



WILD WELFARE

Helping make all zoos,
good zoos



SUMMARY

Zoos and aquariums 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 global fauna and flora. Unfortunately, not all zoos are equal and as a result of poor care, real animal suffering is prevalent around the world. It is likely only a small percentage of the estimated more than 10,000 zoos and aquariums that exist globally fall under country-wide animal welfare legislation or guiding principles from a zoo association.

A much more significant number fall outside any such protection, so despite significant advances in animal welfare science, poor animal welfare is still widely observed in many zoos around the world. Every year Wild Welfare's projects support welfare improvements for thousands of wild animals living in captivity in zoos and aquariums around the world.

**OUR MISSION IS TO
UNITE THE WORLD'S
LEADING ZOOS AND
ANIMAL WELFARE
ORGANISATIONS TO
IMPROVE THE WELFARE
OF CAPTIVE WILD
ANIMALS AROUND THE
WORLD.**



Our work is helping a whole range of species from large mammals including carnivores, primates and monkeys to reptiles and exotic birds by encouraging improvements in animal care practices to bringing in new facility, regional and national welfare policies and regulations. Through support, training & positive partnerships, we help improve animal welfare where it is needed the most.

Our aim is to achieve what we all want to see: a world where every zoo and aquarium promotes the highest standards of animal care and welfare. From rehoming bears in Japan to training veterinarians in Indonesia, our work is varied and vast but we have one focus: improving care and welfare for wild animals living in captivity around the world.

OUR HISTORY

"Wild Welfare was established in 2012 and has rapidly established itself as an internationally recognised hub of expertise in zoo animal welfare reform, forming effective collaborative relationships with a number of zoos, regional zoo associations, animal welfare NGOs, reputable universities and professional bodies. It is the first project-led captive wild animal welfare initiative that is solely focused on improving welfare standards by uniting zoos and animal welfare NGOs around the world.

We play a pivotal role in the on-going improvement of animal welfare in zoos as well as providing critical support to other institutions that want to end unacceptable wild animal welfare practices.

The issue of poor wild animal welfare and abuse cannot be resolved single-handedly. However, together we can make a real effort to improve the welfare for many wild animals around the world, and collectively help change minds, attitudes and practices.



We help facilitate positive dialogue between zoo professionals, zoo associations and global animal welfare NGOs, creating a positive international captive animal welfare movement through an informed expert approach and the establishment of strong partnerships between key stakeholders.

We strongly believe in a creative and compassionate approach to captive wild animal welfare, and our up to date, scientific-led materials and resources encompass the ethics, ethology, and husbandry pertaining to captive wild animals."

Dr David Jones, Founder & Chairman

THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE

The exact number of zoos and zoological type exhibits and collections around the world is actually unknown. It is however believed that only a small percentage of these fall within some form of organised ethical and welfare framework. Sadly, poor captive animal welfare is often widely prevalent within the institutions that fall outside of recognised welfare standards, resulting in the suffering of thousands of animals.

As more developing countries try and attain animals and collections that western society has previously dictated, our efforts to ensure animal welfare concepts and high standards of care are provided, is needed even more now than ever.

From a conservation perspective, globally, zoos significantly contribute to a diverse conservation effort, uniting to address the decline of a vast number of species and habitats. However, under-developed zoos, often found in countries struggling to manage regional declines in biodiversity, have limited expertise and resources to contribute to these programmes, limiting the value of the global effort. Finally, captive wild animal collections around the world with poor standards of animal welfare, can also be participants and recipients in the burgeoning illicit wildlife trade.



THE WELFARE PROBLEM

Societal and zoo community interest in the welfare of animals in zoos is at an all-time high and rightly or wrongly, accessible information means that zoos are more easily criticised on their animal care, education and conservation conduct. Some very poor zoos where extreme welfare concerns exist are increasingly being highlighted within the national media and targeted by international and a growing national animal welfare community.

And the welfare problem is real and vast. A lack of coherent and relevant institutional and national regulations can result in poorly managed facilities, exacerbated by poor basic care and a lack of visitor respect or awareness. Keepers within many zoos have basic or no animal management backgrounds, and veterinary expertise and care is extremely limited for the specialist care sometimes required within an exotic captive collection.

The result is the continued suffering of animals, frustration and limited training for zoo staff and inadequate protection legislation, monitoring and evaluation of animal welfare management.

HOW DOES WILD WELFARE IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE?

Wild Welfare recognizes the value of zoos to conservation, education and communities, but the success of this value is underpinned by good animal welfare. Through our innovative work we bring the welfare of captive wild animals to the forefront of public and policy agendas around the world where it is needed the most. By reaching facilities others haven't been able to, we build critical relationships and provide on-going welfare guidance through a highly structured strategy and process.

Our approach galvanises a collaborative and compassionate approach from leading zoos, aquariums and animal welfare NGOs to take innovative action towards bettering animal welfare policies and practices.

We create a united body of experts and resources who are willing to tackle the significant issue of captive wild animal welfare around the world. We strongly believe that long-term solutions are best sought through positive dialogue and action.

Zoos and aquariums underpin the critical role that zoo professionals have in driving improvements in captive wild animal welfare around the world. It requires the combined effort of both experts within the zoo and global animal welfare communities to provide an effective, urgent and experienced response that provides practical and enduring solutions.

Wild Welfare brings together a team of professionals with experience-based expertise in assessing and improving wild animal welfare and husbandry issues. The challenge is considerable and addressing wild animal welfare is, and will remain, complicated. Through bringing together a range of skills, views, networks and resources, we can make a real difference in improving the welfare of many wild animals around the world, and collectively help to change minds, attitudes and practices.



We Are Unique



We are not a campaigning organisation

We make change happen. While lobbying and campaigning can be effective, we choose instead to work together with those key people who have the ability to make positive change for animals. Whether that is other NGOs like us, zoo directors, zoo keepers or government authorities, we build positive relationships and work on getting to the heart of the problem, providing the expert support that will make a difference to animals' lives.

We work with leading zoos, academic and animal welfare organisations.

We work with all those working in the zoo and animal welfare fields who are also committed to making positive welfare changes through research and reform. We believe in supporting institutions and individuals making educated changes that result in improved animal welfare practices. We are reaching facilities others haven't been able to, proving that a positive, inclusive approach rather than negative condemnation is key to making a difference to the lives of wild animals in captivity.

We respect cultural differences but don't let them become an excuse for poor welfare

We embrace different cultures, values and behaviours, but use the most up to date animal welfare research to make improvements, helping ensure harmful, outdated practices become a thing of the past, while encouraging positive cultural action for the future.

We do not "prop up" bad zoos.

We continually assess the feasibility of success in regard to the facilities we work with and are collaborating on models to identify zoo support or closure. We choose to work with facilities that can act as ambassador zoos and have a wider impact within their country.

SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Last year we helped zoo communities and animals in 8 different countries (Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa, Vietnam, India, Malaysia). Below are just some of the achievements from last year:

Helped assess the welfare in 10 facilities and trained more auditors as part of the Brazilian Association of Zoos and Aquarium (AZAB)'s welfare certification programme, putting the project right on target for achieving the welfare assessment of 50 AZAB facilities by 2020.

Supported the development of the first ever South East Asian Zoos and Aquariums Association (SEAZA)'s welfare certification programme that will be rolled out in over 7 different countries impacting the welfare of thousands of animals.

Partnered with a leading UK zoo to re-home four brown bears from cramped, concrete conditions in Japan, to a new luxury home in the UK.

Supported the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) by holding an animal welfare workshop, encouraging the up take of new animal welfare programmes. Simultaneously working with multiple Japanese NGO's building capacity and knowledge in captive wild animal management to veterinarians and welfare scientists within the country.

Worked with the Zoological Park Organization Thailand (ZPO) to secure direct and impactful improvements to animal enclosures and the provision of dynamic enrichment and improved care practices in a number of zoos in the country.

04

BROWN BEARS
REHOMED

350

ZOOS
SUPPORTED
DIRECTLY OR
INDIRECTLY

750

PEOPLE
TRAINED IN
ANIMAL
WELFARE
CONCEPTS AND
PRACTICES

15

WELFARE
ASSESSMENTS
CARRIED OUT AS
PART OF OUR
ONGOING
WELFARE
PROGRAMMES

WILD WELFARE IN ACTION

Case Study A:

Welfare Certification in Zoos in South East Asia

Throughout 2017 and 2018, Wild Welfare was instrumental in developing the South East Asian Zoos and Aquariums Association (SEAZA)'s welfare certification programme. This is the first ever association led welfare programme that has been established for the region. Now, under Wild Welfare's guidance, two zoos in Thailand, one in Vietnam and two in Indonesia have already been audited and assessed against the SEAZA's new Standard of Welfare.

This new welfare certification programme will help improve care and welfare for thousands of animals housed in SEAZA's 50-strong zoo and aquarium membership.

"I have gained more experience about animal welfare and the principles of welfare standards that will help develop animal welfare in all ZPO zoos and The Many other zoos in Thailand."

Dr Visit D.V.M., Assistant Director of ZPO's Dusit Zoo



As part of this pilot programme, Wild Welfare trained and oversaw the zoo audits in all three countries.

The auditing process involves raising findings and observations and then working with the zoo to develop a timeline for corrective action. Once these actions have taken place SEAZA Ethics and Welfare Committee consider a recommendation for a zoo's certification.



WILD WELFARE IN ACTION

Case Study B:

Direct Support for Positive Change

Early in 2018, Wild Welfare visited Thailand's Chiang Mai Zoo, as part of an invited visit to the Zoological Park Organization Thailand (ZPO)'s facilities, to give recommendations on their mini zoo area and a few selected areas of the main zoo. Nocturnal animals had no place to retreat from the public and the enclosures were not offering suitable variety or challenges that encouraged basic natural and rewarding behaviours.

We worked with the curatorial and keeper team to identify how they could make the enclosures more species appropriate, using different enrichments, and record observed behaviours to ensure an appropriate behavioural enrichment programme is in place



On our return later in the year, the zoo has made several key changes which have meant positive improvements for a variety of their animals, including the black squirrels, bearded dragons, iguanas, rabbits, hippos, porcupines, prairie dogs and parrots.

"It was really impressive to see that enclosure infrastructure and enrichments are now being used to encourage rewarding behaviours. What was so wonderful is that we are seeing a culture of change within the zoo, the staff are recognising why the animal behaviours they're now observing are so important for animal welfare."

Georgina Groves, Wild Welfare
Director

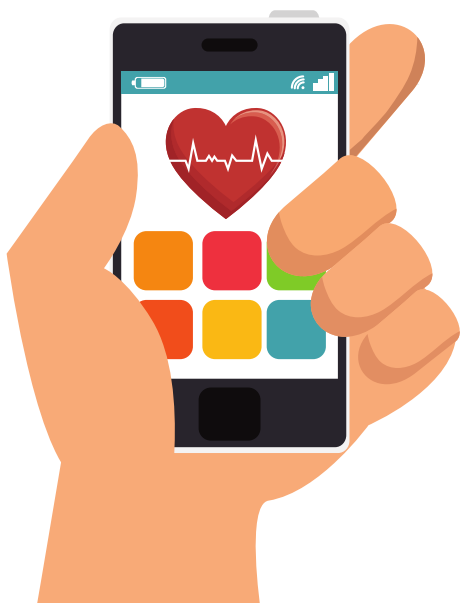
Photo: New feeding opportunities in the hippo enclosure and the ending of public feeding, have resulted in rewarding foraging behaviours for the hippos at the zoo



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Our plans are ambitious, but they need to be. Our long-term plan aims to build on our current animal welfare action in multiple countries, supporting the development of global animal welfare policy and welfare-based accreditation. We will be delivering on our “One Community” programme emphasising the importance of community development to safeguard the health and welfare of people, animals and the environment.

Our approach aims to be as strategic as possible, impacting thousands of animals through a capacity building and policy led approach, that brings together the expertise from the leading zoos and animal welfare communities to identify solutions and collaborate where it matters.



We believe that education and the resulting behaviour change is the key to long-term and sustainable improvements in captive animal welfare. This is a cross cutting theme in all of our programmes which places capacity building, skill development and knowledge-sharing, with people who are in the position to make a positive impact on the welfare of captive wild animals, at the core.

We also recognise the important role that technology can play in providing global access to learning materials and as such we are developing online e-learning resources, including course materials, videos and smart software, enabling the public, zoos and NGOs alike to participate and help influence the call for change.

FUNDING



"It is our vision to end the suffering of captive wild animals around the world, ensuring full and sustainable protection is given to all animals in human care."

In order to meet our vision and provide services in the zoo community, we rely on the generosity of our supporters to continue our work, developing highly skilled networks and teams to address global welfare conditions found in zoos.



WAYS YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US

Supports a wide and diverse range of zoos and aquariums around the world to improve their animal welfare through on-going training and capacity development. We develop skills in animal husbandry and assessment teaching and sharing knowledge and information of all aspects of captive management while building relationships which can lead to further academic, government and research collaboration.



Encourages a global reduction in poor welfare practices and improvements in animal welfare understanding in all the facilities we work directly and indirectly with, and a reduction in acute, detrimental welfare practices such as circuses, and animal abuse.

Development of Animal Welfare competency programmes within countries where they currently don't exist, based on international standards that can be used to evaluate, monitor and ensure compliance to high standards of animal care

Development and dispersal of novel and accessible educational tools and smart software technology that encourages participation in engaging learning programmes on animal care.

Development of technical and legislative zoo welfare standards adopted where there currently are none by national legislators and implemented in a nationwide programme.

Empowerment of professional and public communities and support globally accredited welfare initiatives that provide long term solutions not just quick fixes



“Together we can make a real effort to improve the welfare for many wild animals around the world, and collectively help change hearts, minds, attitudes and practices”

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