

West Midlands Safari Park Animal Welfare Policy Statement

West Midlands Safari Park...

1. ...recognises that, ultimately, good animal welfare is achieved when an animal has an overall positive mental state and perceives itself to be coping well with its circumstances.
2. ...will always use the best available information to formulate diets for all animals under our care and regularly review and adjust diets as required to strive to meet the nutritional needs of individuals.
3. ...uses industry experience and research to develop species appropriate physical environments and animal care regimes which are designed to ensure comfort, meet the physical needs of all animals, and minimise environments which elicit forms of discomfort.
4. ...aims first and foremost to prevent poor health from causing reduced welfare states and also to have measures in place which enable good physical health.
5. ...continually strives to facilitate only animal interactions (with people, other animals and environmental features) which result in appropriate challenges, promote animal agency and generate positive experiences, and no interactions which reduce an animal's ability to cope (physical or mentally) with its circumstances.
6. ...has systems of monitoring the physical and psychological states of all our animals on a daily basis in order to allow continual assessment of their immediate welfare with the primary aim of preventing negative affective states such as fear, distress or pain.
7. ...keeps (digital) records of all welfare related parameters which are monitored, and these records are used in the short term to influence daily animal care and in the medium to long term to inform formal welfare assessment.
8. ...is committed to providing a formal welfare assessment for every species/individual under our care on a regular basis and implementing, in a timely fashion, any improvements recommended by an assessment.
9. ...has a formal process to allow internal and external experts to preview/review the ethics of any animal care related decisions where there are potential ethical questions about actions.
10. ...believes that all members of (animal) staff are to some extent responsible for the welfare of the animals they care for and must be provided with outlets to express concern about animal welfare if they should have them.
11. ...has to control for certain opportunistic 'pest' species which could, if not controlled, harm animals within our collection or their environments. In the interests of the welfare of our managed animals we employ pest control measures but are committed to doing this in the most humane way possible.
12. ...recognises the existence of the many native British animal species using the Park as home. We endeavour to manager our land in a way which contributes to the biodiversity of our local area and not to compromise the welfare of wild native animals.

Animal welfare

Nutrition

Environment

Health

Interactions

Monitoring

Recording

Assessment

Ethics

Responsibility

Native wildlife