

# Internships at AAP, Sanctuary for Exotic Animals.

AAP, Sanctuary for Exotic Animals, is located in Almere, The Netherlands. Exotic mammals (mainly primates, but also raccoons, squirrels and other small mammals) rescued from all over Europe are rehabilitated at our sanctuary and when fully rehabilitated, will be rehomed to high-quality zoos, animal parks or wild reserves.

At the sanctuary, we perform several behavioural studies.

For current studies and internship possibilities, please contact Godelieve Kranendonk ([godelieve.kranendonk@aap.nl](mailto:godelieve.kranendonk@aap.nl) or 036-5238760).

## **Aggression in male Barbary Macaques (*Macaca sylvanus*).**

At AAP, an all-male group of 17 Barbary Macaques is housed. Although aggression is noted to vary from time to time, it is not clear whether the amount of aggression is related to the season changes. Therefore, a study will be performed to determine whether or how aggression is related to season or other factors. This group is planned to be rehomed to France in the early summer of 2010. Part of the observations will be performed in Almere, part in France. Students will be able to use data collected by a student during a previous study on aggression in this group. The student is expected to work independently, communicate well and has good analytical and communication skills. Speaking English and French would be recommended.

**Duration of internship:** at least 6 months.

**Location:** partly Almere, partly France.

## **Abnormal behaviour in ex-laboratory chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*).**

Chimpanzees formerly used for biomedical research at the BPRC (Biomedical Primate Research Center) in Rijswijk were retired to AAP in 2006. Many of these ex-laboratory chimpanzees perform abnormal behaviour, in particular regurgitation & reingestion (R/R). This abnormal behaviour has developed when the chimpanzees were at the laboratory, but this behaviour has not decreased at AAP. The aim of the current study is to determine which abnormal behaviour is performed by the chimpanzees and at which particular moments. In addition, the success of reducing abnormal behaviour in these chimpanzees using different methods will be studied. Exact details of the study will be discussed during a first meeting with an intern, when the student is applicable for the internship. The student should be responsible, have experience in performing behavioural observations, be able to work independently and have good communication and analytical skills.

**Duration of internship:** at least 6 months.

**Location:** Almere

## **Behavioural response to social introduction in raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) and coatis (*Nasua nasua*).**

AAP regularly rescues new animals that need to be introduced to social groups, provided they are a (semi-) social species. Because a social introduction can be accompanied by aggression, it is generally considered a social stressor. Raccoons and coatis seem to perform behaviours similar to the displacement behaviours in other (domesticated) species. However, it is unknown whether indeed these behaviours are expressed as displacement signals in raccoons and coatis. Therefore, the aim of the current study is to determine which behaviours are influenced by social introductions.

**Duration of internship:** at least 6 months.

**Location:** Almere