



## Unacceptable and Discouraged Practices

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## Introduction

Animal attractions and experiences are now a common part of holiday destinations and are generally very popular with holiday makers. Customer surveys have shown many of the travelling public aspire to see or interact with animals. Yet research and experience also demonstrate that customers want to be assured of good animal welfare standards (YouGov 2012).

As the number of enterprises has grown, so too has our understanding of the animals featured and the potential impacts of human/animal interaction. Strong relationships exist between travel providers and suppliers; it is important that all stakeholders work collectively to enable enterprises to offer meaningful, rewarding experiences to customers whilst at the same time, safeguarding the welfare of the animals and public health and safety. This approach can achieve longer-term business success, raise welfare standards across the industry and strengthen the partnerships that exist between travel providers and animal related attractions.

## Unacceptable and Discouraged Practices

This manual relates to practices involving animals which have been classified as either unacceptable or discouraged by the travel providers working with these guidance manuals.

### Unacceptable practices

Certain activities are widely recognised as having a detrimental impact on animal welfare, and in some cases, may present a high risk to visitor and staff safety. These activities have therefore been classified as 'unacceptable'. Travel providers working with these guidance manuals have agreed that these activities should not be offered for sale to customers.

### Discouraged practices

Some activities involving animals and people may pose health and safety risks. Suppliers of activities involving animals and people should consider and effectively manage both the welfare of the animals and the health and safety of visitors and staff. Travel providers working with these guidance manuals will only consider promoting animal based activities which are classified as discouraged practices where they are satisfied that the risks to animal welfare and the health and safety of customers are managed appropriately.

## Licensing and certification

Animal attractions should be operating legally and in accordance with their country's own legal requirements. If appropriate to the country of operation, the animal attraction should have a valid operating licence issued by a recognised certification agency or relevant local authority.

# Intended use of this guidance

This manual is one of a series of seven manuals intended to be a practical guide for the suppliers of animal experiences and attractions offered within the tourism industry. All seven manuals aim to encourage good practice in animal protection and welfare by providing businesses with knowledge and guidance.

The manuals include a benchmark for best practice in animal welfare for the tourism and animal attractions industries globally. They consolidate an abundance of existing guidance and they establish minimum requirements that are supported by travel providers. As such, they are intended for travel providers to issue to their suppliers, for tourist boards in destinations, for destination governments and ultimately and most importantly, for animal attraction and experience suppliers.

All seven manuals are by no means intended to be the definitive source of information about managing animal welfare considerations in animal attractions. We recognise that there is a great deal of variation in available standards around the world and that for many businesses the manuals will contain commonly known information, but for others they will likely serve as a useful reference regarding best practice in animal welfare. In all instances of uncertainty, we encourage suppliers to seek further advice from a suitably qualified individual or organisation.

## Manual overview

There are seven manuals within the series:

### Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism

The *Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism* provides an introduction to animal welfare and an overview of best practice that is applicable to all businesses and attractions within the tourism industry involving animals. It covers:

- An insight into the different ways in which animals and tourism are linked
- Minimum welfare requirements for animal attractions
- Reference to specific welfare needs of commonly managed species.

It sets out guidance around animal husbandry and care designed to improve animal welfare and to phase out inappropriate practices known to have negative impacts on animals.

### Specific guidance manuals

In addition, five specific guidance manuals cover a variety of activities commonly encountered through tourism. These manuals are intended to guide suppliers to achieve the minimum requirements for each of the specific activity types, besides encouraging progress towards the best practice outlined.

Specific guidance is available for:

- *Animals in Captive Environments*
- *Dolphins in Captive Environments*
- *Elephants in Captive Environments*
- *Wildlife Viewing*
- *Working Animals.*

This specific manual relates to the Unacceptable and Discouraged practices explained earlier.

### Audits and inspections

We recognise that many animal attraction suppliers are members of trade bodies and associations that already have membership requirements relating to animal welfare best practice and that many inspect their members to ensure these requirements are met. The *Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism* upholds internationally-accepted standards in animal welfare and legislation and is therefore compatible with existing industry standards. Audited suppliers should be able to demonstrate compliance with these minimum requirements.

### KEY POINTS

- **Unacceptable practices are known to have a detrimental effect on animal welfare.**
- **Discouraged practices may pose a risk to tourist health and safety and/or a possible risk to animal welfare.**
- **Animal attractions should comply with the minimum requirements for animal welfare.**
- **We encourage animal attractions to aim for best practice in animal welfare.**

### Authorship

These manuals have been developed by ABTA working in partnership with our consultative partner, the Born Free Foundation and have been further developed through a multi-stakeholder consultation process involving industry experts, scientists, zoologist organisations, associations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from around the world. A list of stakeholders is included in Appendix 2. It is important to point out that the content of these manuals does not necessarily reflect the exact views of the listed individuals or organisations. All stakeholders have, however, seen merit in these guidance manuals and provided invaluable input during the consultation. ABTA extends its appreciation to all the stakeholders for their contributions.

