



Latin American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums visitor-animal activities Guidelines

Presentations inside and outside the institution, shows, demonstration talks, participation in photographs, diving with aquatic animals and school visits

VISITOR-ANIMAL ACTIVITIES GUIDELINES

PREAMBLE

On May 3 and 4, 2019, a workshop was held in Santiago of Chile with the coordinators of the different committees of the Latin American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (ALPZA), the board, the executive office and nineteen (19) specialists from various work areas from seven member countries of the Association, with the aim of creating ALPZA's guidelines for activities in which public lives an experience of closeness or even contact with animals, such as: presentations inside and outside the institution, shows, talks demonstrations, participation in photographs, immersion with aquatic animals and school visits, etc.

All the points was constructed, analyzed and discussed considering the function of zoological institutions and animal welfare.

In the following document you can find the ALPZA guidelines for animal activities, a set of rules that seek to promote appropriate practices for the development of activities that involve the interaction of animals with the public in zoos and aquariums in the region, which highlight the institutional principles of the Association and in line with the ALPZA Code of Ethics.

These guidelines apply to any activity in which an animal is present in the vicinity of a person, with or without barrier, with or without physical contact and inside or outside the institution. This activities include presentations, shows, demonstration talks, participation in photographs, immersion with aquatic animals, school visits, etc.

Compliance with these guidelines will ensure that members are regional and global examples of animal safety and welfare, carrying a clear message of education and conservation, connecting and sensitizing the visiting public through the significant experiences that are developed in the zoological and aquarium institutions.

The ALPZA guidelines for animal presentations were unanimously approved in the Assembly of members was held on May 8, 2019 in Santiago, Chile.

ALPZA appreciates the generous support of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and the Metropolitan Park of Santiago for the development of this workshop.

VISITOR-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS GUIDELINES

1. Institutions must comply with their respective countries legislation and with those determinations established by the regulatory body.
2. Any interaction with animals must guarantee the safety of visitors, workers and animals.
3. All interactions with animals should be evaluated with systematic and impartial methods, which measure the effect of the message, as well as the public's perception of the welfare of the participating animals.
4. Interactions with animals should have a clear objective of conservation education and be included in the educational program of the institution.

Interactions with animals should promote, in society, conservation actions through encouraging and mobilizing messages that generate admiration and respect for nature.

5. Interactions with animals should be directed by a person with skills to generate connection and empathy between the public, animals and nature, with the aim of transmitting educational, conservation, animal welfare messages, among others, in an effective way, stimulating and positive.
6. The experience of animals in interactions with people should be positive, and preferably voluntary, for which there will be a trained person responsible for ensuring that activities take place safely and in conditions of animal welfare.
7. Institutions should implement the Five Domains model of Animal Welfare at all times in the life of animals, including activities of interaction with the public, areas outside the habitat, transport and activities outside the institution. The state of animal welfare will be periodically evaluated with evidence-based methodologies.
8. Interactions with animals and their messages should not encourage illegal trafficking and possession of species.
9. Artificial breeding and / or deliberately imprinting of animals for use in interactions is not acceptable