



BIAZA Animal Welfare Policy

Animal welfare science is an evolving research area leading to continual increases in the understanding of animal needs. Animal welfare underpins the actions and activities of BIAZA members and BIAZA's support and services. BIAZA Members are required to achieve the highest standards of animal care and welfare in every aspect of their operations and demonstrate a commitment to the continued progression of welfare practice.

The welfare of animals MUST be inherent in all zoo operations including, but not limited to, the development of any exhibit specifications, animal transport, husbandry and management protocols, and close contact experiences.

In addition to this Policy, BIAZA members MUST follow the legislative animal welfare framework that covers their region. Members MUST use this policy to develop and implement best practice of animal welfare and care in their own collection and SHOULD adopt their own specific Welfare Policies, using the BIAZA Animal Welfare Toolkit or similarly robust and tested tools.

The BIAZA Animal Welfare Toolkit sets out five general welfare principles for BIAZA members, based on the Five Domains Framework (modified from Mellor & Beausoleil, 2015):

1. Animal Health
2. Nutrition
3. Environment
4. Behaviour
5. Mental State

The BIAZA Welfare Policy applies to all live animals under BIAZA member care. This includes exotic, domestic, farm and food stock. An animal's welfare changes over time and MUST be re-evaluated regularly through the animal's entire lifespan, including provision for humane death.

BIAZA collections MUST document how animal welfare is monitored within their collection and SHOULD use an audit assessment system which monitors multiple relevant indicators including animal-based and resource-based indicators. BIAZA members MUST apply welfare assessment for their animal collection. Examples are provided in the BIAZA Animal Welfare Toolkit.