

# PARTNER FOR ANIMALS







## About Wild Welfare

Wild Welfare is a global organisation committed to improving animal welfare for captive wild animals. By working together with animal welfare organisations and captive wildlife facilities, including zoos, aquariums and sanctuaries, we achieve long-term and sustainable solutions to the most critical issues facing wild animals in captivity.

**Our mission** is to end the suffering of captive wild animals around the world, by uniting the world's leading animal welfare organisations and captive wildlife facilities in providing expert, practical and sustainable solutions to improve animal welfare.

**Our vision** is a world where every captive wild animal is able to thrive and live a life worth living

# WHAT IS PARTNER FOR ANIMALS?

Wild Welfare recognises that zoos, aquariums and sanctuaries can play an integral role in all our lives, with the power to shape the way we feel and care for animals, while influencing change in attitudes and action towards the protection of our planet's biodiversity.

This programme will enhance global networks & relationships that will raise captive wild animal welfare standards around the world. Partnering facilities will strengthen the skills, competencies & abilities of people & communities, creating unique & practical relationships that transverse cultural & language barriers, supporting active partnerships that encourage immediate & long-term welfare improvements. It will offer unique learning experiences within a supportive environment, fostering attitude & behaviour change towards animals under human care.

Captive animal facilities which are striving to improve animal welfare will gain from partnering with nationally accredited institutions within a regional association framework. They will receive a variety of support, including but not limited to staff training in animal welfare and behaviour assessments, enrichment and enclosure design support, nutrition, and animal-keeper interactions. All of which will assist with the management of the animals in their care and improve animal welfare.



The Partner for Animals programme is uniquely placed and has been designed to help build these partnerships. By linking captive animal facilities and building an open and honest relationship between all parties, we can develop positive dialogue and comprehensive strategies that will create both practical and sustainable solutions to animal care and management.



# WILD WELFARE'S ROLE

- Wild Welfare has the local knowledge and relationships to allow the partnerships to develop.
- We recognise and work with cultural differences and practices, meaning we are in a perfect position to cultivate a positive, healthy partnership between different organisations.
- By nurturing relationships, we believe this leads to a long-term, pro-active partnership built on respect and trust.
- We can assist all parties with communication, produce strategic plans and help evaluate each partnership's progress.
- Wild Welfare has a proven track record of successfully improving animal welfare and expertise in facilitating sustainable animal care practices.





# WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THE PARTNERS

To instigate long-term captive animal welfare improvements, we ask for all parties in the partnership to be fully invested in the programme and commit the time and resources needed over the agreed time frame of the partnership. Although there may need to be a financial commitment from one or more of the parties, we would like to focus on the commitment of staff time, training and resources.

We also ask for positive buy in from all staff at every level for the partnership to be a success. All activities and management decisions to improve animal welfare must be evidence-based and appropriate staff training needs to be given to effectively continue the practices and procedures. We encourage all partners to embrace **Wild Welfare's philosophy and values** that underpin our approach to our work.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Who are the partners in the programme?**

Wild Welfare will act as the main facilitator in the partnership, linking the facilities\* and organisations relevant to each partnership and offering expert advice when needed. The supporting institution/s are the facilities which already meet regional, national and/or association animal welfare standards. The host institution/s are facilities which are requiring support to meet recognised and agreed animal welfare standards.

*\*Facility or institution refers to any organisation or person keeping animals in a captive environment (zoo, aquarium or sanctuary).*

## **What support can Wild Welfare provide?**

Wild Welfare can provide anything from detailed support – including all facilitation, communication and on the ground practical support – to background support, where we take a secondary role depending on the support and host facility needs. We have local NGO and zoo partners around the world and can link up support facilities with these partners as and where needed.

## **What animal welfare principles are we aiming to promote?**

Wild Welfare promotes the principles within its Core Fundamental Standard of Practice for Captive Wild Animals document and follows recognised global standards in animal care. For example, the WAZA welfare strategy, EAZA, AZA specific species guidelines and policy advice. Where relevant the promotion of national regulations pertaining to zoo licensing or care of captive wild animals must be considered. Support facilities can also offer their own institutional guidelines for training and capacity building purposes.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How do we know which welfare issues to address in a facility?**

Wild Welfare will often carry out a welfare audit of a facility in advance of a partnership being set up. This will provide guidance on the short and long-term welfare objectives. If a previous welfare audit has not been made, we recommend the support facility carries out their own assessment. These assessments are always carried out with the permission of the host institution. It is then discussed with all partners how to address the results of the welfare audit.

## **How do we mitigate against any risks involved in joining a partnership?**

We recommend that all parties involved agree to terms the terms of a partnership via an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU should include liability terms for both human and animal safety, the key staff involved, the general scope of the partnership, financial responsibilities, marketing and social media activities and the duration of the partnership.

## **Can a facility just be funded instead of providing practical support?**

We do not recommend simply funding a facility. While it can be the easiest approach for both facilities involved, it often has limited success unless the facility is committed to combining it with tangible changes and/or they have demonstrated previous commitment to change. We would suggest funding can be offered on a phased approach, once the facility has demonstrated some improvements.

*NB: supporting them joining Species 360 should be exempt from this guideline.*

## **Can all parties publicise the work being done?**

Publication of this work is encouraged, but should be included, where relevant, in the MoU, to ensure both parties agree about what is to be publicised and when. Wild Welfare requests they are acknowledged within all work that is published.





# FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Simon Marsh**  
**Director**

**Email:** [simon@wildwelfare.org](mailto:simon@wildwelfare.org)

**Website:** [www.wildwelfare.org](http://www.wildwelfare.org)



**Registered Charity Number 1165941**

**Copyright 2022 Wild Welfare**