

"Dedicated to helping you care
for animals and for yourself"



Zoo Animal Welfare and Care for Veterinary Professionals Online Course



Available now!

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Launched online on 6 August 2020!



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Course description

We have an ethical responsibility to promote optimal welfare for animals housed in zoos and aquariums. This course provides the essentials of current animal welfare science and best practices relevant to zoos with emphasis on veterinary care. Practical examples, case studies, and best practices will be discussed. This course is aimed at veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses/technicians and students working within or with an interest in this field.

Learning outcomes:

After this course you will be able to:

- Define animal welfare and care
- Describe the holistic approach to animal welfare
- Recognise the importance of ethics
- Understand the approach to preventative health care
- Identify concerns and challenges affecting the welfare of the animal
- Identify opportunities for promoting positive animal welfare
- Describe animal welfare assessment methods
- Recognise the importance of meaningful record keeping
- Understand the differences between input resources and outcome (animal-based) parameters
- Recognise the importance of applied science
- Understand the importance of assessing and managing ageing animals
- Appreciate the challenges around euthanasia and how to overcome them
- Recognise the need for human wellbeing in conjunction with animal care

Time/CPD hours: 20 (13 taught & 7 reading/contributing to discussions)

Price: Euro 398,00 (~~499,00~~) Price plans are available [here](#).



Online Course



Topics covered Part 2 (of 2)



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"BONDING BETWEEN ZOO PROFESSIONALS AND THEIR ANIMALS COULD HAVE PROFOUND CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND WELFARE OF THE ANIMALS, NOT TO MENTION THE JOB SATISFACTION OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED".

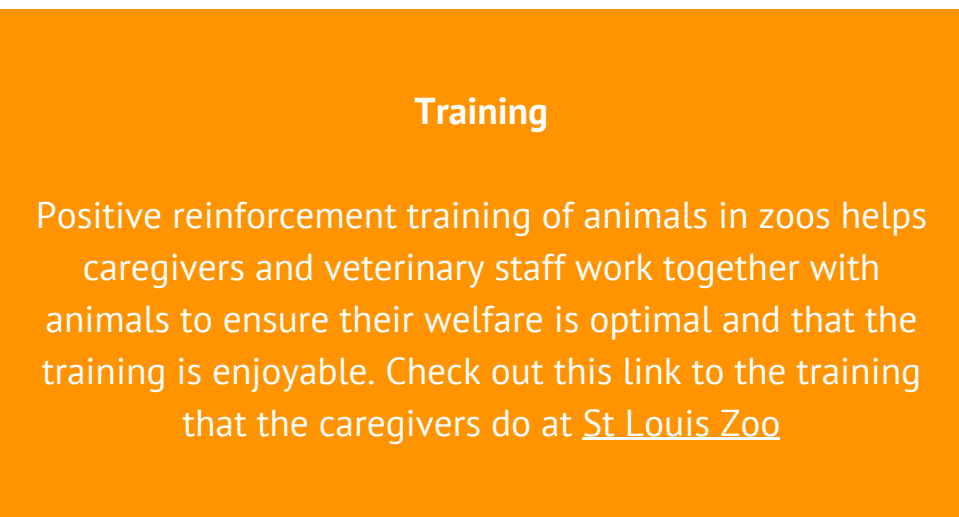
Human-animal connection

"SOME HUMAN-ANIMAL RELATIONSHIPS CAN BE SO POSITIVE THAT THEY CONFER EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING TO BOTH PARTNERS AND CAN THUS BE VIEWED AS BONDS."



Human-animal connection

"Perceived benefits of these human-animal bonds included both operational (animal easier to handle, easier to administer treatments to) and affective (sense of well-being, enjoyment at being with the animal). Identifying benefits to the animals was more difficult." (Hosey and Melfi, 2010).



Training

Positive reinforcement training of animals in zoos helps caregivers and veterinary staff work together with animals to ensure their welfare is optimal and that the training is enjoyable. Check out this link to the training that the caregivers do at [St Louis Zoo](#)



TRAINING PROVIDES ZOO PROFESSIONALS WITH A TOOL BY WHICH THEY CAN EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE WITH THEIR ANIMALS IN A POSITIVE WAY.

THIS CAN HELP MONITOR WELFARE, CREATE BONDS, AND PROVIDE CHOICE AND CONTROL FOR ANIMALS.

Animal Training

GOOD TRAINING PROGRAMS CONSIDER ANIMAL LEARNING FROM A BROAD PERSPECTIVE & IS INTEGRATED THROUGHOUT MANY OF THE CARE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING ENRICHMENT.



