoopark Chomutov also breeds its own feeding animals (guinea pigs, rats and mice) in special rooms in the kitchen building. Small birds are kept in the winter housing of the pelicans, for feeding their eggs to the snakes.

Q70: Diets are formulated and evaluated by the staff member responsible for the kitchen, together with the curator.

Q71: Although the hygiene in the food storage and preparation areas was generally found to be good, the screening team did have a few suggestions for improvement:
- Replacing the wooden floor in one of the freezers would allow for easier cleaning and improved hygiene.
- Currently, the fridge is being used to store both vegetables/fruit and meat/fish, which is not a hygienic

situation. Because plans to improve this situation are already included in the zoo's master plan (with the building of a whole new nutrition centre), this was not raised as a concern. But it should be changed as soon as possible, to stop bacteria from spreading and to avoid food poisoning.
- The same applies to the smaller fridges that are used in enclosure buildings. Fruit/vegetables and meat/fish should not be kept in the same fridge there either, or the meat/fish should be stored in closed plastic containers before being placed in the fridge with fruit/vegetables.
- If the freezers will be replaced, it might be worthwhile to consider making it possible to transport stuff in and out of the freezer using tools (e.g. a manual forklift) instead of by hand.
- It is advised to store dry food off the ground.

Q73: Diet sheets and other useful information are available in the food preparation rooms.

- Visitors & contact with animals -		Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
75	**Is it apparent that the animals are not provoked for the benefit of the viewing public?**	: ☐	_		☐
76	**Are animals used directly as part of a visitor contact /educational programme in line with EAZA Demonstrations Guidelines?**	☒	☐	_	☐
	- If yes:				
	1. Are they housed in a designated education area?	☒	☐	_	☐
	2. Is the animal given choice regarding their participation? E.g. do they have the opportunity to choose to abstain from participation without negative consequences?	☐	☒	A	☐
	3. Are all animals engaged in the contact sessions through positive reinforcement techniques?	☐	☐	_	☐
	4. Whilst not actively participating in the educational programme, are the animals' enclosures/situation meeting all other EAZA standards?	☐	☒	U	☐
	5. Are guest interactions tracked and recorded?	☐	☒	Q	☐
77	**Does the facility have walkthrough, drive-through or direct contact animal exhibits? (Petting zoo, lemur walkthrough, touch pools, etc.)**	☒	☐	_	☐
	- If yes:				
	1. Do these animals have an area away from public access which they can access at all times?	☒	☐	_	☐
	2. Does this 'away from public' area, provide for all the animals' needs e.g. appropriate resting areas, food and water, provision of behavioural opportunities?	☒	☐	_	☐
	3. Is the contact area supervised by a member of staff at all times?	☐	☒	A	☐
	4. Is biosecurity managed? (Hand washing, shoe cleaning, etc.)	☒	☐	_	☐
78	**Is feeding by visitors permitted?**	☒	☐	_	☐
	- If yes, is this on a selective basis only, with suitable food sold, provided or approved by the management?	☒	☐	_	☐
79	**Does the institution utilise wildlife in off-premises situations (i.e. shopping malls, sporting/events, school programmes/visits, theatrical productions)?**	☐	☒	_	☐
	- If yes:				
	1. Does the institution make certain that the off-premises programmes cause no undue stress for the animals?	☐	☐	_	☒

	2. Is sufficient care provided while the animals are off the premises?	☐	☐	_	☒
	3. Are animals kept separate from the collection, especially following an appearance off the institution's grounds?	☐	☐	_	☒

Comments:

From the AQ: *"Visitors have opportunity to pet the Shetland ponies and donkeys over the fence. Horse/pony riding and coach rides for visitors take place at the weekends in summer season."* In addition to this, visitors can potentially also touch some of the other animals in the collection (e.g. the moose or the sheep and goats in the farm and open-air museum areas). And some animals (rabbits, tortoises) are used in the education programmes at the EcoCentre.

Q76: The animals that are used at the EcoCentre are housed there as well. At the time of the screening, there was only one rabbit, but there was also a terrarium for reptiles.
The screening team did not attend a contact session at the EcoCentre, and can't say if this is done with positive reinforcement techniques only (Q76.3).
The rabbit at the EcoCentre is being housed in sub-standard conditions. See also Q49 and Q145.
If the education animals cannot be housed in conditions that meet EAZA Standards, the EcoCentre will need to stop using animals in the education programmes. If proper accommodation can be provided, it would be recommended to track and record animal contact/interaction sessions, to ensure that the same animals are not used too often and to monitor their welfare.

