

"Dedicated to helping you care  
for animals and for yourself"



# Zoo Animal Welfare and Care for Veterinary Professionals Online Course



coming soon!

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**Available online  
6 August 2020!**



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## Course description

We have an ethical responsibility to promote optimal welfare for animals housed in zoos and aquariums. This course provides the essentials of current animal welfare science and best practices relevant to zoos with emphasis on veterinary care. Practical examples, case studies, and best practices will be discussed. This course is aimed at veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses/technicians and students working within or with an interest in this field.

### Learning outcomes:

After this course you will be able to:

- Define animal welfare and care
- Describe the holistic approach to animal welfare
- Recognise the importance of ethics
- Understand the approach to preventative health care
- Identify concerns and challenges affecting the welfare of the animal
- Identify opportunities for promoting positive animal welfare
- Describe animal welfare assessment methods
- Recognise the importance of meaningful record keeping
- Understand the differences between input resources and outcome (animal-based) parameters
- Recognise the importance of applied science
- Understand the importance of assessing and managing ageing animals
- Appreciate the challenges around euthanasia and how to overcome them
- Recognise the need for human wellbeing in conjunction with animal care

**Time/CPD hours: 20 (10 taught & 7 reading/contributing to discussions)**

**Price: Euro 398,00 (~~499,00~~) Price plans will be available.**



# Online Course


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## Topics to be covered Part 1 (of 2)





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A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ANIMAL WELFARE INCLUDES PHYSICAL HEALTH, THE BEHAVIOUR AND EMOTIONAL STATE OF THE ANIMAL.

**Holistic Approach to Animal Welfare**  
THE 5 DOMAIN MODEL REFLECTS THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL CONCEPT OF ANIMAL WELFARE



## A holistic approach to animal welfare


A holistic approach to animal welfare includes physical health, behaviour, and the emotional state of the animal.

Learn more about a holistic approach to animal welfare & the Five Domain Model from the article by Mellor & Beausoleil (2015), you can download it here for [FREE](#)

## Health part of animal welfare



You often hear 'health and welfare' but health is part of welfare and includes both physical and psychological aspects.

Veterinary care is one of the pillars of a professional animal welfare program, and also focusses on behaviour and affective state of the animal.



VETERINARY CARE IS ONE OF THE PILLARS OF A PROFESSIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM, AND ALSO FOCUSES ON BEHAVIOUR AND AFFECTIVE STATE OF THE ANIMAL.

**Health part of welfare**  
HEALTH INCLUDES THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS PERTAINING TO THE ANIMAL'S WELFARE.



"PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS CONFER A RESPONSIBILITY UPON VETERINARIANS TO LEAD THE WAY IN PROMOTING GOOD ANIMAL WELFARE"

**Holistic Approach to Animal Welfare**  
THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARY TEAM AND THE FIVE ANIMAL WELFARE NEEDS



## A holistic approach to animal welfare


"Veterinary professionals are expected to provide not only for physical health, but also the non-physical aspects of animal welfare that allow for the psychological, social and environmental well-being of their patients."

Check out the [World Small Animal Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Guidelines](#) for principles that can be utilised across all animal care facilities.

## Animal ethics



Ethical theories can help us work out what is the Right, the Good, and the Fair (Gjerris et al. 2013), and assist in understanding the ethical views and decisions of other people.

While ethical theories have their shortcoming, they can provide a systematic way of explaining and justifying moral decisions.



THE EXAMINATION OF BOTH THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH OTHER ANIMALS, & HOW THEY OUGHT TO BE TREATED. YOU CAN THINK OF ETHICAL THEORIES AS DIFFERENT SPOTLIGHTS.

**ANIMAL ETHICS**  
WHILE ETHICAL THEORIES HAVE THEIR SHORTCOMING, THEY CAN PROVIDE A SYSTEMATIC WAY OF EXPLAINING AND JUSTIFYING MORAL DECISIONS





DUTY OF CARE IS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL WELLBEING, ACKNOWLEDGING THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF ANIMALS, AS WELL AS PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY.

**Duty of Care**

Veterinary surgeons must make animal welfare their first consideration when attending to animals and provide veterinary care that is appropriate and adequate.




## Duty of Care

“Good communication skills lie at the heart of the veterinary-client relationship and veterinarians must not assume a passive role when serious welfare matters are at hand. Advocating for animal welfare may not be comfortable and may, at times, require courage but is necessary to advance the veterinary medical profession and to improve human regard for animals as sentient beings.” The paper by [Hernandez et al \(2018\)](#) contains case examples to highlight the challenges faced by vets.

## Five Domains of Animal Welfare



A nicely illustrated [video](#) by the [Zoo and Aquarium Association](#) about the Five Domains of Animal Welfare with many practical examples, ranging from nutrition, environment, social life, veterinary care, and the psychological wellbeing of the individuals.



