



Perth Zoo
Animal Welfare Charter



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Perth Zoo is committed to the highest standards of animal welfare and husbandry for the species in our care. We manage a diverse array of species that align with our conservation partnerships, education messages and involvement in state, national and global programs.

The Perth Zoo Strategic Plan acknowledges the primary role of animal welfare in the management of the Zoo's conservation programs as follows -

We are committed to:

Excellent Animal Care: world leading standards for animals in our care.

Our programs reflect our goals:

Wildlife Medicine and Research, including animal welfare and husbandry.

Our strategies are key to being a world class zoo:

Ensure the highest possible standards of regional and global species management plans, animal welfare standards and species conservation.



Operating environment

Perth Zoo is a world class zoo and is proud to be a member of the World Zoo and Aquarium Association and the Australasian Zoo and Aquarium Association. As a member of these associations we commit to operating to a code of practice that ensures the responsible stewardship of the species in our care and that we comply with our legislative obligations to animal welfare.

As a Western Australian public sector agency, Perth Zoo is the statutory zoo for the State and operates in accordance with the Zoological Parks Authority Act 2001 and the Animal Welfare Act 2002. Classed as a scientific establishment, Perth Zoo is required to abide by the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 2013 (8th edition). In order to meet these obligations we operate under the framework and guidance of an Animal Ethics Committee that is responsible to the Zoological Parks Authority Board.

Perth Zoo is committed to continually building knowledge and learning of animal welfare and ensuring positive animal welfare outcomes continue to be advanced. This commitment is expressed through compliance with the Zoo and Aquarium Association's Code of Practice and specifically the prescribed Association Animal Management Guidelines upon which Perth Zoo is accredited. The Zoo and Aquarium Association's accreditation program embraces contemporary knowledge about animal welfare and focuses on positive welfare outcomes for all animals.





The Perth Zoo charter

Perth Zoo supports the Zoo and Aquarium Association's adoption of the Five Domains model as a contemporary welfare framework for animal welfare assessment that can be applied across taxonomic groups. When measured collectively, the Five Domains (nutrition, behaviour, environment, health and mental state) provide the opportunity to quantify the physical and psychological state of any species.

Perth Zoo's Animal Welfare Charter demonstrates our commitment to providing for the nutritional, environmental, behavioural and physical health of all the species in our care to enable the outcome of a positive mental state and overall positive welfare for our zoo animals.



Our commitment to the animals in our care

We will provide species-appropriate nutrition and drinking water, and ensure that:

- diets provided take into account the varying stages of an animal's life cycle and behavioural needs;
- animals are presented with variation and choice in their diet as appropriate;
- diets are presented in a manner that maximise the opportunities for a species to undertake natural feeding behaviours throughout the day;
- regular evaluation of dietary requirements is undertaken in consultation with veterinarians;
- the quality of food and water are maintained at the highest standard during both storage and presentation.



We will provide the opportunity for species specific behaviours by:

- housing animals in species appropriate social groupings, taking into consideration the individual history of each animal;
- allowing opportunity for behaviours that preserve natural social skills and physical fitness;
- allowing opportunity for behaviours that enable social interactions that are species appropriate;
- ensuring staff have access to the training and resources required to equip them with the knowledge and history of the species and individual animals with which they work;
- ensuring accurate and detailed records of species are maintained to enable well informed individual and group management decisions.



We will provide species specific environmental conditions that:

- cater to the physical and behavioural enrichment needs of each animal;
- are designed to enable choice and opportunity for individual and social groupings to express species appropriate behaviour;
- are able to be readily serviced and replenished on a regular basis to enable good physical and environmental health;
- ensure safe and secure containment that complies with all legislative requirements and prioritises safety;
- maximises the use of the available space for the benefit of animals at the Zoo;
- enable context and opportunity for visitors to learn and be amazed by the animals and species they are viewing.



We will provide proactive health care by:

- ensuring that the health and well-being of all animals are the subject of regular monitoring by professional staff and accurate recording of all events is undertaken;
- ensuring a comprehensive health care program for all animals is coordinated by onsite veterinarians, based on a well-managed preventative medicine program, and with the capacity to respond effectively to unanticipated health and disease issues as they arise;
- providing outcome-based conditioning that includes programs to facilitate the delivery of health care;
- ensuring that decisions regarding euthanasia are based on providing the best welfare outcome for an animal.

