

A GUIDE TO THE ARS CAMELOPANDI

A set of LARP techniques for portraying giraffe sex, for players who do not feel comfortable with actually being giraffes and having sex.

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ABOUT THE *ARS CAMELOPANDI* METHOD

The *Ars camelopandi* method is a way for giraffe characters in LARPs and other role-playing games to participate in courtship, violence, and sex without the players actually being giraffes, hurting each other, or having sex. It is not, in and of itself, a game. Rather, it is a general set of rules that can be used to resolve giraffe courtship and mating in any LARP or similar role-playing game.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide illustrates the techniques of *Ars camelopandi*. These techniques can be used in any LARP and most tabletop games.

Ars camelopandi uses four core techniques, named for different phases of giraffe courtship and mating: ESTRUS DETECTION, NECKING, CONSOLATION and MATING. This guide describes each of these techniques in detail, with illustrations as appropriate. These techniques can be used at any time when circumstances dictate. The techniques do not concern themselves with how these situations develop, or the specific context in which giraffe characters pursue intimacy. In a game, simply use them as they become necessary.

Since there is a strong mechanical distinction between male and female giraffes, it may behoove you to distinguish the players by giving them a particular prop or costume item, such as a hair bow for female giraffes or a mustache for male giraffes. Please note that the gender of the players and the gender of the giraffes are not required to match.

ESTRUS DETECTION

For when male giraffes try to detect fertility in female giraffes

Female giraffes are only infrequently fertile—one or two days out of fifteen. Male giraffes will attempt to detect fertility by tasting the urine of female giraffes, looking for trace amounts of the hormones that indicate estrus. Depending on their opinion of the male giraffe, female giraffes may be forthcoming, coy, or outright reject the male giraffes' desire to taste their urine.

Each player of a female giraffe should obtain a dark or opaque drink of some kind—cola or juice works well, but anything dark liquid will do. Female giraffes who are in estrus should secretly add a few drops of vanilla to their drink.

Players of male giraffes now approach and attempt to drink. Female giraffes can choose whether or not to offer a drink and how to do so. A particular solicitous female giraffe might pour a sip of her drink directly into the mouth of another player, while others might wait for the male giraffe to come to them, wanting to take a drink out of their hand, and some males might be outright rejected. Pushy male giraffes can pursue a female giraffe, but should give up after the third attempt. Ultimately, who tastes her urine is the up to the player of the female giraffe.

Male giraffes should not simply swallow all the fluid. Rather, they should take some time to swish it around in their mouth and get a good sense of the flavor, trying to detect the presence of vanilla, indicating estrus and thus fertility.

If a male giraffe's player thinks that he has detected a female giraffe in estrus via the taste of vanilla, he should stand by her to try to guard her from rival male giraffes. Place your head (or a hand) on her upper arm to indicate this.

NECKING

For when male giraffes violently compete for access to a fertile female giraffe

Competition for fertile female giraffes is fierce. Once a fertile female giraffe has been discovered, male giraffes will engage in a form of ritualized combat—necking—to try to show off their fitness and virility. Any male giraffe can challenge another male giraffe that is guarding a fertile female giraffe. To begin with, male giraffes both stand facing the same direction, and gently intertwine their necks several times. Then, combat begins, with them whipping their heads around like maces try to strike the other's body, neck, or back of the head.

Players of male giraffes in competition for female giraffes should stand next to each other and take hold of each other's fingers (see image), leaving their thumbs pointed up. They should then gently roll their thumbs around each other at least three times before using them to strike each other's hands, thumbs, and wrists, as well as trying to block and dodge each other's strikes. The entire time, they should keep their hands together and their fingers intertwined. Continue this until there is a clear winner or until you're both done. Meanwhile, the female giraffes should watch this and attempt to assess which of the competitors would be a strong mate.



Optionally, you may wear a giraffe finger puppet on your thumb to increase your fitness.

above: initiating necking

left: necking in progress

CONSOLATION

In which male giraffes, having fought, have make-up sex

While a necessary part of giraffe courtship, NECKING has the potential to drive social rifts between male giraffes. Thus, after necking, they will almost always pursue what is euphemistically described as consolation. More specifically, they have sex. They stroke, nibble, kiss, and mount each other in a display of homosexual affection.