Q77: Areas where visitors can come into contact with animals are not permanently supervised. Although this is required by the *EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals* (part 1.11.7), this was found to be acceptable considering the type of (domestic) animals and the way they are housed.

Q78: From the AQ: *"Visitors can feed collected animals (horses, ponies, water birds, fishes only with placebo pellets/granules (zero nutritional value)."*

4. ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTION

- Animal Records -

		Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
80	**Is the institution using ZIMS for animal record keeping?**	☒	☐	_	☐
	- If yes:				
	Are records of all animals (either at individual, group or colony level) entered into ZIMS?	☐	☒	A	☐
	Are all EEP and ESB species maintained by the institution registered in ZIMS?	☒	☐	_	☐
	Does the institution regularly enter/update animal records in ZIMS?	☒	☐	_	☐
81	**Do the records provide adequate information to allow for behavioural notes, tracking health trends and breeding success?**	☐	☒	Q	☐
82	**Is there a designated registrar/record-keeping staff member?**	☒	☐	_	☐
83	**Are duplicate records (including permits, etc.) stored in an appropriate separate location? (Back-up server, off site hard drive, trusted cloud storage, etc.)**	☒	☐	_	☐

84	**Are animal identification methods (microchip, leg bands) appropriate and implemented?**	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

Q80: Like most Czech zoos, Zoopark Chomutov also uses a programme called Animalia for animal record keeping. The majority of the collection (75%, according to the AQ) is registered in ZIMS as well. Most of the domestic species kept in the barnyard and the open air museum are not in ZIMS, which was found to be acceptable.

Q81: The records in ZIMS contain only the most basic information. The screening team explained why it would be beneficial for the zoo to use ZIMS to record other data as well, and to start with registering behavioural, health, welfare and other observations – to allow for easy access of data, better husbandry (e.g. by registering weights, which can facilitate better veterinary treatments) and analysis of trends.

Q82: Because the Curator doesn't speak English, he is not able to use ZIMS. But there is a registrar who is responsible for recordkeeping and animal transports.

	- Acquisition, Exchange & Transport -	**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
85	**Does the institution have a written animal acquisition/disposition policy and is it apparent that this policy is adhered to?**	☐	☒	**U**	☐
86	**Do the institution's animal acquisitions and dispositions fully comply with EAZA Standards?**	☒	☐	_	☐
87	**Can animals be safely and efficiently moved into/out of the collection?**	☒	☐	_	☐
88	**Do options for transportation take the wellbeing of the animals into consideration?**	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

Zoopark Chomutov does not have a written animal acquisition/disposition policy. Although the screening team did not have any suspicions that the zoo is not complying with EAZA Standards in this area, it is still a requirement to have a written policy. The team advised the Director and Curator to study the chapter on animal acquisition and disposition in the EAZA Population Management Manual for more information, and to write a policy document for the zoo a.s.a.p.

	- Collection Plan -	**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
89	**Does the institution have an animal collection plan reflecting their current collection, institutional mission and future ambitions?**	☐	☒	Q	☐
90	**Does the decision process regarding the development of the (plant/animal) collection show a conscious effort to take one or more of the following aspects into consideration?**	☒	☐	_	☐
	EAZA Regional Collection Plans	☒	☐	_	☐
	EAZA Population Management Programmes' needs and requirements (programmes looking for new holders, providing space for non-breeding	☒	☐	_	☐

	groups or additional housing for males for social species, etc.)	
	Experience of the institution with (similar) species	☒ ☐ _ ☐

Comments:

Zoopark Chomutov's institutional collection plan strongly resembles a general animal inventory list, and does not provide any information on the role of each species within the collection or plans for the future. Some information about future plans for the zoo's collection are described in the master plan, but it would be recommended to develop a real Institutional Collection Plan (ICP), as part of the zoo's master plan, based on its conservation, educational and research goals and objectives. More information about this can be found in chapter 4.1 of the *EAZA Population Management Manual*.