THE TRAINING OF ANIMALS IN ZOOS FOR CARE AND MANAGEMENT PURPOSES CAN INCLUDE WEIGHING AND CLOSE OBSERVATIONS OF ANIMALS THROUGH VOLUNTARY COLLABORATION.

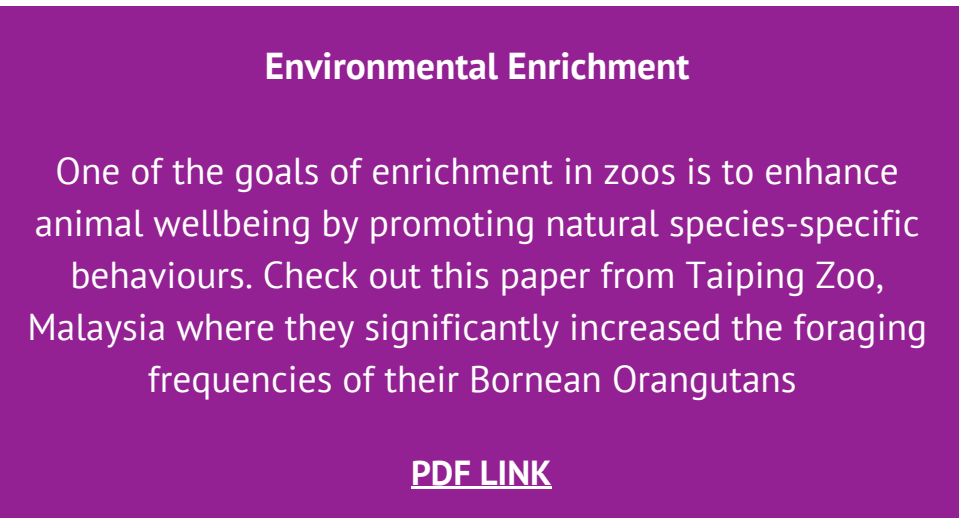
Positive reinforcement training

TRAINING IS A VITAL TOOL AND WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PREVENTATIVE WELLBEING PROGRAMMES, AS WELL AS MAKING CARE MORE ENJOYABLE FOR ALL PARTIES!



Preventative Health: Positive Reinforcement Training

Weighing animals regularly through training allows close monitoring of growth, pregnancy, clinical cases and ageing animals. Medication can also be given at an accurate dose. Being able to closely observe or examine an animal safely and without the need for anaesthesia is a real advantage and allows the veterinary team to work closely with caregivers and the animals.



Environmental Enrichment

One of the goals of enrichment in zoos is to enhance animal wellbeing by promoting natural species-specific behaviours. Check out this paper from Taiping Zoo, Malaysia where they significantly increased the foraging frequencies of their Bornean Orangutans

[PDF LINK](#)



ENRICHMENT CAN BE USED TO ENHANCE AND MAINTAIN THE FITNESS OF ZOO ANIMALS THROUGH REPLICATING NATURAL BEHAVIOURS SUCH AS CHASING AND RUNNING.

Environmental Enrichment

USING ENRICHMENT TO PROMOTE GENERAL FITNESS AND PROVIDE MENTAL STIMULATION IS PART OF PREVENTATIVE WELLBEING PROGRAMMES IN ZOOS.





WHAT ARE THE ASPECTS THAT TIGERS ENJOY IN THEIR HABITAT?

HOW DO WE MAKE SURE IT IS SAFE & CHALLENGING?

WHAT CAN WE BUILD FOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY?

Habitat design and management

DESIGNING FLEXIBLE AND COMPLEX ENVIRONMENT WHICH OFFER CHOICES AND CONTROL, FOR FRONT AND BACK OF HOUSE, AREAS 24/7 IS KEY TO OPTIMAL ANIMAL WELFARE



#InternationalTigerDay2020

It is International Tiger Day! Therefore today a little more focused on questions related to tigers! ☐☐

Do you work with tigers? Please post photos of your animals and the things they enjoy!

Nutrition

This paper by Cabana, Jasmi and Marguire 2017 highlights the importance of correct feeding in zoo animals using Great Apes as an example of their need to have low-sugar and high-fibre diets to increase natural behaviours, decrease regurgitation and regurgitation and reverse prediabetes

[PDF LINK](#)



IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ZOO DIETS ARE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE NATURAL FEEDING BEHAVIOURS AND THAT THEY ARE NUTRITIONALLY BALANCED.