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## SECTION 1

## 2 What is animal welfare?

Animal welfare refers to the state of an animal. An animal is in a reasonable state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable, well-nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. Other terms such as animal care, husbandry or humane treatment refer to how an animal is looked after. Reasonable animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/euthanasia. Animals in a captive environment rely on the care and ability of humans to provide them with what they need to maintain their welfare.

### Appropriate animal care

In order to encourage best practice in animal welfare in the tourism supply chain, the *Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism* and the six supporting guidance manuals build upon the principles of the Five Freedoms (developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC 1979)) and the Welfare Quality® criteria. See Appendix 1: sources of further information.

The Welfare Quality® criteria were originally developed for farmed domestic animals. An additional three criteria have been included to address animals in tourism. These additional criteria appear in bold in Table 1.

### KEY POINTS

- You are responsible for an animal if you supply, own or are in charge of it.
- Five Freedoms form the basis of good animal welfare.
- Welfare Quality® criteria define the details of good animal welfare.

Table 1: The Five Freedoms and how they relate to the Welfare Quality criteria (including the additional criteria)

Five Freedoms	Welfare quality® criteria
Good feeding	1. Absence of prolonged hunger. 2. Absence of prolonged thirst.
Good housing	3. Comfort while resting. 4. Thermal comfort. 5. Ease of movement.
Good health	6. Absence of injuries. 7. Absence of disease. 8. Absence of pain induced by inappropriate management procedures.
Appropriate behaviour	9. Expression of social behaviours. 10. Expression of natural behaviours. 11. Good human-animal relationship. 12. Positive emotional state.
Protection from fear and distress	13. <b>Absence of general fear/distress/apathy.</b> 14. <b>Ability to seek privacy/refuge.</b> 15. <b>Absence of surgical or physical modification of the skin, tissues, teeth or bone structure other than for the purposes of genuine medical treatment/manipulation/sedation.</b>

Suppliers, animal owners and keepers have a responsibility to the animals for which they are responsible on a permanent or temporary basis. This includes the provision of their health and welfare needs (described in Table 1). A person could, therefore, be responsible for an animal if they supply, own, or are in charge of it.

Application of and adherence to the Welfare Quality® criteria will go some way to safeguarding the welfare of the animal and to providing a state of wellbeing and dignity. Application of the *Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism* and the six supporting manuals will seek to uphold these criteria, protect animals in tourism attractions or affected by tourism experiences, and help to prevent animal suffering.

## SECTION 2

## Unacceptable practices

All of the activities within this section have been classified as unacceptable. Travel providers working with these guidance manuals have agreed that these activities should not be offered for sale to customers.

The activities divide into three categories:

1. Captive animal facilities.
2. Animals in cultural events and activities.
3. Free-roaming animals in the wild.

### 1. Captive animal facilities

#### Animals on display in restaurants and entertainment venues involving poor practice

Animals should only be kept in conditions that meet their species-specific needs and where the environment or activities do not compromise the animal's welfare. Restaurants, bars, nightclubs or any facility where there is likely to be loud music, flashing lights, or revellers are therefore not likely to provide suitable environments for animals. Animals in these environments, or where animals can be fed or touched by members of the public, may become stressed, agitated and abnormally aggressive. They may also be vulnerable to direct harm and abuse. In addition, the animals may be a source of potential disease transmission (zoonoses).

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.



*Genuine sanctuaries and orphanages should not breed animals.*

#### Animal breeding or commercial trade in sanctuaries and orphanages

An animal sanctuary is a facility that provides short or long-term refuge and/or rehabilitation for rescued, injured, confiscated, orphaned or abandoned animals. Animal welfare should be the primary concern and living conditions for all animals should meet their species-specific needs. Sanctuaries and orphanages should not breed animals, or be involved in the commercial trade or loan of their animals to other facilities. Allowing animals to breed will

divert valuable resources away from rescuing animals in need and can result in animals being kept in inadequate, overcrowded conditions.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.



*Tourist using reptiles as photo props.*

#### Animals used as photographic props involving bad practice

All activities involving animals used as photographic props, and which involve bad practice, are regarded as unacceptable. There can be severe consequences for the welfare and, indeed, survival of the animal concerned. Species commonly used as photographic props and the associated bad practices include:

##### **Wild cats** (e.g. lion, tiger, leopard, puma)

– Separating wild cats from their mothers days after birth, and then hand-rearing them deprives the animals of their mother's nutritious milk. This can lead to deficiencies in vital minerals, which can affect the animal's future growth and development. Most wild cats naturally stay with their mothers for 18

months. Whether wild-caught or captive-bred, these animals retain innate wild behaviours and therefore, potentially pose a risk to humans. To reduce the risk of human injury, these animals may be declawed, chained, have their teeth removed and/or drugged to suppress their naturally active nature.

However, at six months old, these animals often become too dangerous to handle and having outgrown their use, they may be sold on or killed.