5.	**SAFETY & SECURITY**				
	- Enclosures, Barriers & Exits -	**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
91	**Are the enclosure barriers designed and well maintained in order to contain animals within their enclosures?**	☒	☐	_	☐
92	**Are the enclosures free from vegetation or other elements which would allow for the escape of animals?**	☒	☐	_	☐
93	**Are warning signs displayed on enclosures containing hazardous animals or on electrified barriers?**	☒	☐	_	☐
94	**Are stand-off barriers successful in preventing direct contact between visitors and hazardous animals?**	☒	☐	**Q**	☐
95	**Are barriers designed and maintained in a way that they are safe and effective for the public, particularly children?**	☒	☐	_	☐
96	**Are gates and/or doors to enclosures containing (hazardous) animals securely locked?**	☒	☐	_	☐
97	**Are gates and/or doors as effective in containing the animals as the rest of the enclosure barrier?**	☒	☐	_	☐
98	**Is the perimeter boundary of the institution clearly defined?**	☐	☒	**Q**	☐
	If no, have appropriate safety measures been taken to protect these animals from public nuisance or to address escape concerns?	☒	☐	**Q**	☐

Comments:

Q94: In general, the barriers are well designed and successful in preventing direct contact between visitors and animals when necessary. But there were two occasions where it was possible for visitors to potentially reach through the enclosure fence and come into contact with hazardous animals:
- One of the pallas' cat enclosures has a small corner with a platform, where people can potentially put fingers through the fence and touch any pallas' cat sitting there;
- Part of the wolverine enclosure lacks a stand-off barrier. There is a barrier along the path, but if visitors would stray from the path, they could potentially reach through the enclosure fence. This can be resolved by extending the stand-off barrier, or by covering the mesh.

Q98: According to section 4.5 of the *EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals*, the

perimeter boundary of the zoo needs to be designed to discourage unauthorised entry and as an aid to the confinement of all the animals within the perimeter of the institution. To achieve this, it is a general requirement that the perimeter fence is clearly defined and that it does not also serve as an enclosure fence. For parts of the moose and reindeer enclosures, however, the perimeter fence of Zoopark Chomutov is in fact also the perimeter fence. In case of damage to the enclosure fence, the animals would be able to escape the zoo immediately. This should be fixed, for example by adding an extra fence inside of the enclosure.

	- Drive-through Enclosures -	Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
99	**Is a system of double-gates provided for enclosures containing lions, tigers, bears or primates?**	☐	☐	_	☒
100	**Is the type of gate or grid system used for other animals satisfactory?**	☒	☐	_	☐
101	**Is tunnel fencing adequate for enclosures holding jumping, fast moving, or hazardous animals?**	☐	☐	_	☒
102	**Are access points between enclosures monitored where needed?**	☐	☐	_	☒
103	**Is there an alternative method of opening or closing mechanically-operated gates in the event of power failure or other emergency?**	☐	☐	_	☒
104	**Do operators of mechanically-operated gates have a clear, unobstructed view of the gates under their control and of the area within the vicinity of those gates?**	☐	☐	_	☒
105	**Is drive-through enclosure traffic one-way only?**	☐	☐	_	☒
106	**Is stopping permitted only at places where the road is at least 6 metres wide?**	☐	☐	_	☒
107	**Are the safety precautions and procedures adequate for the hazardous species exhibited?**	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

One of Zoopark Chomutov's attractions is a Eurosafari, which makes up around one fifth of the zoo map. Visitors can get on a zoo train in the zoo, and then go on a trip through the safari area. The entrance and exit are manually opened by zoo staff on the train, and during the safari a staff member uses a microphone to educate visitors about the animals they encounter. The species in the safari area include European bison, yak, Highland cattle, Père David's deer, roe deer and mouflon, as well as Przewalski's horses in a separate enclosure. As there are no jumping or particularly hazardous animals, and taking the safari train is the only way in which the safari can be experienced, the drive-through enclosures were found to be safe.

	- Emergencies -	Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
108	**Is first-aid available to the staff and the public?**	☒	☐	_	☐

109	**Is there an appropriate number of staff trained in first-aid?**	☒	☐	_	☐
110	**Are there emergency procedures (including communications) for a major injury or death by a hazardous or venomous animal?**	☒	☐	_	☐
111	**Is the written procedure adequate in the event of an animal escape?**	☒	☐	_	☐
112	**Are staff members trained for emergency situations?**	☒	☐	_	☐
113	**Are animal related emergency drills conducted regularly? (Animal escape, keeper down, fire, etc.)**	☒	☐	**Q**	☐
114	**Are fire extinguishers available and appropriately placed?**	☒	☐	_	☐
115	**Is the staff sufficiently trained in the use of fire extinguishers?**	☒	☐	_	☐
116	**Are there alarms, cameras and extra security around sensitive species? (Rare birds, primates, dolphins, rhinos, etc.)**	☐	☐	_	☒
117	**Are fire, police and ambulance services available?**	☒	☐	_	☐
118	**Are emergency exits available and sign posted?**	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

Q110: The zoo's reptile building houses two venomous species. The staff responsible for this section appeared to be well trained and experienced in working with these species, and the section has a protocol in case of bite accidents.