Nutrition in zoos

CAREGIVERS AND VET STAFF WORK TOGETHER IN ZOOS TO CREATE A GOOD NUTRITION PROGRAMME WHICH IS REGULARLY REVIEWED.



RECORD KEEPING IN ZOOS INVOLVES DAILY ANIMAL (BEHAVIOUR, FEEDING ETC.) AND HABITAT RECORDS, CLINICAL AND PATHOLOGY DATA, ANIMAL TRANSFER INFORMATION AND MUCH MORE!

Record Keeping

RECORDS KEPT IN ZOOS MUST BE MEANINGFUL, CONSISTENT AND EASILY REVIEWED.




Record keeping

Follow this link to read about an example of how Como Zoo used ZIMS for Care and Welfare to help monitor Lara one of their emperor tamarins

<https://www.species360.org/2019/09/care-and-welfare-how-como-zoo-used-zims-for-care-and-welfare-to-help-save-an-emperor-tamarin-named-lara/>.

Ageing animals



Zoo animals can be challenging from a clinical perspective as they often hide symptoms of disease until the disease process has progressed significantly. Proactive health assessment of ageing animals can help find clinical conditions which may not be apparent prior to examination. Welfare can be improved as painful conditions, such as osteoarthritis, spondylosis and dental disease, can be diagnosed, treated and managed appropriately. As animals age they may also experience changes in cognitive capacities, sensory systems, and feelings of confidence and social support, hence the need for holistic approaches to animal care and welfare programs.



A PROACTIVE HOLISTIC APPROACH TO THE CARE OF AGEING ANIMALS IS RECOMMENDED AS THEY CAN HIDE SIGNS OF DISEASE UNTIL THEY HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY PROGRESSED.

Ageing animal care

LIKE OTHER ANIMALS, AGEING ZOO ANIMALS CAN POTENTIALLY HAVE CONDITIONS SUCH AS OSTEOARTHRITIS, SPONDYLOSIS AND DENTAL DISEASE, AS WELL AS LOSS OF COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS





EUTHANASIA IS AN EMOTIVE TOPIC AS WE CARE FOR ANIMALS, WITH ADDED CHALLENGES THAT DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, CULTURES, AND STANCES HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS, AND WITH VARYING LAWS DEPENDENT ON COUNTRY.

Euthanasia

DECISION-TREES ON QUALITY OF LIFE RELATED TOPICS CAN AID IN HELPING US MAKE DECISIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST FOR THE ANIMAL. RITUALS CAN HELP US SAY GOODBYE & REMEMBER THEM WITH FONDNESS.



Euthanasia

Follmi et al (2007) created a scoring system to evaluate physical condition and quality of life in ageing zoo mammals to aid in the euthanasia decision making process. Check out the full paper here

[PDF LINK](#)

24/7 Approach

You know the 24/7 animal welfare approach, & what do you know about the animals you care for in the time you are not around? ☐☐ 😊 What influence has language on your thinking? When I say bedroom - you think 'sleep' When I say toy - you think 'play' What do we know, what have we got data for? Have you spent evenings/nights at the zoo watching animals? Tell us what that experience was, what surprised you? 😊



WHAT DOES YOUR ANIMAL DO WHEN YOU LEAVE FOR THE DAY?

ARE THEY SLEEPING OR IS THE WORD 'BEDROOM' DECEIVING US?

24/7 Approach

THE 24/7 APPROACH TO WELFARE ACROSS LIFESPAN INCLUDES ATTENTION TO 2/3 OF THE DAY WHEN WE ARE NOT AT THE FACILITY TO CARE FOR THE ANIMALS & WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FACILITATE CHOICE & CONTROL.



A HEART THAT ALWAYS UNDERSTANDS ALSO GET TIRED.

THERE ARE JOYS AND SORROWS FOR THOSE WORKING IN CARING PROFESSIONS.

Human Wellbeing

BEING COMPASSION AWARE WILL SUPPORT YOUR COMMITMENT AND DESIRE TO SERVING ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH HEALTHY BOUNDARIES, AND WITH RESILIENCE AND INTEGRITY.



Human Wellbeing

When you ask animal care professionals about the animals they care for, a BIG smile lights up their face, or sometimes a worried and sad expression can be seen. Caring for animals brings many joys and positive experiences, but can also leave someone emotionally drained or numb by negative experiences. "How are you? Most of the time I am well, and caring for myself is about establishing healthy boundaries and small steps everyday. How about you?" - Sabrina Brando

We look forward to seeing you on PAWS!



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Your Instructors

Dr. Sarah Chapman

&

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[Click Contact Us](#)

**For more information & to
be added to the mailing
list for this course**