

# Conservation and Welfare Working Group Presentation

2008 CBSG Annual Meeting, Adelaide, Australia



# BIAZA

BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

**Welfare Audit for Members**

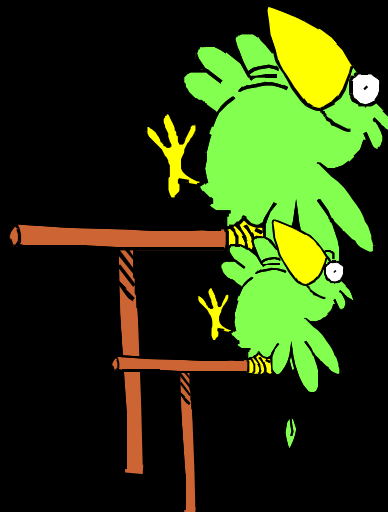
# Conservation and Welfare

- Olivia Walter and Miranda Stevenson
- Raporteur Lesley Dickie
- Time Keeper Kris Vehrs



# Examining

- Aspects to do with the animal's environment
- Aspects to do with the animal itself



**Animals' environment influences**

## Categories - external

- Physical environment (enclosure, environment, noise)
- External influence (government standards, animal rights groups, visitor perception)
- Knowledge base (scientifically based info to 'we've always done it that way', records)



## Categories: external

- Animal Use - (research, animal shows)
- Zoo management - (organizational requirements, participation in managed programmes, contact with visitors, visitors feeding)
- Animal management - (husbandry methods, contraception, part of managed programme, training, cage mates, adjacent enclosure occupants)



# Animal

- Animal – (behaviour, time budgets, breeding, stereotypy, control of breeding (or no breeding))
- Animal health – (coat condition, longevity, parasite burden, disease)
- Animal physiology - corticosteroids



## Refined animal aspects

- Animal Condition: physical
  - Coat
  - Condition (weight) & how do you measure this
  - Psychological health
  - Health and health checks & the benefit of training as a tool
  - Annual review of health
- Stress levels
  - Faecal measures of corticosteroids establish how often to collect & in establishing baselines
- Animal behaviour
  - Need to monitor stereotypies identify possible problems and then measure
  - Time budgets - what do you take as norm - wild activity can vary with conditions
  - Effect of public on behaviour and activity

# Measurement

- Data needed on physical environment, external influences, knowledge base
  - But remember also affected by aspects more difficult to measure
- Audit tick box questions: do you record weights, gait, condition: do you carry out annual health checks, do you record behaviour
- Need to know species specific behaviour and what is abnormal, then measure & what do you compare it to

# Process

1. Need to pull together - regions work together e.g. husbandry guidelines and audit processes
2. Framework to promote good welfare - i.e. the boxes to tick i.e. check list of what you do
3. Need process that can identify potential problem areas and then collect quantitative data on those species / individuals

