

Animal Welfare Program

(Deconstructed/Sample Components Only)

Revision Date

November 2022

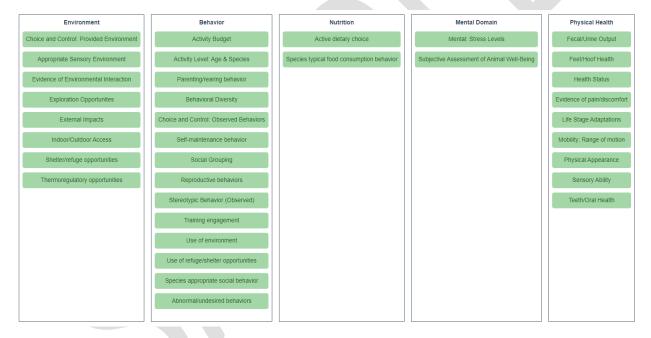
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ZIMS Species 360 Care and Welfare Assessments Module

There is general agreement that there is no single measure of welfare. Instead, an animal's welfare is assessed by monitoring multiple relevant indicators. Typically, scientists and animal care staff assess any number of input variables that can impact an animal's overall experience; these are sometimes termed resource-based variables. These are the "ingredients" that go into providing an opportunity for an animal to experience good welfare. In addition to inputs, outputs are also assessed. Outputs are health and well-being indicators (animal based) including behavioral, physical, and/or physiological assessments. These assessments of inputs and outputs can be accomplished through qualitative, methodical, and scientific evaluations by experienced animal care staff monitoring both inputs and outputs through daily keeper notes, descriptions, photos/videos, discussion, and work plans, as well as by inspectors during an accreditation or certification process.

The Dakota Zoo uses the Care and Welfare Module in ZIMS Species 360. Our templates and indicators for assessing welfare in the Care and Welfare Module include:



Welfare Action Items and Follow Up

Welfare Action Items: Any welfare concern or opportunity that should be addressed as a result of a welfare assessment. These items can be of high, medium, or low priority concerns or simple enhancements to already good welfare.

During each assessment, any welfare action item(s) that come up as a result of the input/output discussions will be noted in the Welfare Assessment excel check sheet. The staff member(s) doing the assessment are responsible for the oversight, follow through, and completion of that item

(even if tasks are delegated to other team members). The date assigned and completion date will also be noted. Large scale and high priority items will be put into a Work Order Form, be identified as a 'welfare action item', and be assigned a 'priority level' which indicates an appropriate timeline for completion.

Visual Sample of ZIMS Species 360 Assessments, Welfare Assessment Check Sheet, and Work Order Form are found in Appendix A

Quality of Life Assessments

As already stated, the Dakota Zoo strives to provide excellence in animal care and welfare. The Quality of Life assessments are a supplement to our Animal Welfare Assessments. These assessments help staff more closely monitor individual animal needs as they age or develop health concerns. These assessments also aid in animal management decisions as they pertain to end-of-life care and euthanasia. The focus of Quality of Life Assessments is to acknowledge where an animal is in their life cycle (age), assess their current state of wellbeing (outputs), and consider adjusting care as needed to better suit the individual. Animals are viewed as juvenile, adult, or senior based on general age parameters for animals in human care and an additional consideration is made for animals noted as 'geriatric'.

The Dakota Zoo defines <u>geriatric</u> as, "animals that require special care due to changes that occur in the body due to aging. It is a state of being, not a particular age, where the body is more fragile and requires more attention than that of younger, healthier individuals." The Dakota Zoo recognizes the importance of increased observation and care for its aging animals and has implemented these assessments as a way of addressing that need.

Our Quality of Life Assessment Program includes:

- A modified HHHHHMM Scale, often used in Veterinary practice and modified for the assessment needs of the Dakota Zoo. (Hurt, hunger, hydration, hygiene, happiness, mobility, and more good than bad days, modified with senses and social.)
- A recommended guideline of one assessment performed per year for each adult and juvenile animal alongside the Animal Welfare Assessment.
- A recommended guideline of quarterly assessments performed per year for each senior animal.
- A recommended guideline of monthly assessments performed per year for each geriatric animal.
- Opportunity to use the assessments more as needed (e.g., weekly or daily) for special cases, medical concerns, and end of life care and decisions.
- Animal care staff participation in, and knowledge of, regular assessments.
- An opportunity to voice and openly address all welfare-related concerns with managers.