ZOOS SHOULD ACTIVELY PROMOTE POSITIVE WELFARE STATES AND ASSESSMENT OF BOTH THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING OF INDIVIDUALS IS CRITICAL.

**Welfare Assessment**

DETAILED ONGOING ASSESSMENT OF ALL ASPECTS OF AN ANIMAL'S LIFE IS CRUCIAL TO UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.



## Welfare Assessment

“Welfare is a characteristic of an individual animal and can range from very poor to very good. We can now measure and assess welfare much better than we used to.” (Broom, 2020)

It is important that welfare is regularly assessed, recorded and discussed between animal and veterinary teams to evaluate both negative and positive components and identify priorities to drive and monitor change.

## Ageing Animals

Preventive health care is key in the care of ageing animals, including close attention to details such as social and environmental needs and preferences. We are delighted to be working on an edited volume 'Optimal Welfare of Ageing Wild Animals in Human Care', providing a comprehensive overview and handbook of topics, methods, and philosophies of age-related topics in one compendium, combining science, evidence-based approaches, case studies, and best practices.




Edited Book Coming 2021 !!

**Optimal Welfare of Aging Wild Animals in Human Care**

Editors: Sabrina Brando MSc & Dr. Sarah Chapman BVM&S MSc DZooMed MRCVS





# Topics to be covered

QUALITATIVE BEHAVIOURAL ASSESSMENT (QBA) IS BASED ON THE ABILITY OF AN OBSERVER TO CAPTURE THE DYNAMIC COMPLEXITY OF AN ANIMAL'S DEMEANOUR AS HE OR SHE INTERACTS WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, USING TERMS SUCH AS TENSE OR RELAXED.

**Animal Welfare Assessment**

HOLISTIC ANIMAL WELFARE ASSESSMENT APPROACHES INCLUDE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE METHODS.


## Animal Welfare Assessment

Learn more about qualitative behavioural assessment (QBA) and the seminal work of Professor Francoise Wemelsfelder and Scholar to see the wealth of papers across taxa and disciplines, including zoos. Qualitative behavioural assessment (QBA) is based on the ability of an observer to capture the dynamic complexity of an animal's demeanour as he or she interacts with the environment, using terms such as tense or relaxed.

## Qualitative Behavioural Assessment (QBA)

"Judging this quality is a skill that requires knowledge of species-specific behaviour, experience in observing and interacting with animals in different contexts, and a willingness to communicate with animals as sentient beings."



Wemelsfelder (2007).



...“TAKING THE INTEGRATIVE NATURE OF QUALITATIVE JUDGEMENTS SERIOUSLY ENABLES A 'WHOLE ANIMAL' PERSPECTIVE, THROUGH WHICH IT BECOMES POSSIBLE TO VIEW BEHAVIOUR AS A DYNAMIC, EXPRESSIVE BODY LANGUAGE...”

**Qualitative Behavioural Assessment:**

HOW ANIMALS COMMUNICATE QUALITY OF LIFE WEMSELFELDER (2007)


RESEARCHGATE.NET

**(PDF) WAZA Magazine 16: Towards Positive Animal Welfare**

PDF | On Aug 1, 2015, Markus Gusset and others published WAZA Magazine 16: Towards Positive Animal Welfare | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate

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## Data

Data and research are key to professional animal care and welfare programs today to make evidence-based decisions. You can read 'Evidence-based Zoo Animal Welfare: From Principles to Practice' by Melfi and Hosey, and other interesting articles in the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Magazine 16: Towards Positive Animal Welfare download the MAGAZINE

## Record Keeping

Good record keeping is an essential part of animal care. Without accurate, consistent and detailed records, animal behaviour and health cannot be monitored and changes in care evaluated. Records need to be available for the whole team to view and should include meaningful information.




ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONALS ARE FIRST RESPONDERS, KNOWLEDGABLE OF THE ANIMALS AND KEY IN DAILY RECORD KEEPING PRACTICES.

**Record Keeping**

CONSISTENT, ACCURATE AND DETAILED ANIMAL RECORDS ARE KEY TO MONITORING WELFARE.






# Topics to be covered



PROPER HUSBANDRY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN KEEPING REPTILES HEALTHY. DEFICIENCIES IN HUSBANDRY LEAD TO STRESS AND DISEASE.

**Preventative Health**  
PROMOTING GOOD PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTING DISEASE.



## Preventative Health

“Ectomorphological associations, behaviour, and innate drive states confirm that snakes utilize and biologically need considerable space as part of their normal lifestyles. Provision of space for snakes should be sufficient to allow them to move around without imposed bodily restriction, be stimulating and accommodate as much natural and desirable behaviour as possible, including the ability to fully straighten or stretch out their bodies ([Warwick et al 2019](#))”.