Q110-113: The emergency protocols were found to be adequate. Staff are trained for emergency situations, and drills are held once per year. This includes firefighting and first aid exercises, and can also cover animal escapes or other emergencies. While this is a good basis, the *EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals* require zoos to perform animal-related emergency drills at least once per year. One way to meet this requirement would be to perform drills at least twice a year, including at least one animal-related one such as an animal escape or keeper down exercise.

Q117: Chomutov is a small city with about 46,000 inhabitants. Because the zoo is located in the city, emergency services are all located nearby.

- Health & Safety -		**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
119	**Are staff members/volunteers who handle animals adequately trained in common zoonosis and prevention?**	☒	☐	_	☐
120	**Can staff safely service all exhibits?**	☒	☐	_	☐
121	**Does the institution have written procedures for working with hazardous animals?**	☒	☐	_	☐
122	**Are service areas sufficiently protected from visitor access?**	☒	☐	_	☐

123	**If 24-hour security staff members are not provided, does the institution have adequate security in place during the off hours?**	☒	☐	_	☐
124	**Is the security programme providing sufficient protection?**	☒	☐	_	☐
125	**Are firearms kept in a secured area?**	☐	☒	**U**	☐
126	**Is the staff adequately trained in the use of firearms?**	☐	☒	**U**	☐

Comments:

Q125: The firearms are kept in a locked cabinet in the veterinary area. Inside this cabinet is another locked section for storing the bullets. There are two concerns about this situation:
- The key to the firearms cabinet was attached to the key to the bullet safe. As a result, it was not possible to open both locks without removing one of the keys from the key chain, which took quite some time achieve. This is time that can't be wasted in an emergency situation.
- There were no bullets in the bullets safe. The screening team learned later that the person who is responsible for the firearms keeps the bullets at home. This is not an acceptable situation, and needs to be corrected as soon as possible. To make sure that no time is lost in case of an emergency, the firearms and ammunition need to be stored in a secured area that is easily accessible to specific staff members trained in their use.

Q126: Only one staff member can use the firearms at Zoopark Chomutov. This is not in compliance with the *EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals*, which require that the emergency plan should include a member of staff to be readily available at all times to take decisions regarding escaped animals, including the use of firearms if needed.

6.	**CONSERVATION**	**Yes**	**No**	**A/Q/U**	**N/A**
127	**Does the institution engage in and/or support conservation endeavours that aim to contribute to the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems and habitats, and allocate appropriate resources to such endeavours (refer to the 'EAZA Guidelines on the definition of a direct contribution to conservation (2015);**	☒	☐	_	☐
	- If yes, please specify if the institution is involved in (by providing staff, funding or other in-kind support):				
	- ***Maintaining, restoring or creating habitats***	☒	☐	_	☐
	- ***Conservation of species and populations (in situ or ex situ)***	☒	☐	_	☐
	- ***Conservation research***	☒	☐	_	☐
	- ***Conservation education and capacity building***	☒	☐	_	☐
	- ***Advocacy***	☐	☒	_	☐
	- ***Fundraising/direct grants***	☐	☒	_	☐
128	**Does the institution assist the wider conservation community including wildlife agencies, conservation organisations, governments and research institutions in maintaining global biodiversity?**	☒	☐	_	☐
129	**Do the conservation activities include action towards local native species and/or habitats?**	☒	☐	_	☐
130	**Does the institution inform the relevant zoo and aquarium association(s)**	☐	☐	_	☒

	when leading conservation activities outside the EAZA region?	
131	**Are conservation activities routinely evaluated to measure their impact and demonstrate their on-going effectiveness?**	☐ ☒ **A** ☐
132	**Do conservation activities take relevant guidelines into account (for example IUCN guidelines) and are they endorsed by the relevant wildlife management agencies?**	☐ ☐ _ ☒
133	**Is conservation included in the message of the institution to the general public?**	☒ ☐ _ ☐
134	**Does the institution regularly participate in EAZA Conservation Campaigns?**	☒ ☐ _ ☐
135	**Is the institution involved in energy and natural resource conservation in an appropriate manner?**	☒ ☐ _ ☐
136	**Please specify if the institution:** - ***Has a policy on energy use reduction*** - ***Recycles/implements wise waste disposal practices*** - ***Has a policy on wise water use and discharge*** - ***Avoids the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals in operations*** - ***Progresses towards a sustainable food system (e.g. seafood procurement policy or other)***	☒ ☐ _ ☐ ☒ ☐ _ ☐ ☒ ☐ _ ☐ ☒ ☐ _ ☐ ☒ ☐ _ ☐
137	**Are the conservation activities of this institution up to EAZA Conservation Standards (2016)?**	☒ ☐ _ ☐
138	**Does the institution document its conservation efforts through the EAZA Conservation Database? (EAP)**	☐ ☒ **Q** ☐

