



ANIMAL HUSBANDRY LEARNING PROGRAMME

Engaging and practical learning modules that explore how to optimise animal welfare for captive wild animals

**HELP ALL ANIMALS THRIVE IN
CAPTIVITY**

ABOUT & BACKGROUND



Welcome to the Wild Welfare Animal Husbandry E-learning Programme. This programme is designed to act as an introduction to animal care and best husbandry practice for captive wild animals, and to enable upskilling of animal care staff. The programme has been designed to help support understanding in animal welfare and encourage practices that provide a good standard of care.

This learning programme provides simple, easy to use modular learning, with questions for you to consider throughout, as well as ideas for practical activities to carry out.

Each learning module is accompanied by a complimentary interactive module to support further learning. The programme is aligned to known best practice operational standards that help deliver high standards of animal welfare.

Accessible training in animal welfare fundamentals for animal care staff is vital. Understanding what a good standard of welfare means to an animal and giving evidence of this is important. Understanding helps encourage interest, engagement and practical change where it is needed. Applying welfare and husbandry concepts and species knowledge to daily keeping activities, enclosure design, infrastructure or nutrition, can make a huge difference to an animal's well-being.

This programme focuses on teaching how to improve animal welfare standards through husbandry practices that meet the physiological, behavioural and psychological needs of an animal. The programme does not try to attain any particular professional or country specific operational standard, and can be used globally. It does provide clear, simple and practical animal husbandry concepts and how they can be applied within a captive environment to optimise animal welfare.

Where relevant we recommend that this learning programme is always used alongside institutional operational standards, collaborative support with training partners and the enforcement of country zoo-specific animal welfare legislation.

This programme is based on Wild Welfare's 'Fundamentals in Animal Welfare' which itself takes the Five Domains of Potential Welfare Compromise as its guidance. Our goal is to provide motivational, highly participatory and relevant content on the subject of animal care.



EMBEDDING COMPASSIONATE VALUES FOR LEARNING

The content is full of simple and relevant information based on scientific evidence and knowledge of best practice. It encourages participants to explore the connections between themselves and the animals they look after and understand where there are similarities in how we feel and why.

The course is designed to give the learner confidence in their understanding on animal welfare concepts and their practical application, while creating opportunities to test that knowledge. It provides context-related programmes to ensure that the skills learnt are applicable in the field and possibly useful in the wider context.

The programme also encourages critical thinking, helping participants to assess what is in front of them and work towards change through compassionate understanding.

Compassionate values are important when caring for animals. Compassion means understanding perspectives or situations when they are different from your own. Connecting and emphasising helps us understand how others, including animals are feeling so we can respond appropriately to the situation.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are more similarities between animals and humans than you might think. Animals have a hand preference just like we do (or a side preference if they don't have hands).

They can have similar emotional responses and they also get a lot of the same diseases as we do, such as diabetes, cancer and epilepsy.



RELATE

Our programme content is relatable - understanding animal welfare and behaviour from the perspective of your own needs and giving real life examples for relevance and to encourage critical assessments



QUANTIFY

We provide information on how to quantify a welfare concern, assess its potential impact and determine how it can be managed.



MEASURE

A measurable example of how to assess animal welfare encourages understanding and relevance. We provide information on simple welfare assessments and how to use them.

APPLY

Our programme encourages participants to apply the knowledge they have learned through the use of scenario-based activities. The course uses examples to show learners how making simple changes can make large differences to an animal's well-being.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM THIS LEARNING PROGRAMME?

- It will provide relevant, relatable and accessible animal husbandry and management information.
- It will help encourage an interest and understanding in animal welfare concepts for a wide range of species.
- It will help support confidence in practical animal management for a wide range of species.
- It will help support the development of implementing changes in animal management practices that support good animal welfare.
- It will help encourage further learning after completion of the course.
- It will inspire changes with plenty of photographic and video examples to learn from.