## Positive Welfare

“As a welfare indicator, play may signal both the absence of bad welfare and the presence of good welfare, thus covering a wide range of the welfare spectrum (Held and Spinka 2011).”

[Check out](#) these goats playing on their wobble boards! Not only goats play, but lots of animals also do because.... it feels good & is fun! More on play soon in an upcoming paper!



OUTUBE.COM  
chèvres en équilibre - goats balancing on a flexible steel arch



GOOD ANIMAL RECORDS ARE CRUCIAL FOR THE ABILITY TO REVIEW SHORT AND LONGER TERM ASPECTS OF WELFARE

**Record Keeping**  
ANIMAL CARE FACILITIES SHOULD HAVE A RECORDS SYSTEM IN PLACE WHICH ALLOWS SAFE STORAGE OF DATA AND TEAM ACCESS.



## Record Keeping

Using databases for animal records can help track data and information can be widely shared to inform others with regard to animal welfare.

[Click](#) to hear about how ZIMS works across the world.

## Record Keeping

“Regular monitoring of the behavior, habitat use, and appearance of animals can provide valuable insight into their welfare. These ongoing data can help identify meaningful trends that can be acted upon to enhance welfare, and potentially reveal individual preferences and patterns that can facilitate care tailored to the individual.” [Jason Wark et al. 2019](#)

[ZOOMONITOR](#): Discover a new way to collect behavioral data to make effective decisions for animals.



UNDERSTANDING HOW ANIMALS USE THE SPACES THEY INHABIT, THEIR PERMANENT HOME IN OUR CARE, IS KEY TO OPTIMAL ANIMAL WELLBEING.

**Habitat use**  
ONGOING BEHAVIOURAL OBSERVATIONS CAN IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND PREFERENCES TO THE DIFFERENT SPACES, AND HOW THIS MIGHT CHANGE OVER TIME.





# Topics to be covered



Animal Pre-Transfer Checklist	
	Animal ID and house name
	Sex confirmation: M/F
	Weight & body condition score
	Photos of the animal
	Medical history & current medications
	Pre-transfer testing results
	Diet sheet
	Water provision (bowl, auto drinker, etc.)
	Behavioural history and related information
	Breeding history and related information
	Social history and information on friends and family
	Animal training information and videos

## Animal Transfers

Check out this handy checklist which lists the pre-transfer information needed to ensure animals transition as well as possible into their new environments and that moves go as smoothly as possible.

**Soon available for download, make sure to check in the 'topics to be covered' Part 2 next week too!**

## Animal Transfers

Planning and communication between facilities is essential to promoting optimal wellbeing during all stages of an animal's transfer. Sharing animal records prior to sending or receiving an animal is vital to help transition the individual into their new home.

SHARING ANIMAL RECORDS PRIOR TO SENDING OR RECEIVING AN ANIMAL IS VITAL TO HELP TRANSITION THE INDIVIDUAL INTO THEIR NEW HOME.

**Animal Transfers**  
PLANNING AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FACILITIES IS ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTING OPTIMAL WELLBEING DURING ALL STAGES OF AN ANIMAL'S TRANSFER.

"ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE BOTH PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AND PHYSICAL HEALTH."

**Enrichment**  
CARE STAFF AND VET TEAMS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO PRODUCE AN ENRICHMENT SCHEDULE THAT ENCOURAGES CREATIVE IDEAS WHICH ARE SAFE AND EVALUATED.

## Enrichment

Today we talk about psychological and physical wellbeing from a holistic perspective. Environmental enrichment can play an important role in the wellbeing of our animals and should not only be stimulating but safe for them to use.

Collaboration between the animal and veterinary departments helps share knowledge when creating new enrichment for our animals. This [paper](#) by Dr Ann Duncan describes the importance of teamwork.

## Habitat

"There are many reasons to think that the size of exhibits provided for zoo animals will have important effects on their lives and welfare, through allowing more opportunities for choice and control, to exhibit natural behaviour, and to maintain social groups. Measurement of usable volumetric space will permit zoos to enhance wellness by attention to the details of space and the usable features within that space" (Browning and Maple 2019)

HABITAT DESIGN SHOULD ALLOW ANIMALS TO HAVE CHOICE AND CONTROL OVER THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

**Habitat**  
APPRECIATION OF AN ANIMAL'S NATURAL HABITAT SHOULD INFLUENCE HABITAT DESIGN AND ANIMALS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DISPLAY NATURAL BEHAVIOURS.

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# Your Instructors

## Dr. Sarah Chapman

### &

## Sabrina Brando MSc





**Click Contact Us**

For more information & to  
be added to the mailing  
list for this course