Quality of Life Assessment Form found in Appendix B

Animal Welfare Concern Process

To ensure that animal welfare is always of the highest priority, it is important that all staff members (paid and unpaid) are able to bring forward to management any questions or concerns they may have about animal welfare without fear of retribution or judgement.

Process:

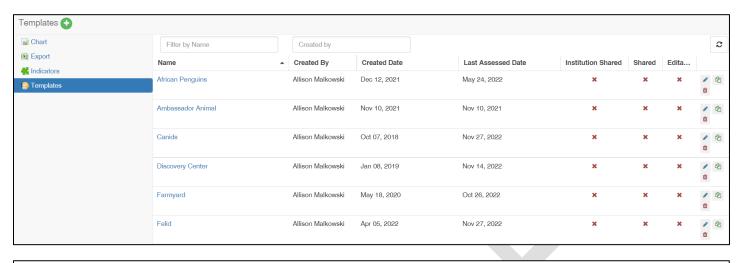
If a staff member identifies an animal welfare issue and is not comfortable discussing it in the weekly staff meeting or monthly Safety and Welfare Meeting, they can report it to a member of the Animal Welfare Committee directly, or via an Animal Welfare Concern Form. Regardless of how an animal welfare concern is communicated, a signed animal welfare concern form must be submitted to a member of the Animal Welfare Committee on the same day that the matter is first reported.

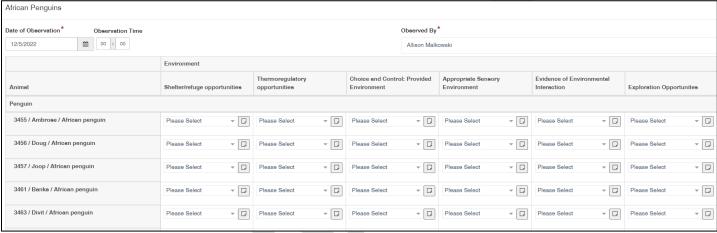
Animal welfare issues may include (but are not limited to):

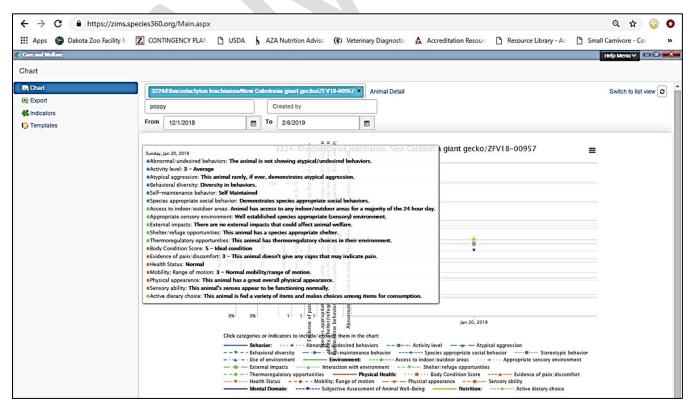
- Health concerns
- Social housing concerns
- Housing or facility issues
- Behavioral abnormalities
- Nutrition or diet concerns

Welfare Concern Form found in Appendix D

Appendix A: Sample of ZIMS Welfare Assessments, Check Sheet, & Work Order







Appendix A Continued: Sample of ZIMS Welfare Assessments, Check Sheet, & Work Order

