

One example of an Acquisition Decision Matrix

1. Do we have or will we have, appropriate housing for the species by the time it clears quarantine? YES/NO
2. High Maintenance - Do the animals' physical requirements fit the available space resources? YES/NO
3. Should the animal not work out in its proposed role as an ambassador, is there a plan for the animal's placement elsewhere in the collection or its disposition out of the collection? YES/NO
4. Is the animal tractable? If not, do we know how easily tamed or trained is the species? Is there record of success with the species in other institutions? YES/NO
5. Will the animal have multiple uses in special events, or education, as well as shows? Is the species type highly adaptable to a variety of education or conservation themes? Is the species emblematic of the other animals living in an entire ecosystem? YES/NO
6. If the animal is expected to have more limited uses, is the acquisition still justified? YES/NO
7. Endangered Species - Is there an SSP breeding program with a higher conservation priority for this animal? YES/NO
8. Does the animal have research potential where its training and tractability will present the researcher with advantages to collect data that might be impossible to achieve otherwise? YES/NO
9. Is the animal a candidate for participation in a breeding program while engaged as a program animal? YES/NO

1. If the answer is YES move to the next question.
If the answer is NO, stop here. The matrix recommends that you do not acquire the animal.

If the answer is YES move to the next question.
2. If the answer is NO, stop here. The matrix recommends that you do not acquire the animal.

If the answer is YES move to the next question.
3. If the answer is NO, stop here. The matrix recommends that you do not acquire the animal.

If the answer is YES move to the next question.
4. If the answer is YES move to the next question.
If the answers to any of these questions is NO, the matrix recommends caution.
5. Obviously, an animal that is adaptable to a wider variety of uses is a better program animal, as is one that the public may likely associate with an entire ecosystem.

If the answer is YES move to the next question.
6. If the answer is NO, the matrix suggests you give serious consideration to stopping the acquisition at this point.
7. If the answer is YES, stop here if you are not willing to breed.
8. If the proposed animal has research potential, its training as a program animal could very well enhance its value as a representative of its entire species in a research project.
9. A YES answer to this question adds a layer of complexity to the decision matrix. If the animal is also in a breeding program, it may not be available for other uses. Animals that are needed for breeding and their genetic diversity may not be the optimal choice to include as an Animal

<p>10. Was the animal hand reared? YES/NO</p> <p>11. Does the particular species based on its country of origin or the species' past reproductive success, represent an important conservation message? YES/NO</p> <p>12. Does the species of animal fit in with the intended home area's theme or mission? YES/NO</p> <p>13. Is the species known to be potentially dangerous to humans? YES/NO</p> <p>14. Does (your state) Department of Fish and Wildlife Detrimental Species/Native Species permit need to be amended prior to the acquisition of an animal? YES/NO</p> <p>15. Will special permits be required? YES/NO</p>	<p>Ambassador. While it is possible to use animals in both breeding programs and ambassador programs, it is not ideal. Finding a balance can be difficult.</p> <p>10. This question is included as informational. Circumstantially this may or may not be a benefit.</p> <p>11. If the answer is YES, then this can be a great conservation message.</p> <p>12. Again, this question is probably not critically important, but it can still be an important question to ask and answer.</p> <p>13. Many organizations make the decision that once a potentially dangerous animal reaches a certain age or weight limit, it can no longer be a program animal.</p> <p>14 & 15. The need to apply for a permit is simply another consideration to be aware of when making the acquisition decision. These two questions have to do with labor resources needed for compliance.</p>