Comments:

According to the AQ, no money is spent on conservation projects, and the question about the zoo's involvement in *in situ* conservation projects was slightly misunderstood and answered with participation in various studbooks. However, during the screening it was found out that the zoo is in fact involved in some projects, including one led by Zoo Brno, for the release of cranes in Russia, which unfortunately had to be stopped due to avian flu outbreaks and the war in Ukraine.
A new project involves studying the genetics and monitoring the water quality of European pond turtles, in cooperation with a herpetologist at Dvůr Králové Zoo. The zoo is also involved in restoring and maintaining habitats of birds, frogs and storks on the zoo grounds.
But the zoo's largest contribution to conservation is likely through the rescue centre that it operates. This centre is partially funded by the regional government, and it takes in around 400-500 animals per year. Animals that can't be released are sometimes placed in the zoo (e.g. waterfowl, birds of prey), or they are transferred to different, specialised rescue stations (e.g. swans, deer).

The zoo recently joined the Czech Coalition for Biodiversity Conservation (CCBC). This coalition supports a range of conservation programmes for all kinds of species and in different parts of the world.

Q130: Zoopark Chomutov is not leading any conservation activities yet.

Q133: It is clear that conservation is one of the main missions of the zoo, but there is an opportunity to better communicate and educate visitors about the zoo's own direct contributions to conservation – including the projects listed above.

Q134: Zoopark Chomutov has participated in past EAZA Campaigns, but has not signed up for the current EAZA21+ Campaign yet. The screening team recommended the zoo staff to do so, as Zoopark Chomutov's input

would be highly valued.

Q135-136: From the AQ:

"- Branches used for grazing are cut by special machine to wood chips and then used as litter in aviaries or visitor paths.

- Unsold fruit and vegetables from Globus supermarket is being brought to zoo every day. Employees in food preparation facility sort good pieces from bad ones. Good pieces are used in animal diets.

- Rainwater retention – in Rescue station for handicapped animals"

The zoo is also in the process of switching to electrical vehicles, and has recently started selling reusable cups, for visitors to use instead of disposable ones. According to the zoo map, no palm oil is used in the zoo.

Q138: Zoopark Chomutov has entered two projects in Conservation Database: 'Reintroduction of Strix uralensis to NP Šumava' and 'Migration of the Black stork'. But because they are registered without much detail and without a start or end date, these data are not very useful. The screening team recommended the zoo staff to start properly entering its data into the Conservation Database, and to contact info@eazaconservation.org for help with this, if needed.

7. EDUCATION

- Organisation -

		Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
139	**Is the education role of the institution reflected in its written mission statement?**	☒	☐	_	☐
140	**Does the institution have a written education plan that outlines:**				
	a) All the institution's conservation education activities	☒	☐	_	☐
	b) How they apply to different types of audiences	☒	☐	_	☐
	c) The strategic thinking behind the plan's design?	☒	☐	_	☐
141	**Does the facility have at least one member of staff, with the necessary experience and qualifications that are responsible for leading and implementing the institution's conservation education plan?**	☒	☐	_	☐
142	**The institution can demonstrate that their education outcomes aim to:**				
	a) Raise awareness of biodiversity loss	☒	☐	_	☐
	b) Connect people to nature	☒	☐	_	☐
	c) Encourage sustainable behaviours	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

The education policy lists 5 basic principles:
- Natural and appropriate enclosures
- Biotope plants (matching species' natural environment)
- Information elements (signs, interactive and multimedia elements)
- Visitor-animal interaction
- Further offers (activities: guided tours, feeding presentations, summer camps, etc.)

The policy also mentions cooperation with kindergartens, primary and secondary schools.