LEARNING OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

- Learn about animal needs and animal care in respect to animal welfare,
- Understand the significance of a carer's role and their impact on individual animal welfare.
- Develop skills to encourage changes towards good husbandry and management practices which will improve animal welfare.
- Have the knowledge to take independent initiative to improve captive animal welfare and start setting institutional standards.

ON COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAMME YOU WILL:

- Have learned about animal needs with respect to their welfare.
- Understand the significance of your role in animal care.
- Have developed skills to make changes to husbandry and management practices which will improve animal welfare.
- Have acquired the knowledge to take independent initiative on a day-to-day basis to enhance the health and welfare of the animals within your care.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is no one else that will know the animals in your care as well as you do. You can use that knowledge of their preferences and personalities to ensure they have a good standard of welfare throughout their lives. Your quality of work is their quality of life.



HOW DOES THIS LEARNING PROGRAMME WORK?



We have designed engaging modules that are aimed to support long-term change in attitude, approach and action. Each module is in two parts. The learning aspect of the module will give you essential information whilst the interactive aspect will test your knowledge and have further examples of what you will have learned.

The way in which animals are treated often depends on your views towards them. Varying cultural, societal and personal beliefs can lead to both positive and negative attitudes, which in turn impacts the effort and management practices you might use to care for animals. Understanding all aspects of animal welfare can motivate you to change your behaviours and practices in a way which will benefit the animals themselves. Simple, relatable content can support your future application of the knowledge you will gain.

Our approach in this learning programme is to provide content that encourages critical thinking on relatable practices when caring for captive wild animals.

Through this, participants themselves can identify the challenges and solutions to potential animal welfare issues. This is a useful skill when addressing the many practical problems related to captive animal management.

WHAT DO WE ENCOURAGE?

- The learning of animal welfare principles through engaged practices to ensure lifelong knowledge and understanding.
- Utilisation of existing skills and enthusiasm.
- Open mindedness to new ideas, concepts and practices.
- Motivation to apply lessons learnt and utilisation of suggested activities.
- Empathy and compassion to develop life-long motivation, skills and interest in animal welfare as a whole and the desire to pass that knowledge on to others.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Modules are based on key learning outcomes that contribute towards advancing the participant's knowledge in captive animal welfare. Each learning module will include:

AIMS – What participants will learn from the module and its relation to husbandry training within their institution.

OBJECTIVES – Specific objectives that will support the participant's understanding in animal welfare and husbandry.

REASONING – Why the module outline is important for participants to gain appropriate understanding of animal welfare and husbandry concepts.

