



IUCN/SSC
Small Carnivore Specialist Group

30 August 2008

EAZA Executive Office
Attn: Martijn Los
Postbox 20164
1000 HD Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Dear Dr. Los:

I write this letter of endorsement in support of The EAZA European Carnivore Campaign 2008/2009. As you are aware, the annual conservation campaigns organized by EAZA have been highly successful, reaching more than 100 million people throughout Europe. In addition, substantial monetary capital is generated, necessary to ensure the conservation of biodiversity across Europe and beyond.

I am pleased to see that European carnivores will be highlighted during the 2009 campaign. The role that zoos provide in large-scale conservation of carnivores and ecosystems as a whole can not be overstated. It has been said that the future of conservation in Europe, and globally for that matter, is founded on three pillars: legislation, science, and motivation. EAZA zoos have in the past, and I am certain will continue to, serve as ambassadors of nature for millions of people and can effectively aid in maintaining these foundations of conservation.

The collaborative effort demonstrated by this and previous campaigns is truly remarkable. I applaud you for your efforts and look forward to the continued positive benefits resulting from this work.

Sincerely,

Jerrold L. Belant, Chair
IUCN/SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group