Players of male giraffes, having completed their NECKING, should use their thumbs to stroke and caress the other. Unlike during NECKING, you can feel free to unlock your fingers let your hands move around the other players hands as well, including moving your thumb behind the other players' for mounting. Feel free to make giraffe sex noises, or not.

It is important to note that, during CONSOLATION, there is not a distinction between the winners and losers of the necking contest. It is not a display of dominance nor, despite the name, is it specifically sexual release for the losing giraffe who will likely not be able to copulate with a female. Rather, it is an expression of affection and sexual desire by both parties.

It is also worth establishing that, unlike human sex which takes quite a while, giraffe sex is fairly brief, particularly after mounting. There is no reason to mount for more than a few seconds.

While the male giraffes are enjoying CONSOLATION, the female giraffes can watch and the judge fitness of the male giraffes.



right: mounting

MATING

In which a victorious male giraffe may or may not have sex with a fertile female giraffe

After consolation, the male giraffe who was victorious in necking may approach the fertile female and attempt to mate with her. The female giraffe may accept his advances, or may reject them by stepping away and leaving him sprawling after an attempt to mount.

The player of the victorious male giraffe may approach the player of a fertile female giraffe and attempt press his hand against hers and intertwine their fingers. The female giraffe may accept this by gripping his fingers with hers and portraying the sexual act similar to CONSOLATION. She can also reject his advances by pulling her hand away, leaving him off balance. He may pursue her, but she can reject his advances the same at any time, and he must eventually give up.

If the male giraffe successfully mounts the female giraffe, she will likely be impregnated.

APPENDIX ONE

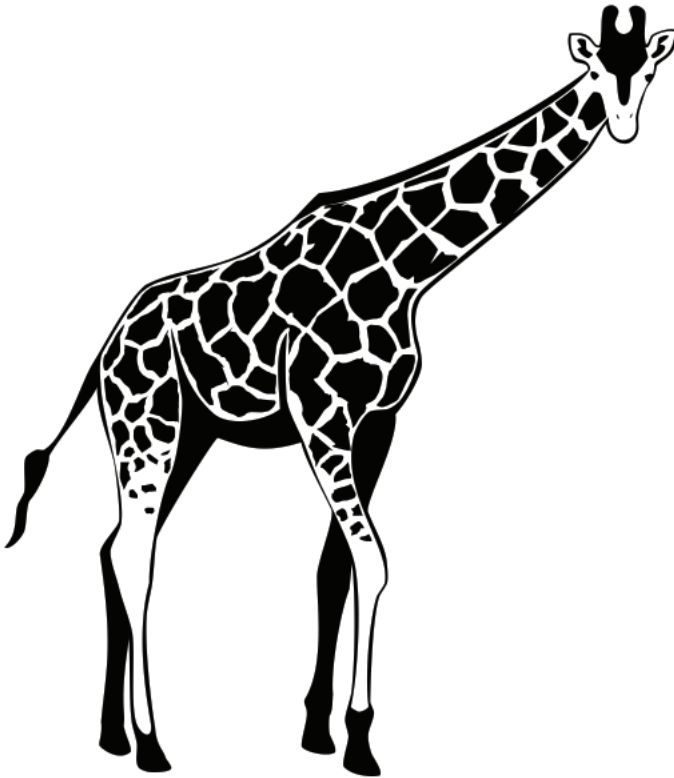
Lesbian Giraffes

Among giraffes, female homosexuality is much rarer than male homosexuality, but it does occur. Lesbian giraffes may enact “Consolation” with other willing female giraffes at any time, without “Necking” as a prerequisite.

APPENDIX TWO

Non-binary Giraffes

Non-binary Giraffes may participate in any part of the process at any time as any gender of giraffe, as their player sees fit.



for jake and emily, who asked for it

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giraffe icon created by christy presler from the noun project

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my deepest apologies to eliot weislander

warning: this text makes no promises as to biological accuracy

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