

ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE PROGRAM



AUGUST 2021



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WELFARE STATEMENT

At your Toronto Zoo, we care about animals; they are the basis of our wildlife conservation and public education efforts and their well-being is our priority.



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OUR MISSION

The Animal Welfare Science Program supports the Toronto Zoo Mission – *Connecting people, animals and conservation science to fight extinction.*

This is achieved by:

Providing an integrated, comprehensive, and continually evolving science based welfare program to ensure the well-being of all animals in our care.



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ANIMAL WELFARE

An animal's welfare state at any given time is dependent on a combination of factors that encompass physical, behavioural and emotional well-being. Animal welfare is not only an animal's well-being at a point in time but over its entire existence. Planning for optimal welfare begins before an animal's birth, hatch, or acquisition and continues throughout their lifetime.

According to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), accredited facilities operate based on three core principles: animal welfare, safety, and guest engagement. Although conservation of wildlife is the core purpose of leading zoos and aquariums, achievement of positive animal welfare states is a core activity. Excellence in animal welfare is the underlying foundation on which all standards and practices are premised and developed.



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OUR COMMITMENT

Your Zoo is committed to the highest animal welfare standards and will continue evolving the welfare science program to ensure the overall well-being of all animals in our care.

In line with the 4-cares framework of the Toronto Zoo 2020 Strategic Plan (our animals, our team, our guests, our community), and part of the Saving Wildlife priority 'providing excellent animal care', your Zoo affirms that the welfare of the animals is afforded the utmost precedence throughout the institution and in all operations.

As we continue to learn about the importance of the individual animal's experiences, physical health, behavioural health, and overall environment, we strive to develop and improve methods to assess the comprehensive welfare of animals on a consistent basis and ensure that animals residing in our care are given every opportunity to thrive.



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OUR CODE

Your Toronto Zoo is a recognized centre of excellence for animal care and positions itself as a leader in animal welfare science.

Your Zoo will:

- conduct welfare & quality of life assessments to understand individual animal needs and overall well-being
- provide excellence in behavioural husbandry through species appropriate training and enrichment to maintain highest standards of animal care and welfare
- ensure animals in our care comprise only those species that satisfy the requirements of our Strategic Plan and Animal Lives with Purpose Plan and for which we can properly provide
- collaborate with academic, research, recovery teams, and other zoological institutions to improve animal welfare understanding and promote positive welfare states in all species
- link *ex situ* and *in situ* welfare parameters for overall species recovery
- carry out animal welfare science research
- ensure compliance with all government and industry legislation to support individual animal well-being



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Using the Five Welfare Domains/Five Opportunities to Thrive as our model



Your Zoo will provide:

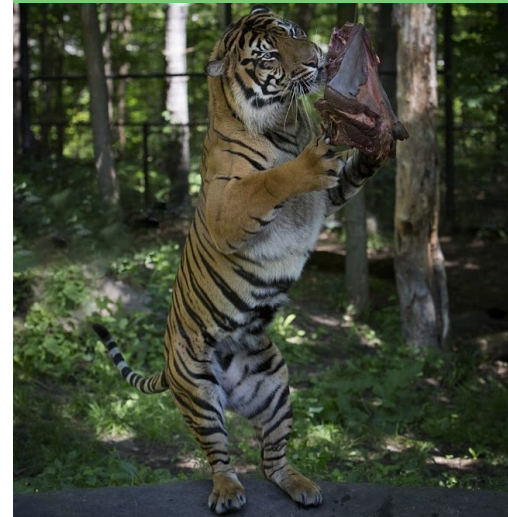
Nutrition – a species suitable diet provided in a way that ensures physical and mental health

Environment – opportunities to self-maintain and promote comfort

Physical Health – access to a wellness program, rapid diagnosis, and treatment

Behaviour – social opportunities and provision for species appropriate and diverse behaviours

Mental Domains – choice and control



OUR TEAM

Our staff and volunteers are our pillars of strength.

Your Zoo ensures staff and volunteers have the resources, training & expertise, along with an understanding of the importance and complexity of animal welfare, and their role in maintaining the necessary welfare standards for all of the animals. We are focused on a culture of welfare advocacy.

We want to extend this culture to our partners, guests, and the community so we all support compassion and respect for wildlife.



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Your Toronto Zoo Animal Welfare Science Program demonstrates our commitment to the animals we care so much about.

By showcasing this care, we are sharing stories and creating memories for our guests that will underpin their commitment to conservation so they join our efforts in saving species from extinction.