**Great apes** (e.g. chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, bonobos and smaller primates) – Primates are often made to wear clothes, consume alcohol or smoke cigarettes and mimic other human behaviour for entertainment purposes. As wild animals, they are unpredictable and have the potential not only to inflict severe physical injury but also to transmit harmful diseases (zoonoses). The removal of teeth is therefore a common practice to eliminate the potential for biting and inflicting injuries.

**Reptiles** (e.g. crocodiles, snakes, lizards, turtles) – reptiles can transmit diseases, such as salmonella, when handled. Reptiles are cold-blooded and therefore have a limited physiological ability to control their body temperature. They often rely on external heat sources. Temperature fluctuations, particularly low temperatures, can therefore be harmful. A number of reptile species are venomous or potentially lethal predators. Practices that are designed to make reptiles safe to handle have been known to include the removal of teeth and venom glands, and jaws wired, taped or sewn shut.

**Birds** – To prevent flight temporarily or permanently, they may have their wings clipped (trimming a bird's primary flight feathers) or they may be pinioned (the surgical removal of the end joint of the wing). Inability to fly, proximity to and handling by humans can be extremely distressing for birds and they may develop abnormal behaviour such as self-mutilation. Like reptiles, birds may also harbour salmonella and parrots in particular are carriers of psittacosis.

**Spiders, scorpions and crustaceans** – These invertebrates are fragile and some can be dangerous, particularly when distressed by handling. As a defence mechanism, some may be venomous or, as is the case with certain spiders, they may release hairs that cause irritation.

Suppliers should not offer or support photographic opportunities that incorporate bad practices.

#### Animal performances based on unnatural behaviours and shows where training methods compromise welfare

The use of animals in performances based on unnatural behaviour and shows that compromise welfare is unacceptable. Parrots and orangutans riding bicycles, elephants standing on their heads or walking a tightrope, chimpanzees smoking cigarettes and tigers jumping through hoops of fire all provide examples of unnatural behaviours that have been associated with animal performances. While the action itself may pose a risk to the animal's welfare (e.g. smoking a cigarette), it is often the training methods that generate the greatest concern for animal welfare. Training methods should not be harmful or abusive to the animal – for instance, training through food deprivation, use of physical force or emotional coercion.



*Training animals to perform unnatural behaviour may involve adverse training techniques and also, gives the wrong message.*

These techniques may lead to abnormal behaviour or cause injury, disease and early mortality. These training techniques are unacceptable. Similarly, performances and shows often fail to encompass any educational element regarding the animals' natural behaviours and habitat; this should be a fundamental element of any animal-related performance.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

#### Canned Hunting

A canned hunt is a hunt in which the animal is kept within a confined area. Such hunts provide the animals with no chance of escape and are unacceptable.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

#### Elephant polo

Based on the same concept and rules as horse polo, elephant polo involves two teams of elephants each carrying two people: a rider and a mahout. The mahouts often use bull-hooks or ankus to manoeuvre the elephant, while the rider hits a ball towards the goal posts with a wooden mallet. Elephant polo tournaments are a relatively new phenomenon and are known to take place in various countries.

The nature of the tournaments requires the elephants to perform behaviours that do not bear a resemblance to that of their wild counterparts. Animals are trained from a young age, and training methods may involve adverse technique and therefore, compromise welfare. In addition, the control and restraint of such large animals is difficult in captivity and may be achieved using a combination of negative reinforcement training (e.g. applying painful or aversive stimulus, such as the ankus) and physical restraint, such as chaining and shackling. Both the game and the harsh training methods may severely harm the psychological and physical wellbeing of elephants.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

#### Ostrich riding

This activity usually takes place on ostrich farms where members of the public have the opportunity to ride ostriches. The ostrich is usually caught using a long pole with a hook at one end, and a hessian hood is placed over the bird's head while the rider mounts. The jockey holds down the bird's wings (by sitting astride). The ostrich skeleton is not designed to support a jockey's weight on its back and this practice is likely to harm the physiology of the animals and have negative welfare implications.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.



*Riding can be detrimental to ostriches.*

#### Unlicensed zoos

By law many countries require specific licences for the operation of zoos and it is illegal to operate a zoo without the required licences. Unlicensed zoos are therefore considered unacceptable. In some cases, legislation requires a minimum standard in animal welfare (e.g. all zoos in member countries of the European Union should adhere to requirements of the European Zoos Directive).

All zoos should be licensed in accordance with local legislative requirements.

#### Surgery or physical modification of the skin, tissues, teeth or bone structure of an animal, other than for the purposes of genuine medical treatment

Surgery or physical modification of the skin, tissues, teeth or bone structure of an animal, other than for the purposes of genuine medical treatment, is regarded as an unacceptable practice.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

### Euthanasia practice which do not comply with current best practice

Euthanasia, or intentional ending of an animal's life, should not be used as a convenient method to address a lack of captive space, to remove unwanted or surplus animals, and it should not be undertaken for cosmetic reasons (for example, when an animal may look less than perfect for public display).