		Welfare Assessments 2022			
Species	Yearly Assessment Proactive (X)	Action Items (if applicable)	Staff Responsible	Date Assigned	Date Completed
African penguin	X		MA		
African spurred tortoise	X		RS		
American alligator	X		MA		
American badger	X		KG		
American bison	X		RB		
American kestrel	x		AP		
Aoudad	X		RB		
Arctic fox	X		MS		
Bactrian camel	X		AM		
Bald eagle	X		AP		
Ball python	X		KG		
Bearded dragon	X		RS		
Bighorn sheep	X	In need of hoof trims	JH	7/17/2022	8/30/2022
Black swan	X		AL		
Black-footed ferret	X		ZP		
Black-tailed prairie dog	X		RS		
Blue eared pheasant	X		AP		
Blue-and-yellow macaw	X		AL		
Bluegreen chromis	X		RS		
Bobcat	X	Plans for exhibit platforms this summer.	AP	4/5/2022	6/1/22
Branch-capped coral	X		RS		
Brown bear	X		KG		
Brown eared pheasant	X		AP		
Bullsnake	X	Will add one additional hiding spot.	ZP	9/12/2022	9/12/2022
Cabbage leather coral	X		RS		
Canada goose	X		AL		
Canada lynx	X	Plans for exhibit platforms this summer.	AP	4/5/2022	6/21/2022
Cedar waxwing	X		RS		

Dakota Zoo Work Order Request Form

Descrip	tion of Work:	
Date Re	equested: Requested By:	
	Status: [] Accepted [] Rejected	
	Reason for Rejection (if applicable):	
	Is this a Welfare Action Item? [] Yes[] No	
only -	Priority Level: [] 1 – High [] 2 – Medium	m [] 3 – Low
Office Use Only	Guideline for addressing priority levels (discretion used case-by-case):	
ffice	High resolved immediately to 48 hours. Medium resolved in one to two week	ss. Low resolved in two to three weeks.
0	Accepted/Rejected By:	
	Work Completed By:	Date:
	Comments	

Appendix B: Quality of Life Assessment Form



Score Criterion (1-10 Scale) **1-Severe, 5-Moderate, 10-Ideal**

Hurt – Is the animal exhibiting any behavior that would indicate pain (lameness, lethargy, depression, inactivity, signs of discomfort, disorientation, teeth grinding, isolating itself, difficulty or irregular breathing, etc)?

Hunger – Is the animal eating enough to maintain an acceptable body condition? Does diet manipulation, different presentation, or hand feeding help?

Hydration – Does the animal exhibit signs of dehydration (sunken eyes, tenting skin, dry mucous membranes)?

Hygiene – Is the animal (with caregiver assistance if feasible) able to keep itself clean and free of pressure sores?

Happiness – Is the animal maintaining a near normal behavior repertoire and time and activity budget? Does the animal engage in any behaviors beyond basic maintenance (in addition to eating/drinking/preening)? How often? How does this animal respond to its keepers?

Mobility – Is the animal alert and active; can it move around its enclosure normally and get to most/all locations within normal limits and without significant risk of injury to itself? How is posture and locomotion?

Senses – How are the animal's senses? Can the animal still see, hear, touch, smell and thus respond to its environment and keepers with their senses? Has the decline of any senses caused modifications to care or cause limitations to daily husbandry goals?

Social – Can the animal get along with other animals socially, if appropriate for the species? Did the animal need to be removed from conspecifics for any reason, whether for behavior or medical reasons, and will the individual be able to be offered companionship in the future?

(Y/N) More Good Days Than Bad – When bad days outnumber good days, quality of life might be compromised, and re-assessment should be made. Answer Yes or No.

Total = A total of > 45 points is generally acceptable for a good hospice (exceptions will apply)

Species:	Name:	Local ID:
**Please score the animal based upo	on a normal, healthy animal receiving	all 10's, not based upon what has become "normal" for this particular animal.

Date Hurt Hunger Hydration Hygiene Happiness Mobility Senses Social Score Comments

Comments

Appendix D: Welfare Concern Form

Dakota Zoo Animal Welfare Concern Form

Updated January 31, 2017

(please print) Signature:
Signature:
(required)
Severity of Concern (check one)
[] Highthreat to life, limb or severe injury or illness potential (REQUIRES IMMEDIATE EVALUATION BY A MEMBER OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE)
[] Moderateminor injury or illness, broken small bones, sprains, strains, cuts, abrasions, mild self mutilation/over grooming, stereotypic behavior, and psychological distress
Detailed Description of Concern (please list animal, situation, etc.) Proposed Resolution(s) if Apparent (how would you fix it?)
Report Reviewed By: Date: Actions Taken: