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SYDNEY ZOO'S 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 (or OIE - Office International des Epizooties):

Animal welfare is defined by how an animal copes with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is considered to be 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 is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear or distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane euthanasia (when euthanasia is necessary). 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 institution 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 enjoyable 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 as well as strive to be an 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.



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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 provide shelter from weather;
3. minimise exposure to fear and distress,
4. allow each animal an opportunity to escape aggression from other animals;
5. provide a stimulating environment to allow for environmental enrichment 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 nutritional requirements 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 which understands and adapts to individual as well as species needs;
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 will maintain staffing levels that enable our programs to be delivered effectively, including:

1. maintaining the highest professional standards of our curatorial staff, as well as 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.



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THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT UNDER WHICH WE OPERATE

The display, and keeping for display, of all vertebrate animals is controlled by the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986 (EAPA). In order to operate Sydney Zoo will be required to hold an authority issued by the Director-General of the Animal Welfare Branch of the Department of Primary Industries.

The EAPA is unique to New South Wales in that it pertains to the exhibition of all vertebrate animals, irrespective of whether they are native, exotic or domestic. The EAPA was developed to ensure the positive welfare of animals kept for exhibit purposes and covers a range of areas including:

1. psychological and physical animal welfare;
2. educational value of exhibits;
3. public safety;
4. legal effect of licencing requirements on animal exhibitors.

The Act currently falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Primary Industries and the Department of Primary Industries is the licensing authority. Staff of the Animal Welfare Branch implement the legislation.

In order to obtain approval to build, Sydney Zoo will need to complete a Form A - Application for Approval to Construct an Animal Display Establishment. Sydney Zoo must additionally hold a separate permit prior to exhibiting any species listed in Schedule 2 of the EAPA Regulation. Schedule 2 species require particular standards because of the special nature of these animals, meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- They require specialist care;
- They pose a threat to keeper or public safety;
- They present a danger to agriculture or the environment;
- They are subject to studbook or cooperative conservation programs conducted under the Australasian Species Management Program (ASMP).

There are a series of specific standards and policies that Sydney Zoo will be required to comply with, including:

- a. General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in NSW.
- b. Policy on Exhibiting Primates in NSW.
- c. Standards for Exhibiting Australian Mammals in NSW.
- d. Standards for Exhibiting Captive Raptors in NSW.
- e. Standards for Exhibiting Carnivores in NSW.





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The General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in NSW applies to all exhibited animals and includes requirements such as:

- Staff experience.
- Animal enclosures.
- Nutrition and hygiene.
- Behaviour.
- Educational value.
- Public safety.
- Capture, handling and transport.
- Breeding control.
- Visitor facilities.
- Husbandry and management.
- Health.

Exhibitors must meet these standards as well as any other relevant standards for the exhibition of specific taxonomic groups. Where there are no existing standards for a specific species, the General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in NSW apply. Failure to comply with any of these standards is a breach of the licensing condition.

In order to receive a licence Sydney Zoo must demonstrate appropriate animal management experience and provide plans that indicate facilities for the animals will be constructed according to the standards.

The Leader Exhibited Animals and staff of the Animal Welfare Branch liaise with the applicant. If required, the applications are submitted to the Exhibited Animals Advisory Committee for consideration. The Director-General has delegated power to the Director of the Animal Welfare Branch and the Leader Exhibited Animals to issue licences.

Approval to construct an animal display establishment cannot be issued unless the Director-General of The Department of Primary Industries or his/her delegate is satisfied that the animal display establishment will conform to and be conducted in accordance with the prescribed standards.

In order to receive a Licence, on construction completion, Sydney Zoo must contact the Leader Exhibited Animals to arrange for an inspection. Inspections are carried out by an inspector authorised by the Minister, usually a senior member of the Animal Welfare Branch.

Satisfaction that the applicable standards will be complied with will include an assessment of:

1. The exhibit space and shelter provided for the animals, including safety, exhibit furniture and environmental complexity;
2. Hygiene (including handwashing) and first aid facilities for members of the public (including zoo visitors);
3. Animal diet;
4. Animal identification techniques;
5. Details of veterinary arrangements for each animal;
6. Details food storage and preparation areas, as well as post mortem facilities;
7. Details of educational material that will be provided to the public, concerning the biology and conservation of the species, for each enclosure / exhibit;
8. Details of appropriately qualified staff and their responsibilities.

Following a satisfactory inspection, Sydney Zoo will be required to pay the relevant issue fee. On receipt of the issue fee the licence will then be issued.

Sydney Zoo will only be permitted to acquire animals for exhibition after a licence has been issued.