Other forms of intentionally ending an animal's life, for example culling (the reduction in numbers of wild animals, usually confined to limited wild habitats as a result of human activities), should only be contemplated once all alternatives, such as contraception, relocation, range expansion etc. have been exhausted. They should be conducted in the most humane manner possible (e.g. by a trained marksman).

#### Best practice

- Euthanasia is only practised where the quality of an animal's life is considered irreversibly compromised.
- Euthanasia is only undertaken either by or under the instruction of a suitably qualified and experienced veterinarian using techniques proven to minimise, as far as possible, suffering or distress.
- For more information, see Section 7 Euthanasia, in the guidance manual, *Animals in Captive Environments*. The UK Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice also provides a useful guide on euthanasia.
- Additionally, further information regarding euthanasia can be found within the BIAZA Animal Transaction Policy, see Appendix 1: sources of further information.
- Euthanasia practices which do not follow best practice guidance are unacceptable.

## 2. Animals in cultural events and activities

### Animals used for begging

While we recognise that tourism businesses have no direct control over the use of animals by beggars, they can influence the situation and help to stop begging practices from operating near to tourist businesses (for instance on the beach in front of, working in the boundaries of, or next to a tourist business). Tourists should be discouraged from being photographed with, feeding or encouraging in any way activities where animals are exploited by beggars. Examples include dancing bears, snake charming, primates and other animals on a chain about the waist or neck, and elephant parades.



Monkey used for begging.

**Dancing bears** – This is an unacceptable form of entertainment sometimes seen in parts of Eastern Europe and the Indian subcontinent. Young bears are captured from the wild, their claws and teeth are often removed or filed down and rope is pushed through a hole cut into the bear's muzzle. These animals are trained using traditional but barbaric techniques and are forced to respond to music, by standing on their hind legs and appearing to dance while a rope pulls on the sensitive nose ring. This practice is now illegal in Bulgaria, Greece, India and Nepal (where it may still occur), but it is still practised legally in the Eastern Balkans and Russia.

To address the situation, sanctuaries have been established in Bulgaria, Greece and India to re-house rescued bears. Initiatives by International Animal Rescue, Wildlife SOS and Save the Bears are helping provide bear handlers and their families with alternative livelihoods.

**Snake charming** – This is an ancient tradition of the Vadi tribe of the Indian subcontinent but since the 1990s it has been illegal to catch, harm or keep snakes in India. Predominately cobra and python species are used; fangs of venomous snakes are often removed and other species have their mouths sewn shut. Reports suggest that the practice is no longer undertaken by traditional tribes, but instead by opportunists who have limited knowledge.

**Great apes and other primates** – Often seen in market places and along tourist thoroughfares led by their owners on a chain or leash. These animals are usually separated from their captive mothers days after birth and then hand-reared or brought into captivity after their wild mother (and possibly other

members of their family group) have been killed. Primates are often made to wear clothes, consume alcohol or smoke cigarettes and mimic other human behaviour for entertainment purposes.

**Individual elephants** – Often paraded along tourist thoroughfares and beaches, guided by their mahouts, who encourage tourists to buy food to feed their elephants, or offer the opportunity of an elephant ride. These mahouts are opportunists who see the tourist as a source of income. Participation in this type of activity should be discouraged.

For further details regarding the use of elephants in tourism refer to the guidance manual, *Elephants in Captive Environments*.

Suppliers should not offer or support these activities.

#### Bear baiting

Bear baiting is a staged contest between a bear, which is often tied to a post, and dogs that are trained to attack it. These brutal contests are organised by powerful local landlords, who own and train the dogs. The bears belong to owners who are paid to bring the bears to fight. Both the bear and the dogs are victims, and both usually suffer horrendous wounds which are rarely allowed to heal. When not fighting, bears may be chained to a post and they may suffer malnutrition.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.



*Bear at a bile farm: bears are kept in cramped cages and 'milked' of their bile.*

### Bear-bile farms

These farms keep moon bears in tiny cages (barely longer and wider than the animal itself) and, using a catheter surgically inserted into their bile duct, continually milk their bile. The bile is used in traditional Chinese medicine despite serious concerns about the negative health impacts this may actually have. The bears endure a life of pain; they are often emaciated and have terrible, sometimes incurable wounds. Although efforts are underway to rescue these animals and re-house them in sanctuaries (for instance by the charity, Animals Asia Foundation), farms holding thousands of bears are still found in some Asian countries.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity through the sale of products containing bear-bile.