Further topics:
- Information for teachers
- Cooperation with high schools and universities

- Handicapped and elderly visitors
- Exhibitions and hobby activities
- Participation in EAZA, UCSZOO, EARAZA and WAZA campaigns

Q141: Zoopark Chomutov has two staff members with a teaching qualification.

	- Staff Development -	Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
143	**Can the facility demonstrate its support to staff involved in their conservation education to be actively involved in local, national, regional and international conservation education networks and meetings?**	☒	☐	Q	☐
144	**Can the facility demonstrate its support of staff involved in their conservation education with continuous professional development and training to be able to meet the aims of the institution's conservation education plan?**	☒	☐	_	☐

	- Facilities -	Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
145	**Does the institution have appropriate facilities to deliver its educational programmes?**	☒	☐	_	☐
146	**Is there evidence that conservation education is an integral part of the institution's exhibits through:**				
	a) Collection planning	☒	☐	_	☐
	b) Exhibit design	☒	☐	_	☐
	c) Interpretation planning	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

Q143-144: Education staff is involved in activities of the education committee of the Union of Czech and Slovak Zoos (UCSZOO). This committee organises regular meetings and coordinates educational activities. This cooperation between Czech and Slovak zoos appears to be very useful and beneficial, but it would be good to also get involved in international education networks and meetings – for example by attending the EAZA Education Conference (hosted by Zoo Wrocław in 2023), relevant EAZA Academy courses or events organised by or in cooperation with the International Zoo Educators Association – to meet points 15 and 16 of the *EAZA Conservation Education Standards*.

Q145: Zoopark Chomutov has two spaces for delivering the educational programmes:
- the EcoCentre, which is designed for (about 20) elementary school-aged children;
- the zoo hall, which can accommodate 40 people.

These facilities were found to be appropriate for carrying out the zoo's education plan, with the exception of the housing of the education animals in the EcoCentre. Instead of giving a good example of how people should house and care for their pet animals, the way in which the rabbits in particular are housed is not sending the right message. By keeping rabbits in sub-standard conditions, Zoopark Chomutov is putting its reputation as expert in animal care at risk.

Q146: The screening team recommended the zoo management keep involving the education team in collection planning, exhibit design and interpretation planning aspects of the implementation of the zoo's new master plan.

- Programming and Content -		Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
147	**Is there evidence that the institution applies measurable learning outcomes to all aspects of their conservation education programmes?**	☐	☒	**A**	☐
148	**Does the institution use a range of delivery approaches and resources to cater to different audiences and needs?**	☒	☐	**_**	☐
149	**Are all the institution's conservation education messages based on scientific facts?**	☒	☐	**_**	☐
150	**Does the institution educate their audiences about their own conservation work by demonstrating how their institution makes direct and indirect contributions to conservation?**	☒	☐	**Q**	☐
151	**Is the information about the species exhibited in the facility accurate and relevant?**	☒	☐	**_**	☐
152	**If an institution participates in one or more EEPs, do the signs at the animal enclosures mention that the animal concerned is part of an EAZA Ex Situ Programme (EEP)?**	☒	☐	**Q**	☐
153	**Can the facility provide a range of evidence to demonstrate how it evaluates its conservation education programmes using appropriate methods?**	☐	☒	**Q**	☐

Comments:

Q147: The *EAZA Conservation Education Standards* require that a conservation education plan makes specific reference to applying measurable learning outcomes to all aspects of a zoo's conservation education programmes. Describing clear learning outcomes for Zoopark Chomutov's education programmes can help greatly with demonstrating, evaluating and improving the effects of these programmes.

Q150: Visitors can learn a bit about the zoo's conservation work – for example via a sign about a project for common European adder – but in general, this could be promoted more actively. The vision for Zoopark Chomutov includes '*Active participation in species and nature protection. Focus information and training on issues of wildlife protection, protection of their habitats in coexistence and sustainability of wildlife and humans and wildlife'.* More actively showcasing the zoo's own contributions to biodiversity conservation, as well as that of the larger zoo community, could help with achieving this vision.

Q151: The information provided about the collection was found to be accurate and relevant, but the amount of information varies greatly between species. Some enclosures have proper species information signs (including the Czech and Latin name, a map showing its distribution, biological data, some other interesting information and sometimes an image). Other enclosures still have signs in an older style, and for some species there's only a sign with the name of the species.
The screening team was informed that the zoo is in the middle of an overall revision and rebranding of the species signage. To meet point 13 of the *EAZA Conservation Education Standards*, it would be good to complete this as soon as possible, and to also include information about the conservation status (IUCN Red List status) of the species.

Q152: Technically, signs with information about EEP species do show the EEP logo, but the sticker with the logo is so tiny that it is practically invisible. To meet point 13 of the *EAZA Conservation Education Standards*, it would be good to increase the visibility of this information and to educate visitors on what this means.

Q153: According to the AQ, Zoopark Chomutov does not evaluate its educational programmes (yet). To comply with the *EAZA Conservation Education Standards*, however, conservation education programmes must be

evaluated using appropriate methods, to measure their effectiveness. To make this easier, it would be recommended to start with developing measurable learning outcomes (see also Q147).

8.	RESEARCH	Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
154	**Does the institution employ research staff?**	☐	☒	A	☐
155	**Is the institution's participation in research programmes in line with similar-sized institutions?**	☐	☒	U	☐
156	**Does the institution have a research policy?**	☐	☒	Q	☐
157	**Are research results published and/or shared with relevant staff and other professionals?**	☐	☒	Q	☐
158	**Does the institution have cooperative research activities with colleges and universities?**	☐	☒	Q	☐
159	**Does the institution have plans for future research projects?**	☐	☒	U	☐

Comments:

According to the information in the AQ, Zoopark Chomutov is not actively contributing to scientific research (yet), and as such, is not meeting the EAZA Research Standards. The screening team was convinced that this is not due to lack of motivation, but it does really need more attention.
A good way to start would be by developing a research policy for the zoo. Guidance on what should be included in such a policy can be found in the new *EAZA Research Standards* and on the EAZA website.

Further discussion during the screening brought to light that there is some research cooperation happening with other zoos in Czechia, for example by providing samples for the measurement of stress hormones, for research into toxoplasmosis in Pallas' cats. But all in all, the contribution to research is minimal and should be increased to meet the EU Zoos Directive and EAZA Standards.

One relatively easy way to increase the zoo's contribution to research would be by collection samples when possible, and submitting them to the EAZA Biobank.

9.	MISCELLANEOUS	Yes	No	A/Q/U	N/A
160	**Are the brochures, reports, newsletters and other publications produced by the facility appropriate and adequate?**	☒	☐	_	☐

Comments:

The screening team did not check the zoo's printed publications, but the zoo's website and social media presence seems to be appropriate and adequate.

Items of Concern

Major Concerns:

1. Veterinary Care
   The veterinary care at Zoopark Chomutov is in need of a thorough review. The veterinary facilities are outdated and the main (consulting) vet is not keeping up to date with trends and developments in the field of wildlife veterinary medicine. (See Q34-36 for more information.)

2. Animal care
   There are a few enclosures that are too small or otherwise not meeting EAZA Standards:
   - The rabbit 'flat' in the farm area. (Q49)
   - The small terrariums in the education area. (Q49, Q76, Q145).
   - Some of the temporary housing (Q49, Q52) – see also minor concern #4.

3. Safety & Security
   The zoo's firearms and ammunition are kept in a way that they cannot be easily accessed in case of an emergency situation. Only one staff member is trained and able to use the firearms. (See Q125-126 for more information.)

Minor Concerns:

1. Staffing
   Having a slightly larger, well-trained staff team would benefit the zoo in many different ways, for example in the areas of international cooperation, animal husbandry and welfare, record keeping and animal training. (Q8-10)

2. Financial matters
   The 10-year master plan for the zoo has been approved by the municipal government, but the budgets have not been confirmed yet. While this is something that the zoo only has limited influence on, it will need to be resolved to improve the zoo's financial stability. (

3. Veterinary care / Safety
   Only the vet can use the dart gun. It would be recommended to train relevant staff members in the use of chemical capture equipment, to ensure that there is always someone present who can use them.

4. Animal care
   A relatively large number of animals is kept in temporary housing. To ensure that a high standard of accommodation is provided to all animals, this situation will need to be regularly reviewed. (Q52)

5. Nutrition
   For hygiene reasons, raw meat and fish should be kept away from other food items, and not be stored in the same fridge. (Q71)

6. Record keeping
   The records in ZIMs contain only the most basic data and do not provide adequate information to allow for behavioural notes, tracking health trends, etc. (Q81)

7. Acquisition, exchange & transport
   Zoopark Chomutov does not have a written animal acquisition/disposition policy. (Q85)

8. Safety & security
   The wolverine enclosure and one of the pallas' cat enclosures need small adjustments to prevent visitors from being able to come into contact with the animals. (Q94)

