

Sydney Zoo: Animal Welfare Policy

The following animal welfare policy is a draft statement of principles. It will be refined over time as Sydney Zoo procures its animals and works with our animal welfare partners to develop specific procedures and processes for each species and enclosure

Sydney Zoo accepts the agreed international definition of animal welfare from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE):

Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

As an educational and conservation oriented business with responsibility for the care of animals, Sydney Zoo will ensure that at all times the needs, interests and welfare of our animals is our primary consideration. Sydney Zoo believes that good animal welfare is essential to providing visitors with a rewarding and fun experience, and hence is essential for the long-term viability of our business.

Sydney Zoo's commitment to animal welfare is to provide respect and the best care for our animals and strive to be advocate and an authority on animal welfare.

Sydney Zoo is committed to the health safety and well-being of the animals. Sydney Zoo will understand and consider each animal's behavioural and physiological needs to design habitats that reproduce the animal's natural environment.

Sydney Zoo will ensure that our animals have ample space, and shelter by providing habitats that meet or exceed legislative requirements, and:

1. are secure;
2. are safe and shelters them from the weather;
3. minimise exposure to fear and distress,
4. allow each animal an opportunity to escape aggression from compatriots;
5. provide an enriched environment to allow for environmental stimuli and fulfilment;
6. are checked daily, and are clean and hygienic;

To ensure our animals have appropriate nutrition and drinking water, Sydney Zoo will:

1. provide food and water of the highest quality and hygiene standards, with special attention to individual needs and circumstances;



2. Provide diets for each animal that are developed and maintained under the supervision of a veterinarian and based upon the expected diets in the wild;
3. provide food and water in ways that not only satisfy health needs but provide opportunity for behavioural enrichment as well;
4. maintain accurate records on the diets provided
5. monitor the weight and health condition of individual animals;
6. maintain high standards of hygienic food preparation, handling and storage.

To prevent pain and disease, Sydney Zoo will:

1. deliver a leading veterinary care program that meets current international standards for zoo and wildlife health care and understands and adapts to needs of each species and animals biology;
2. maintain data on the status, health and wellbeing of all our animals over time;
3. maintain preventative health care programs,
4. ensure effective quarantine protocols for all incoming animals
5. ensure staff understand and limit the risks of disease incursion from all potential vectors;
6. ensure that suffering is minimised in the event of terminal illness or disease.

To bring these policies into effect, Sydney Zoo will ensure that our staff have the resources, training, skills and experience necessary to their roles and responsibilities, and maintain staffing levels that enable our programs to be delivered effectively, including:

1. maintaining the highest professional standards of our curatorial staff and support and encourage staff to obtain qualifications in relevant disciplines;
2. ensuring staff awareness and understanding of Sydney Zoo's policies, procedures and reporting processes, and training relating to animal health;