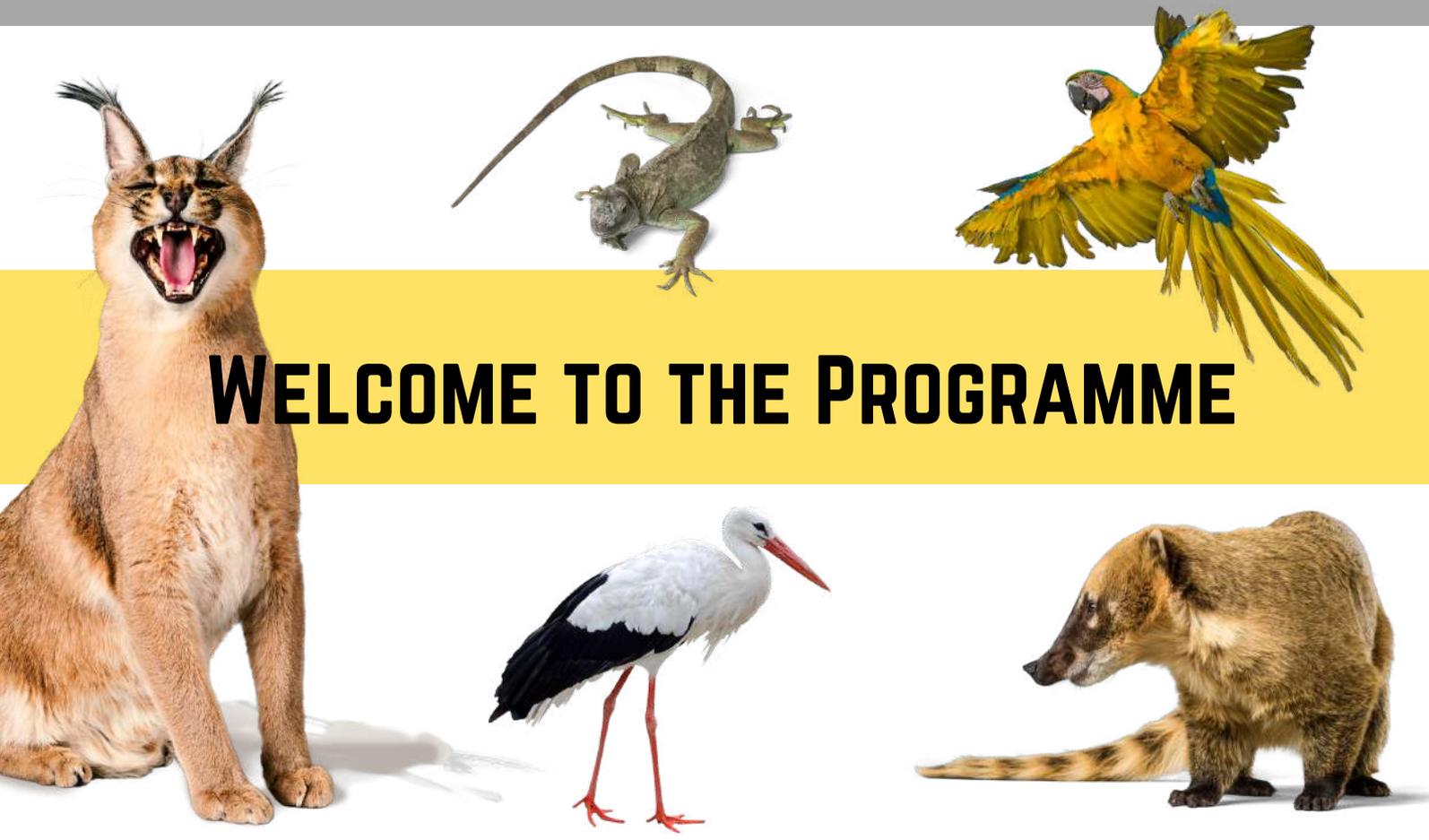
CONTENT – Main module information covering the aims and objectives.

QUESTIONS – Simple questions to consider throughout the learning module to critical thinking and engagement.

ACTIVITIES – Practical activities that can be applied in a facility to encourage further learning.

INTERACTIVE E-LEARNING MODULES

Each learning module has a complimentary interactive online course. This has been designed to help test knowledge and ensure retention. There are various interactive activities to take part in within each module, as well as video examples to watch and photographic examples to learn from. These modules have been designed to be engaging and inspiring to encourage the learner to take away ideas that they can trial within their own facilities.



MODULE OUTLINE



ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The role zoos play in animal welfare, education and conservation.

ANIMAL WELFARE CONCEPTS

Understanding the principles of animal welfare.

BEHAVIOUR AND ENRICHMENT

Specifics in captive animal husbandry and welfare practice related to animal behaviour.

ENVIRONMENT AND HUSBANDRY

Enclosure design, management and maintenance for captive animal welfare.

NUTRITION & FEEDING

Captive animal feeding practices to promote good animal welfare.

ANIMAL HEALTH CARE

Specifics in captive animal husbandry and welfare practice related to animal health.

RECORDS, PLANNING AND PROTOCOLS.

Animal Management and record keeping to promote good animal welfare.