Online learning modules that explore how to optimise animal welfare for captive wild animals

HELP ALL ANIMALS THRIVE IN CAPTIVITY
Understanding what a good standard of animal welfare means is important, alongside species knowledge and management techniques. This information can be applied to daily care activities, enclosure design, nutrition, and behavioural observations, which can make a huge difference to an animal's well-being.

This programme focuses on how to improve animal welfare standards through husbandry practices that meet the physiological, behavioural and psychological needs of an animal. The programme does not provide a professional qualification but will introduce you to the basic concepts behind ensuring all the animals you care for can experience a good level of care and welfare. All information presented aligns to known best practice at the time of publication.

Where relevant we recommend that this learning programme is always used alongside institutional operational standards, association standards, collaborative support with training partners and the enforcement of country or regional 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 which can be applied to practical animal management practices in order to improve welfare standards.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM THIS LEARNING PROGRAMME?

- It will provide relevant, relatable and accessible animal husbandry and management information 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 give plenty of photographic and video examples to learn from.
- It will enable continued personal and professional development.

LEARNING OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

- Apply your knowledge of animal needs and animal care to enhance animal welfare.
- Perform your role as an animal carer with an increased understanding of the significance of the impact you have on individual animal welfare.
- Apply your enhanced knowledge to improve animal husbandry and management practices, and improve animal welfare.
- Review and improve captive animal welfare and work towards 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.
We have designed engaging modules that aim to support long-term change in animal management attitude, approach and action. There are eight modules and 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 learnt.

Firstly, select a module, read through the learning content and then test yourself with the questions and activities at the end. Once completed, challenge yourself with the interactive online quiz activities, which complement what you have already learned. Finally, take that knowledge and use it to improve the welfare standards that the animals you care for experience.

After completion of the programme, you should be able to 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.

Throughout the programme, the terms "animal care staff" will be used to describe any zookeeper or staff member that works directly with animals. The terms "zoo, collection, institution, facility and aquarium" all encompass set-ups which involve animals and their care.

How does this learning programme work?

Examples of the learning document (below) and the interactive quiz activities (right).
PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Modules are based on key learning outcomes. Each learning module will include:

**AIMS** – What the module aims to cover in terms of topics and specific subjects relating to animal husbandry and welfare.

**OBJECTIVES** – Specific objectives that will be achieved through completing this programme.

**REASONING** – Why the module outline is important for you 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 for critical thinking and engagement.

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

**GLOSSARY** – Terms which may require addition definitions will be underlined within the text and will link directly to a glossary.

**INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES**

Each learning module has a complementary interactive quiz. 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 with ideas and information that you can trial within your own facilities.
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