

# Control and how it can be used BY the birds, FOR the birds.

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The most dangerous phrase in the human language....

**WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THAT WAY!!**

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# Control

Control is a primary reinforcer.

This tells us that by empowering our animals and giving them choices to make in their daily routines, we provide them with cognitive stimulation as well as access to yet another reinforcer.

Where it is safe to do so, we give our animals as much control as possible during shows and training sessions. This not only builds your relationship with the animals but it builds trust between you and in your own abilities to read that animal and its behaviour.

# Weighing

- All birds trained to scales
- Weighed daily to ensure good health
- Fundamentally important behaviour
- First opportunity to interact with each bird in a positive manner
- Great chance to observe the birds behaviour and body language
- Any anomalies can be picked up immediately
- All weighing behaviours are chained and reinforced after a weight is obtained.

# What does this look like for our birds?

- Free lofted
- Fully flighted
- Stationed before we enter the enclosure
- They move towards us
- Free to move away from us if they want to
- No forced interaction
- Behaviour is reinforced
- Our first contact with them is positive each day



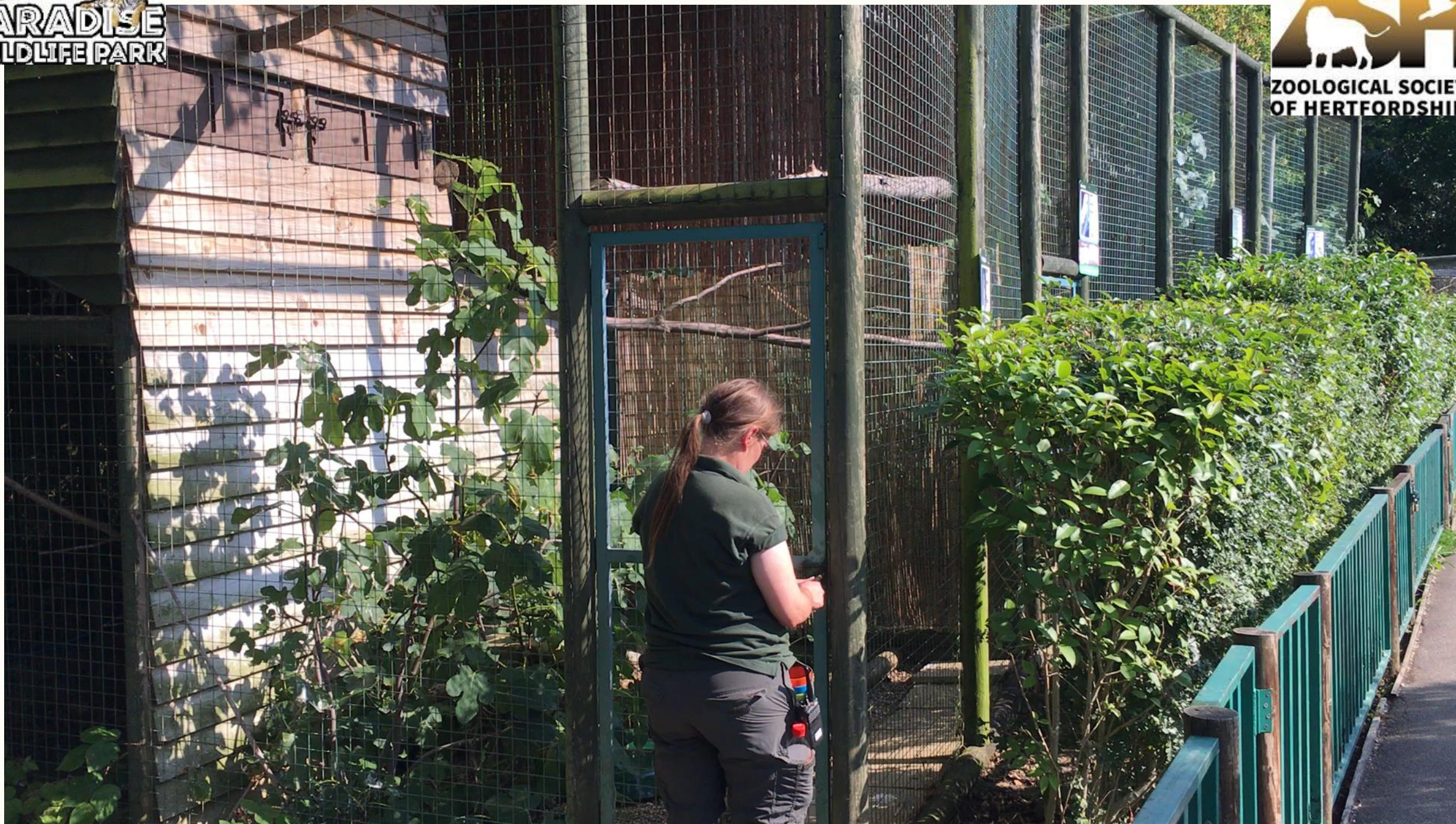


# Empowering Our Birds in Shows

- Never 'go to get' a bird
- Trained to station as we approach the door
- When door is opened they fly out or to us
- Free choice, no casting/throwing birds
- More trainers able to fly individuals as entrance behaviour is strong
- 2 opportunities to come out in the show, highly unlikely they will choose not to fly
- Fed whether they participate or not