### Bear pits

Bear pits may be found in Japan and China, as well as some locations in Central Europe. Often containing large numbers of bears of different ages, they are sunken concrete-lined enclosures, usually devoid of furniture and vegetation. Rarely able to find refuge or shelter, animals can be exposed to severe

weather conditions and may have limited access to clean drinking/bathing water. Bears are naturally inquisitive animals and therefore require a complex environment to stay active and healthy. Bear pits cannot meet these needs.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

### Bullfighting and bull running

Bullfighting is a traditional spectacle in Spain, Portugal, southern France and in some Latin American countries. Some regard bullfighting as a sport, an art form or a cultural tradition. Increasingly, however, it is perceived as a barbaric practice, which usually results in the painful and protracted killing of the bull in front of an audience (except in Portugal, where the bull is slaughtered outside the arena). In 2011, the Spanish region of Catalonia banned bullfighting. Customers should not be encouraged to attend bullfighting or any other festival (e.g. bull running, famously in Pamplona) where bulls are harmed as part of the entertainment.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

### Cockfighting

This is a well-documented and sometimes lethal blood sport between two roosters (cocks) that are forced together in a ring called a cockpit. The gamecocks are specially bred and conditioned for increased stamina and strength. They are congenitally aggressive toward all males of the same species. In some regions, the birds are equipped with metal spurs or knives tied to the leg, which can result in significant physical trauma and even death. Now illegal throughout the USA, Brazil, Australia and most of Europe, cockfighting is



*Cockfighting is commonly referred to as a lethal blood sport.*

still allowed (although reportedly controlled) in Central and South America, south-east Asia and parts of India.

In south-east Asia, cockfighting has been linked to the spread of avian flu H5N1; hence the transportation of fighting gamecocks in Thailand has been suspended.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.



*Overcrowding in enclosures can severely compromise welfare.*

### Reptile farms involving bad practice

Crocodile and snake farms keep large numbers of animals, usually bred for their skins and meat. Often housed in concrete pits, conditions may be severely overcrowded and unhygienic and – due to competition for limited space, water and food – animals may suffer severe injuries inflicted by cage companions. Some crocodile and snake farms may claim to provide a conservation breeding facility but many of the negative welfare issues already mentioned dominate.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

### Crocodile wrestling

Crocodile wrestling is a spectacle offered to tourists by some crocodile farms. This involves men manipulating, provoking and abusing the animals. Reports describe crocodiles being hit with sticks, sat on with their jaws wrenched open, or being dragged and swung around by the tail. Many crocodiles are reportedly injured during these performances.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

### Tiger farms

Known to exist in some Asian countries, farms keep and breed thousands of tigers in often inadequate and overcrowded conditions. The use of tiger body parts in traditional Chinese medicine is currently banned. However tiger farms seem to anticipate a relaxation in the law that will legitimise these overtly exploitative and commercial operations.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

### 3. Free-roaming animals in the wild



Wild animal skins for sale in a tourist shop.

#### Unregulated animal and plant collection from the wild

Customers visiting wild places should be encouraged to respect the environment and not to capture, collect or remove animals or plants or their derivatives. This includes shells, coral and sponges from marine environments, and flowers, plants, fruits and seeds from terrestrial habitats. The import of numerous wild plant or animal specimens (e.g. tortoises, monkeys) by tourists returning home – even if they are for personal and not for commercial use – may be illegal and severely punished by confiscation, fine or imprisonment.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

#### Direct human-initiated contact with and feeding of free-roaming animals

Customer initiated direct contact between customers and free-roaming wild animals, and the feeding of wild animals, should be prohibited. Free-roaming wild animals can be unpredictable and potentially dangerous.

Wild animals, in particular, can be severely distressed by the proximity of people, and contact of any kind not only runs the risk of human injury but also possible disease transmission (zoonoses).

Other species, for example wild cetaceans, may be naturally inquisitive and approach people of their own accord. Every effort should be made to protect and respect wild dolphins and whales in their natural environment, ensuring the animals' freedom of choice is not restricted. Where customers are permitted to enter the water close to wild dolphin and whale populations, they should be made aware of and should follow the rules of engagement in the activity, for example maintaining an appropriate distance. Customers should be advised of the associated risks to both the animals and themselves. Refer to the specific guidance manual, *Wildlife Viewing* Section 7: Cetaceans and marine mammals, for more information.

It is sometimes suggested that habituated wild animals are, to some extent, tame. However risks may apply, namely distress to the animals, the potential for physical injury and/or disease transmission, not only from humans to the animal involved, and vice versa, but via the animal to local wildlife populations.

Other free-roaming wild species e.g. horses, cattle, dogs, birds, may also cause injury and in some cases may also carry transmissible diseases.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.



Ivory souvenirs are a major contributor to elephant poaching incidents.

#### Trade and sale of endangered wildlife products

An increasing number of animal and plant species are under threat and, in many cases, faced with extinction. Any trade in or sale of wildlife and wildlife products should be carefully managed and controlled to ensure that wild populations are protected from over-exploitation. International wildlife trade is regulated under the terms of CITES (the Convention on International Trade In Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), a treaty signed by 176 countries worldwide. There are more than 30,000 plant and animal species regulated by CITES. CITES lists species on one of three Appendices to the convention, and regulates trade by a permitting system (depending on which Appendix the species appears). For permits to be issued, countries should first ensure that trade in the animal or plant concerned will not cause detriment to the survival of the local, regional or global population of the species (the Non Detriment Finding or NDF). The NDF is imperative to CITES.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.



Trophy hunting is an unacceptable practice.

#### Trophy hunting

Trophy hunting (sport hunting) of wild animals by customers who pay to shoot an animal and take its remains home as a trophy remains legal in many countries. However, there is a growing belief that trophy hunting poses a serious threat to the future of certain species. Despite declining African lion populations, up to 600 wild lions a year – predominantly males – continue to be killed for trophy hunting. This figure does not take into account the wider impact that removal of male lions can have, for instance, the killing of existing cubs when a new male takes over a pride after the previous male's death in a hunt.

The ethical, social and biological problems associated with trophy hunting would seem to far outweigh any positive economic contribution claimed by the hunting industry. Given increasing pressure from threats such as habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, the illegal bushmeat trade and poaching, trophy hunting appears to pose an additional and entirely avoidable threat to the future survival of some species. The real solution lies in a compassionate conservation agenda – finding solutions to the conflicts which arise between wild animals and people and ensuring that communities benefit from participating in wildlife conservation.

Suppliers should not offer or support this activity.

## SECTION 3

## Discouraged practices

This section outlines six practices that have been categorised as discouraged activities. Suppliers of activities involving animals and people should consider and manage both the welfare of the animals and the health and safety of visitors and staff. Travel providers working with these guidance manuals will only consider offering animal based activities which are classified as discouraged practices where they are satisfied that the risks to animal welfare and the health and safety of customers are managed appropriately.

Certain activities involving animals and customers have been publicly criticised as detrimental to animal welfare. Though there is currently a lack of conclusive evidence, there is a risk that such activities are detrimental to welfare. We have therefore classified these activities as 'discouraged'.

### Animal contact and feeding with Category 1, hazardous animals

Handling of animals by inexperienced people (e.g. members of the public) can pose serious risks to the health and safety of the public and the animals. In the UK, the government categorises commonly kept animal species based on potential risk (UK Secretary of State's Standards on Modern Zoo Practice, Defra 2004). For example, animal species in Category '1' – Greatest Risk are likely to cause serious

injury or be a serious threat to life (from injury, toxin or disease). Contact between the public and these animals is only permitted after a thorough risk assessment has been undertaken, demonstrating the risks to animal welfare and public health and safety are appropriately managed. Constant supervision of all interaction is also necessary. For animal species in other categories, varying degrees of contact is permitted. See Appendix 1: Animal husbandry information tables in the *Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism*.

Should the opportunity exist for people to feed animals, risks may be greater. Feeding by the public may cause animals to compete for available food, which may, in turn, cause conflict between individual animals or, where animals have become accustomed to expect food from customers, result in aggressive behaviour should no food be available.

Any instance where contact between customers and animals is permitted should be subject to stringent risk assessments based upon both animal welfare and public health and safety. Regarding animal welfare, the contact session should not cause a stress response in the animal or pose other welfare risks e.g. disease transmission from human to animal.

#### Best practice

- Risk assessments of animal welfare and public health and safety should be made before any animal handling takes place.
- Risk assessment should include the individual animal's ability to cause harm and the risk of zoonoses.
- Suppliers should ensure that customers are informed of the potential risks and the rules of engagement, for example washing their hands before and after permitted animal contact.
- All animal handling should always be constantly supervised by experienced staff; it should not take place close to food outlets.
- Feeding by the public should be controlled. Food should be suitable and nutritious for the species concerned and every effort should be made to ensure all animals are fed in similar amounts.
- Under no circumstances are animals to be fed processed human foods e.g. bread, sweets, biscuits or popcorn.



*Live vertebrate feeding is a discouraged practice.*

### The feeding of animals with live vertebrate prey

The feeding of live vertebrate prey is discouraged or prohibited in the majority of countries. In the UK, the Secretary of State's Guidelines for Modern Zoo Practice (Defra) advise that feeding of live vertebrate prey should be avoided save in exceptional circumstances and should only be conducted under the express instruction of an appropriately qualified vet.

Additionally, the welfare of both the prey and predator should be assured. Where these conditions are met, live feeding should occur away from the public view. Promoting a live feeding event in a captive facility as a spectacle for members of the public to enjoy is unacceptable.

#### Best practice

- Captive carnivores should be fed dead animals.
- Dead prey should be provided in a natural manner e.g. on the bone, with feathers/skin etc.
- See the specific guidance manual, *Animals in Captive Environments*, for further information.



*Tethering birds of prey is a discouraged practice.*

### Bird of prey displays and falconry centres using tethering

Keeping and using birds of prey for display, and falconry where birds are tethered is discouraged. Tethering often involves a leather anklet around one leg, which is attached to a length of cord (a jess), fixed to a block or bow. This prevents the bird from taking flight and greatly restricts movement.



*Birds of prey should only be flown outdoors, with opportunity to free-fly.*

#### Best practice

- Licensed keepers should house birds (especially owls and vultures) permanently and untethered in aviaries, subject to the Welfare Quality® criteria (see Section 1).
- As natural predators, birds of prey should only be flown outdoors, daily, with the opportunity to free-fly for significant periods to maintain full health and vigour.
- Birds should have at-will access to drinking water and shelter from adverse weather conditions.
- At night, birds should be protected from possible predators.
- Handling by the public is strongly discouraged.
- Where handling does take place, it should be supervised and suppliers should ensure that customers are informed of the potential risks and the rules of engagement, for example washing their hands before and after permitted handling takes place.
- Suppliers are encouraged to follow the BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) guidelines.

### Ritual animal slaughter

Every year hundreds of thousands of animals are sacrificed as part of religious festivals in popular tourism destinations. Tourists are increasingly encouraged to visit and view these sacrifices, which often take place at sites of religious significance, as part of their tourism experience. While respecting diverse cultural beliefs, tourists are strongly advised to avoid practices which they may find deeply distressing and which their attendance may perpetuate.

#### Best practice

- Tourism businesses uphold respect for diverse cultural beliefs but do not offer ritual animal slaughter as a spectacle to tourists as part of a tourist experience.



*Activities that involve inhumane ritual slaughter of animals should be avoided.*

### Acquisition of animals from the wild

Many in the international conservation community consider the removal of animals from the wild (where it is not for a demonstrable conservation need) to be an unacceptable practice. Indeed, some consider it undermines conservation efforts aimed at protecting species in the wild. The capture of any wild animal should therefore be governed by a strict set of guidelines. Acquisition from the wild is discouraged and suppliers should instead source new acquisitions from captive breeding programmes.

Before contemplating the capture of a wild animal, the following strict guidelines should be considered:

- Legislation governing international trade in wild-caught species (CITES), and regional, national and local laws relating to the capture of animals from the wild
- Potential conservation impact of removing individual animals from the wild on the survival prospects of a species or population (taking into account CITES Non Detriment Findings (NDF) and relevant IUCN guidelines). See Sections 7 and 8 in the *Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism*
- Potential welfare impact on individual wild animals, for example injury and mortality as a result of capture and transport. The impact of selected removal (for example of males) on the sex ratio
- The captive welfare of the animal and whether its destination has suitable and acceptable conditions that meet all its species-specific needs.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: sources of further information

Category	Further info source	Description
Legislation & Conventions	EC Directive 1999/22.	European legislation—keeping wild animals in zoos.
	Source: <a href="http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/nature_and_biodiversity/l28069_en.htm">europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/nature_and_biodiversity/l28069_en.htm</a>	
Legislation & Conventions	Welfare Quality®	Animal welfare principles & criteria.
	Source: <a href="http://www.welfarequalitynetwork.net">www.welfarequalitynetwork.net</a>	
Organisation & Associations	BIAZA	British and Irish Association of Zoo and Aquaria.
	Source: <a href="http://www.biaza.org.uk">www.biaza.org.uk</a>	
Organisation & Associations	BIAZA	British and Irish Association of Zoo and Aquaria. – Animal Transaction Policy.
	Source: <a href="http://www.biaza.org.uk/animal-management/animal-management-resources/">www.biaza.org.uk/animal-management/animal-management-resources/</a>	
Organisation & Associations	HSE	Guidelines on public health and safety in zoos & aquaria.
	Source: <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk">www.hse.gov.uk</a>	
Legislation & Conventions	CITES	Convention on Trade in Endangered Species.
	Source: <a href="http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/species.html">www.cites.org/eng/resources/species.html</a>	
Organisation & Associations	EAZA	European Association of Zoo and Aquaria.
	Source: <a href="http://www.eaza.net">www.eaza.net</a>	
Organisation & Associations	SPANA	Survey of holiday makers and animal welfare concerns.
	Source: <a href="http://cdn.yougov.com/cumulus_uploads/document/n9rzwb071/YG-Archives-Spana-Holidaying-070812.pdf">cdn.yougov.com/cumulus_uploads/document/n9rzwb071/YG-Archives-Spana-Holidaying-070812.pdf</a>	

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### Consultees

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### Statement from the Born Free Foundation

Each year, the Born Free Foundation receives thousands of calls from members of the public concerned by the suffering of animals that they witness whilst travelling. Born Free investigates these concerns and, as part of our follow-up procedures, contacts governments calling on them to draw up, improve and enforce animal welfare legislation. We also work with the travel industry which is ideally placed to influence the current situation and bring about positive change. Our extensive expertise in the science of animal welfare and wildlife conservation ensures Born Free can provide accurate and reliable information which can be used to tackle many of the negative and harmful practices that impact on the welfare of both captive wild animals and their free-living counterparts, as well as the habitats they depend upon. The Born Free Foundation is delighted that our experience has contributed to a landmark decision by ABTA to produce its ground-breaking *Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism* and six supporting guidance manuals which represent a significant step towards improving animal welfare standards of attractions associated with and supported by the tourism industry.

