



Dedicated To Professional Animal Care



July 15, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The AAZK Board of Directors are pleased to announce Scott Soldat-Valenzuela as the new AAZK Executive Director. With 20 years of non-profit leadership, management, and experience, Scott thoroughly enjoys board development, creating strategic partnerships, finance, member engagement, marketing and overall non-profit association management. While serving several membership associations during his career he, along with dedicated teams and Boards, has been able to expand membership, revenue, partnerships and, most importantly, member value.

During the application and interview process, the Board was impressed not only with Scott's history of non-profit leadership, but also in his ability to recognize several areas of improvement and opportunity for the association. His enthusiasm for and desire to support the work and passion of keepers was evident throughout the process as well. The current Executive Director, Ed Hansen, will be remaining with the association through the end of the year to facilitate the transition before retiring after nearly 30 years serving in his role.

Beginning at the 2022 AAZK National Conference, the AAZK Board of Directors formally began the search for a new Executive Director. The position was advertised on several job boards for animal care professionals and nonprofit leaders. Applications were reviewed by the seated AAZK Board of Directors and several candidates were then virtually interviewed by the Board at the AAZK Midyear Meetings in Omaha. Following the interviews, the Directors reconvened and decided to make the offer to Scott. After further discussions with both the Board and Ed, Scott received and signed an official offer letter and assumed the position full-time on July 1st.