Ambassador Animal Advisor
Position Description

Ambassador Animal Advisors (AAA) are zoo and aquarium professionals with specific expertise related to ambassador animals, including animal care, training, collection management, educational messaging, evaluation, handler training, and more. AAAs work with TAG or SSP members to serve as a resource and provide expertise on topics related to the use of a taxon or species in an ambassador capacity. AAAs can bring an ambassador animal related perspective and support projects including, but not limited to, the following:

- Development of Ambassador Animal Guideline documents
- Development of Ambassador Animal chapters in Animal Care Manuals
- Guidance on best practices in educational programming and messaging
- Guidance on evaluation of educational programming and messaging, working closely with Education Advisor as appropriate
- Guidance on ambassador animal collection planning
- Guidance on best practices in ambassador animal training and presentation
- Support in understanding different contexts in which ambassador animals might be utilized

Estimated time commitment: about 10 hours a month, often not evenly distributed, depending on the work of the SSP or TAG

Key Responsibilities:

- Establish and maintain partnerships with the TAG or SSP members and program leaders.
- Support the needs of the TAG or SSP as it relates to ambassador animals
- Maintain an understanding of priority activities related to the strategic framework of the AASAG
- Proactively generating strategic activities in support of the TAG or SSP
- Participate in regular communications with the TAG/SSP and the AASAG, and respond to requests for information in a timely manner
- Participate with the AASAG as a General Member
- Facilitate dissemination of the ambassador animal-related work of the TAG or SSP when appropriate
- Attend at least one TAG or SSP meeting per year, including closed sessions. Timing and location is TAG dependent. At these meetings:
  - Present on ambassador-animal related work
  - Share information from the AASAG
  - Solicit feedback and suggestions from TAG or SSP
  - Provide updates to the AASAG

Requirements:

- Expertise working with the ambassador animals relevant to the TAG or SSP
- Understanding of current best practices in ambassador animal care, training, and messaging
- Institutional support. See application materials.
Interested candidates are encouraged to complete an application online (link below). Applicants must also include a brief letter of intent describing your qualifications and a statement of institutional support which can be uploaded on the online application form or submitted to Liz Evans at levans@aqua.org.

**Ambassador Animal Advisor Process**

1. A TAG, SSP, or the AASAG may begin the process by expressing the need for an Animal Ambassador Advisor in a particular program. Individuals working at AZA-accredited facilities may also express an interest in working as an AAA with a particular program to the AASAG.
2. When a need is identified, the TAG/SSP and AASAG may announce the vacancy and encourage interested individuals to apply via an [online application form](#).
3. When an individual expresses interest, the AASAG or a designee will contact the TAG/SSP to determine their interest in bringing on an AAA and will then announce the vacancy as appropriate.
4. Applications and letters of support will be submitted to the relevant AASAG Steering Committee member, who will share applications with the TAG.
5. If there are multiple applicants, the TAG/SSP and AASAG will work collaboratively to determine the top candidate.
6. Ambassador Animal Advisors will commit to two-year terms, which may be renewed provided that the individual is in good standing with both the TAG/SSP and the AASAG.