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**Nancy L. Gibson**, Founder / Chief Executive, Love Wildlife Foundation

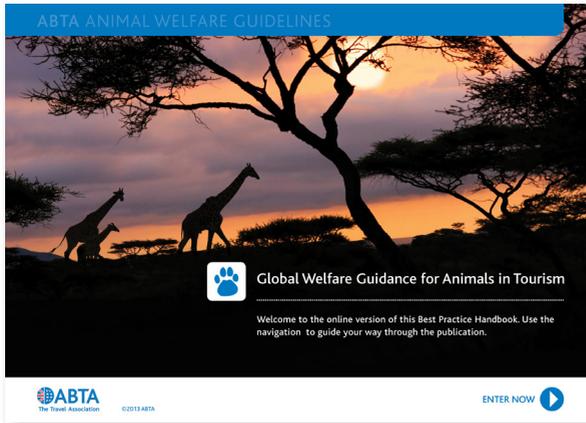
**Dr Susanna Curtin**, Senior Lecturer, Researcher in Eco/Wildlife Tourism, School of Tourism, Bournemouth University, UK

**Mr Marc Ancrenaz**, Co Director, The Orangutan Project

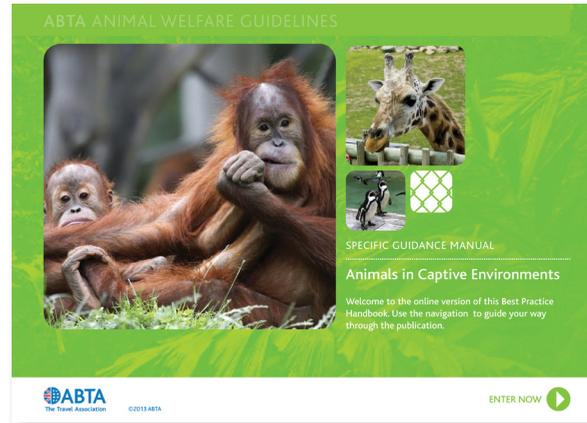
## Appendix 2: photo captions and credits

Page	Caption	Credit
4	Genuine sanctuaries and orphanages should not breed animals.	D Turner
5	Tourist using reptiles as photo props.	Born Free Foundation
6	Training animals to perform unnatural behaviour may involve adverse training techniques and also, gives the wrong message.	AAF
7	Riding can be detrimental to ostriches.	Markiza
8	Monkey used for begging.	Born Free Foundation
10	Bear at a bile farm: bears are kept in cramped cages and 'milked' of their bile.	Born Free Foundation
11	Cockfighting is commonly referred to as a lethal blood sport.	Stock image library
11	Overcrowding in enclosures can severely compromise welfare.	O D Henman
12	Wild animal skins for sale in a tourist shop.	Born Free Foundation
13	Ivory souvenirs are a major contributor to elephant poaching incidents.	LAGA
13	Trophy hunting is an unacceptable practice.	Scott Padavan
15	Live vertebrate feeding is a discouraged practice.	Danny Otanes
16	Tethering birds of prey is a discouraged practice.	Mike Dooley
16	Birds of prey should only be flown outdoors, with opportunity to free-fly.	Mike Dooley
17	Activities that involve inhumane ritual slaughter of animals should be avoided.	Stock image library

# ABTA ANIMAL WELFARE GUIDELINES



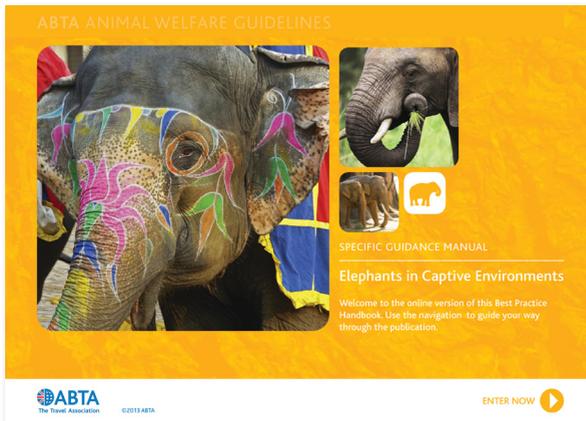
*Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism*



*Animals in Captive Environments*



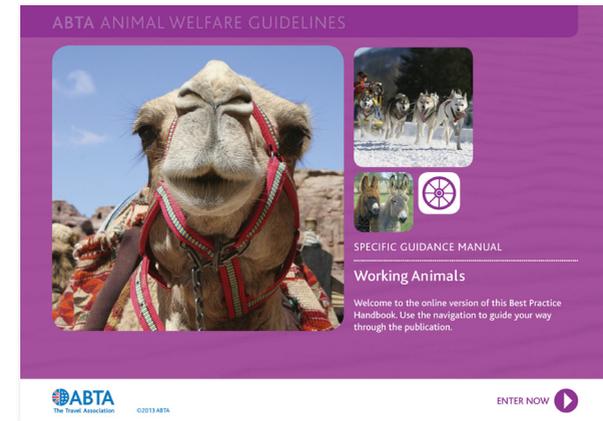
*Dolphins in Captive Environments*



*Elephants in Captive Environments*



*Wildlife Viewing*



*Working Animals*

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