



BIAZA Animal Training Policy

Where animal training is employed at BIAZA member zoos and aquariums:

- ***Reinforcement rather than punishment must be used whenever possible. The least restrictive or intrusive procedures likely to be efficient and effective must be used and training procedures should be regularly reviewed and appraised to this effect.***
- ***Pain, fear, anxiety, or stress must never be used to influence animal behaviour. The only exception may be to manage an emergency situation.***

In addition, BIAZA supports the training of animals for management or veterinary reasons, or for live demonstrations provided that:

1. The training process is continually monitored and reviewed for human and animal safety and animal welfare.
2. Each training programme provides an evidence-based net welfare benefit to the individual animal, not just for the human agenda – for example visitor experience, research or commercial purposes.
3. All training must be planned and recorded appropriately, according to the SSSMZP.
4. All animal training programmes must be based upon scientific principles.
5. All animal training should be based on assent, where the animal is free to choose whether or not to participate. When creating motivation for training to occur, extreme hunger and/or food deprivation is not acceptable.
6. Behaviours trained must be within the natural physical and mental capacity of the individual.
7. The behaviours animals are asked to exhibit during demonstrations must be appropriate to that species and that individual, its natural history and must serve a clear educational and/or welfare purpose.
8. Any personnel who is expected to train animals must be given/have access to documented CPD pertaining to theory and practical application of animal training. All staff engaged in training must have access to the BIAZA Animal Training Guidelines.

Further resources

BIAZA Animal Training Guidelines (Requires Member login):

<https://biaza.org.uk/resources/animal-husbandry>

EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos and Aquaria. Section 1.12 page 6) Training and public demonstrations: <https://www.eaza.net/assets/Uploads/EAZA-Documents-2022/2022-04-EAZA-Standards-for-Accommodation-and-Care.pdf>