9. Safety & security
   In some places, the perimeter fence of the zoo also serves as the enclosure fence. This should be separated, to avoid that is always another fence when one of the fences (enclosure or perimeter) is not functioning properly. (Q98)

10. Safety & security
    The number of emergency exercises needs to be increased. EAZA Standards require that animal-related emergency drills are performed at least once per year. Currently, exercises are held at a yearly basis, but they don't always involve animal-related emergencies. (Q110-113)

11. Conservation
    Data about Zoopark Chomutov's (contribution to) conservation projects should be registered in the EAZA Conservation Database. (Q138)

12. Conservation education
    Because the zoo is going through a revision and rebranding of the species signage, the quality of the species signs varies greatly, with some enclosures only showing the name of the species. (Q151)

13. Conservation education
    To measure the effectiveness of the education programmes, and to make changes where necessary, they should be evaluated using appropriate methods. (Q153)

14. Research
    Zoopark Chomutov's current contribution to scientific research is minimal and not meeting the EAZA Research Standards. (Q154-159)

Recommendations:

1. Improve the English skills of staff who are willing to learn, for example by offering/promoting English lessons, to increase their access to international networks, events, and other knowledge-sharing opportunities. (Q11)
2. Start developing a proactive animal welfare policy for the zoo, also incorporating a species-appropriate enrichment programme. (Q30, Q58)
3. Think about whether it is still desirable to keep pinioned or wing-clipped birds. (Q30)
4. Start using ZIMS for Medical. (Q35)
5. Start developing an animal training programme. (Q65-67)
6. Replace the wooden floor in the freezer, to allow for easier cleaning and improved hygiene. (Q71)
7. If the freezers will be replaced, consider making it possible to transport stuff in and out of the freezer using tools (e.g. a manual forklift) instead of by hand. (Q71)
8. Store dry food off the ground. (Q71)
9. Track and record animal contact/interaction sessions, to ensure that the same animals are not used too often and to monitor their welfare. (Q76)
10. As part of the zoo's master plan, develop an institutional collection plan for the zoo according to the guidelines described in the *EAZA Population Management Manual*, to have a clear understanding of the role of each species within the (current and future) collection, based on the zoo's conservation,

educational and research goals and objectives.

11. Communicate more actively and educate visitors and the local community about the zoo's own direct and indirect contributions to conservation projects, in line with Zoopark chomutov's vision. (Q133, Q150) Also educate visitors about what EEPs are and the zoo's contribution to these programmes. (Q152)
12. Sign up for and start actively participating in the current EAZA21+ Campaign. (Q134)
13. Allow and encourage education staff get involved in international education networks and meetings. (Q143-144)
14. Apply measurable learning outcomes to all aspects of a zoo's education programmes, to facilitate the demonstration, evaluation and improvement of the effects of these programmes. (Q147)

EAZA Council decision

Decision: **Full Membership**

Reasoning:

With its focus on Palearctic species and spacious set up, Zoopark Chomutov takes up an interesting position in the Czech and European zoo landscape. The combination with its 'Eurosafari', open-air museum and rescue centre makes it a multifaceted zoo with a potential to attract and educate a broad range of visitors and make a strong contribution to conservation. Some of the zoo's older enclosures have a rather heavy design and are not too well maintained, but they are functional and practical.

Zoopark Chomutov has a dedicated and passionate staff team and it is clear that the animals are well cared for. There is no formal animal welfare policy or enrichment programme, but this is largely compensated by the dimensions and appropriate natural furnishing of the enclosures. Still, the EAZA Membership & Ethics Committee did have several recommendations for improvement, which are listed in this report. There are a few areas where the zoo is/was not fully meeting EAZA Standards yet, such as the educational signage and the contribution to research. These were areas of development that needed attention, but most of these have already been addressed since the screening visit took place. Where there was a direct risk for the welfare of the animals or the safety of the staff and visitors, these issues were raised as major concerns. These are conditions for membership that need(ed) to be addressed as soon as possible.

The team at Zoopark Chomutov has shown that it is able and committed to address the few identified concerns quickly. The Membership & Ethics Committee is convinced that Zoopark Chomutov will continue improving, and recommends for the zoo to maintain Full Membership and to be accredited. The Committee hopes that the required funding will be allocated for the implementation of the zoo's master plan, to enable the zoo to continue improving and expanding on its already good work.

EAZA Council follows the recommendation of the Membership & Ethics Committee and accords continuing Full Membership and EAZA Accreditation to Zoopark Chomutov.