BVA HOLDING STATEMENT ON CONTROL OF TRADE IN EXOTIC SPECIES (OTHER THAN AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES)

BVA and BVZS have agreed a position statement calling for a ban on the importation of wild caught reptiles and amphibians into the EU for the pet trade.

Before developing an agreed position in relation to the following related issues or extending the proposed import ban to other species, BVA considers further research needs to be carried out:

- Into the welfare implications of in situ farming and wild caught fish and potential use of CITES registration for legitimate businesses with high welfare standards. Since facilities, standards and circumstances can vary
- To investigate the welfare problems associated with imported fish after they have arrived in the UK, in order to reduce mortality
- To acquire more information about the best way to support local economies in developing countries, assess the environmental and economic impact of harvesting animals and ensure supply chains are sustainable

The trade in wild caught fish and exotic species farmed in situ has complex links with local economies. These complex interdependencies need to be examined and if possible, untangled and explained. Therefore BVA and BVZS are calling for research to be carried out into these trades by an independent and reliable source to determine:

- The extent of the trade
- The impact of the trade on wildlife
- The sustainability of the trade
- Whether or not the purported welfare costs are, on balance, acceptable.

Role of holding statement in the development of position statement

At present we consider that there is insufficient evidence to justify including other species in the proposed ban relating to amphibians and reptiles.

However, we will keep this holding statement under review.