

## **RESPONSE OF BVZS TO THE EFRAcom REPORT JUNE 2014**

Overall the BVZS welcomes the conclusions of the EFRA select committee inquiry as a proportionate response to the issue of the private ownership of primates.

For the avoidance of doubt, the BVZS remains of the view that no primate species is suitable to be kept as solitary (singleton) pets as their basic welfare needs cannot possibly be met, due to a fundamental requirement for the company of conspecifics. Nevertheless, the Society recognises that there are individuals in the UK who maintain small privately owned collections of primates that meet the specialised requirements of the species and a ban on these stakeholders would be a disproportionate response.

BVZS fully supports the recommendation that DEFRA establishes an evidence base to determine accurately the numbers of primates currently maintained in captivity in the UK.

BVZS fully supports the recommendation to ensure that the standards for primates kept in captivity in private hands match those required by licensed zoos in the UK.

BVZS fully supports the committee's recommendation that local authorities employ experts on the UK zoo licensing list or Diploma holders in zoo and wildlife medicine to ensure any primates which are currently kept privately are cared for to a level equivalent with accredited zoo standards.

BVZS welcomed the committee's recognition that the Primate Code of practice needs to be species-specific to be effective. This would permit more effective use of existing legislation including the AWA 2006 and the DWA Act 1976(amended 2007) and thereby reduce the requirement for new legislation.

BVZS welcomes the recommendation that the Pet Animals Act 1951 should be reviewed to bring it into the internet age.