# Off Show Raptors





# Entrances are easy – what about Exits?!

- Same principles as for the entrances
- Where possible the birds fly back into their aviaries themselves
- Alternatively they fly to us or posts just outside their aviaries
  - Free choice to exit the flying area
  - Reinforced for the exit behaviours
- Exit behaviour is strong so bird will exit for multiple trainers, which gives flexibility with staff in shows

# What does this look like?









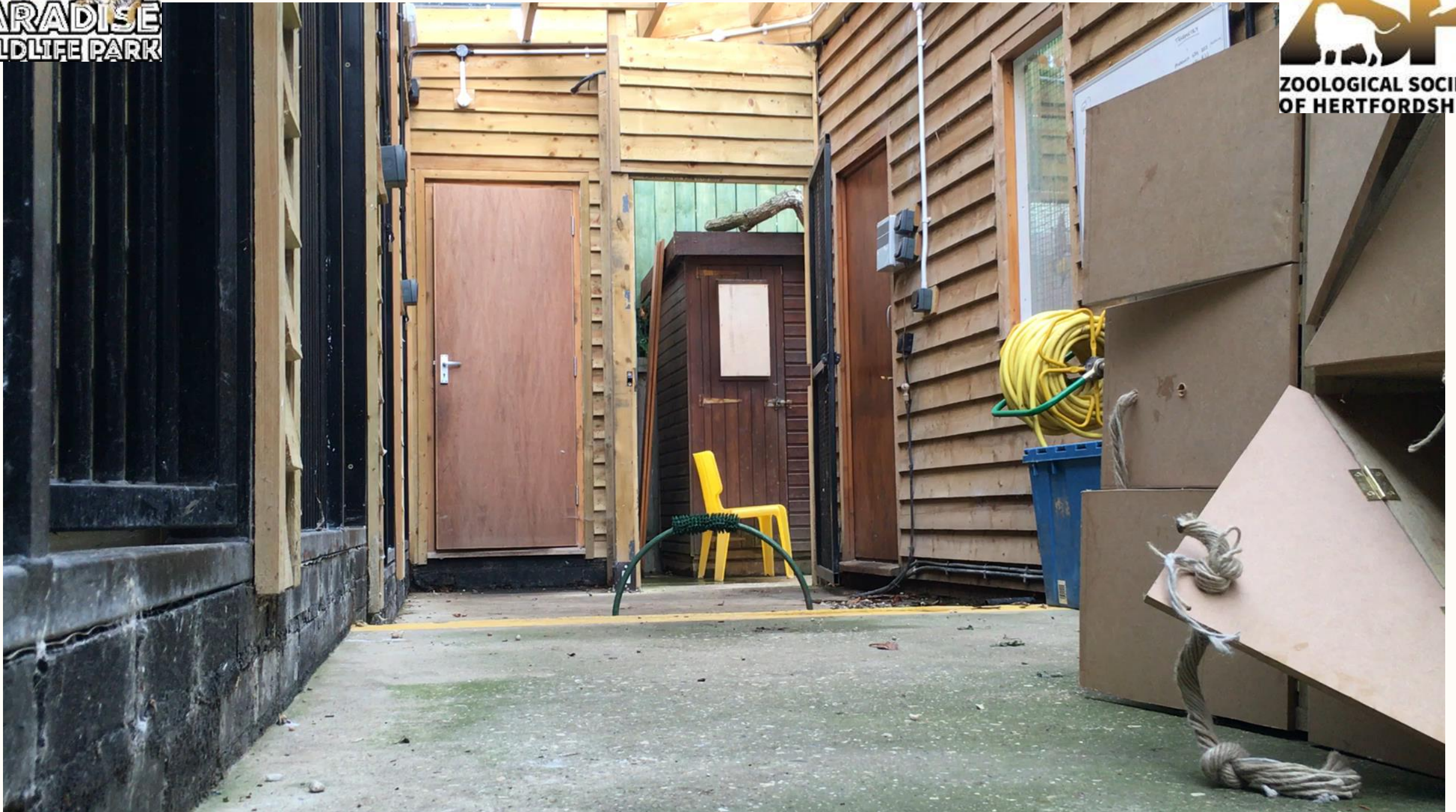
## And for the offshow raptors....

- They have a perch on our shed to fly onto
- Then a bow perch in the corridor
- Then into their aviary
- We follow them in to remove telemetry
- Any food not fed during flights is given on the glove in the aviary.



1230  
BOBBY + BAET TOM + NICKY  
STELLA EMILY TOM + NICKY  
BAILEY NICKY + TOM  
NICKY TOM  
1430  
SOPHIE CLARE + EMILY (EMILY + TOM)  
LAWRENCE CLARE + EMILY  
MOBY CLARE + EMILY  
PHOENIX TOM, CLARE + NICKY





# The Finished Product

- Birds wanting to participate in shows and training sessions
- New and novel behaviours are easy to add because we have strong entrances and exits
- Birds will work for multiple trainers
- Great learning opportunity for interns and new staff
- Example to other staff in the zoo about how successful it can be to give your animals control during training sessions
- Happy trainers!!!







**Thank you all for listening!**

**Questions??**

