



DREAMWORLD – ANIMAL WELFARE, PRESENTATIONS AND CONSERVATION

Dreamworld upholds the highest standards of welfare for all the animals in its care. We not only meet Australian and Queensland standards for animal welfare and care, we exceed them, and focus on a program of continuous improvement. To achieve this, we utilise the most contemporary and incisive animal welfare science in the world.

At Dreamworld, we also host compelling animal presentations that create connections between people and animals, while always respecting the dignity of the animals. Building on these connections, we encourage people to undertake positive conservation actions to save the planet's wildlife and the wild places in which they live.

Animal Welfare science

Animal welfare science is a discipline that has evolved significantly during the last three decades. Traditional assessments of animal welfare relied on avoiding negative welfare, e.g. 'Freedom from Hunger', and produced neutral welfare states at best. Contemporary animal welfare science meets these basic requirements, and goes well beyond them by assessing *positive* welfare states for animals. Further, quality of life is assessed from the animal's perspective. This body of knowledge is known as *The Five Domains*; a system that actively investigates and measures positive experiences for individual animals.

Dreamworld supports the principles of *The Five Domains* model to underpin its diverse programs for animal care. This approach focuses on the positive lived experiences of all individuals and is regularly reviewed to ensure the latest knowledge and understanding is applied. As a member of the peak body, the Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA), Dreamworld is independently assessed and accredited for its effective delivery of *The Five Domains* methodology of delivering positive animal welfare. They are:

1. Behaviour – our animal care and enrichment programs are designed and developed to ensure that all of our animals' lives are mentally and physically stimulating. We foster a rapport between animals and their expert carers that assists us to provide stimulating behavioural opportunities both within and outside of their home enclosures.
2. Nutrition - all food provided to our animals is of the utmost quality and appropriate to the nutritional needs of our animals. A full-time veterinarian oversees the development of our animals' diets and their routine review. Dreamworld maintains plantations of important fodder trees to ensure the availability of fresh food and browse for our animals similar to those found in the wild.
3. Environment – the housing of all our animals is in accordance with, or exceeds all federal and state legislative requirements, especially relating to physical space. All enclosures are designed and maintained to reflect the natural features and environment of the animals.
4. Health – all the animals in our care have their health overseen by a full-time veterinarian and a fully equipped animal hospital. Our focus is on preventative and proactive health care and extends to the veterinary care of wildlife that are part of species recovery efforts in the field.

5. Mental/Affective – Animals at Dreamworld are provided with an environment that promotes opportunities and experiences for individual animals that maximise their freedom of choice to self-select activities, promote their physical condition and ultimately optimises their affective state.

All-of-life care - Dreamworld has highly trained expert staff who apply 'all-of-life care' principles to our approach to caring for our animals. This includes only breeding new animals where we have existing dedicated housing, facilities and care staff available to them throughout their lives, or where they are part of a regionally coordinated conservation breeding program. Some animals are provided to other ZAA zoos where they are Welfare Accredited, or overseas zoos that are approved by the Australian Government.

Animals from the wild - Dreamworld is sometimes asked by Government or other agencies to provide a home for injured or orphaned wildlife that cannot be released. Dreamworld participates in conservation breeding programs which may include animals that have originated from the wild.

Professional standards – Dreamworld is licenced to exhibit and care for animals under the Queensland Government's Animal Welfare Policy section of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Dreamworld is also a Full Institutional member of the industry peak body, the Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) and regularly participates in its Welfare Accreditation Assessment Program. This program, and Dreamworld's own approach to animal welfare and care uses a model of identifying opportunities for continuous review and improvement.

Dreamworld complies with the federal government's *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Exhibited Animals*. Further, the RSPCA (Queensland) provides state-based oversight on the delivery of our welfare and other obligations in relation to relevant animal care legislation.

CITES - Dreamworld supports the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species and strictly applies the standards required by the Australian Government to any animal being received. Dreamworld recently funded a training program for wildlife enforcement officers in SE Asia to help them crack down on the burgeoning illegal wildlife trade.

Animal Presentations

Dreamworld believes that by building an understanding and a relationship between people and animals, we can effect meaningful change to many issues facing animals in the wild. Research has shown that visitors who made connections with and learned about animals at peak Australian zoos were more likely to make pro-conservation choices as a result.

Dreamworld only undertakes animal presentations that reflect the animal's natural behaviours and provide for the dignity of the animal. No animals are ever forced to participate in an interaction. All animal training reflects the most modern choice-based principles that do not compromise the welfare of the animal.

All animals are provided with the full complement of opportunities for enrichment, quality food and social interaction – irrespective of their involvement in a presentation.

Conservation

As part of its overall commitment to conservation, Dreamworld has established the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation (DWF) and provides funding and other resources to support the Foundation's vital animal

conservation programs both in Australia and around the world.

The Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation (DWF) is a registered charity and forms one of the world's largest zoological contributors to wildlife conservation. The DWF is overseen by a Board of Directors and is externally audited annually. Several million dollars has been provided to vital field conservation projects internationally and within Australia. DWF is a formal partner of the *WildCats* Conservation Alliance through which our international support of tiger conservation is facilitated. Information on the field conservation initiatives supported can be found at www.dwf.com.au