

Animal ROUNDAABOUT



ISSUE No. 28, Winter 2011

Produced for people with an interest in the exhibition of animals in zoos, circuses, mobile farms, fauna and wildlife parks in NSW.

DEVIL ARK – An important conservation initiative

Located on a heavily timbered 500ha property high in the Barrington Tops of NSW, Devil Ark is a promising new component of the mainland insurance population for Tasmanian devils. In essence, it is a complex of pens of between 1-8 hectares, each containing 4-8 devils of different social configurations. The pens are enclosed by an escape- and entry-proof perimeter fence. The project addresses the pressing need for new methodologies in the keeping and breeding of Tasmanian devils to facilitate the ambitious long-range plans of the overarching Tasmania-based 'Save the Tasmanian Devil Program'. Devil Ark is an initiative of the Australian Reptile Park in Gosford NSW. The Australian Reptile Park has been a leader in the development of the 'intensive' component of the mainland insurance population, and currently holds about 50 devils at its Gosford facility. A principal aim of the Devil Ark model is to determine a naturalistic enclosure design that is 'large, but not too large', with a practical eye on the extremely ambitious long-term aims of the insurance population: to maintain well over 1,000 Tasmanian devils in appropriate conditions for a period of perhaps 20 years or longer. To contribute substantially to this daunting task, Devil Ark is seeking to find the right balance between cost-efficiency and wild-type environmental and social conditions. It is anticipated that Devil Ark will take many years to satisfactorily determine the 'ideal' configurations pertaining to enclosure sizes, stocking densities, social group configurations, important

physical features of pens, and best management practices. Nevertheless, four months after the arrival of the initial population of 48 devils, the keeping staff of Devil Ark are very satisfied (and indeed, excited) by the progress. The remarkable suite of social and breeding behaviours of the devils is monitored, through the use of strategically placed camera traps. These camera records and sample trapping of animals within the enclosures have revealed a lack of injuries and maintenance of appropriate body weights for all devils.

John Weigel AM
Australian Reptile Park



Captive bred Tasmanian Devils
Photo Credit – John Weigel

Symbio Wildlife Park – Sumatran Tiger Project



Sumatran Tiger

Photo Credit – John Radnidge

In 2010 Symbio Wildlife Park completed its first big cat experience with the construction of a Sumatran Tiger exhibit. The 1400m² exhibit and 280m² off-exhibit holding yard are designed to encourage natural behaviours such as climbing, scratching, resting, swimming and leaping. These behaviours are encouraged by providing sensory stimulation in a diverse enriched environment that includes climbing poles, large logs, elevated wooden and rock platforms, and a water feature with a pool that increases in depth. The water feature uses automatic chlorination and in-floor filtration systems in combination with standard pool filtration, which allows rapid water turnover. All plumbing has been laid in direct line to minimise blockages and secondary filtration baskets have been installed outside the exhibit to allow easy access for maintenance. A specialist carnivore keeper was employed to head up operations 12 months in advance of the completion of the exhibit. Other

staff were also employed and trained in the husbandry, conditioning and management of “big cats”. The security of the facility is of great importance so a review of 14 institutions was undertaken to ensure the design and safety measures undertaken were best practice within the industry. Visitor feedback has been extremely positive, indicating that we have achieved our exhibit design and animal welfare objectives. The enclosure has received local acclaim and industry recognition by winning the 2011 “small institution large scale development” Zoo and Aquarium Association Exhibit Award. This recognition is a well deserved honour to the project team headed by Matt Radnidge. The construction of this exhibit, within a small family operated institution, is an outstanding achievement, that will contribute to the conservation of the Sumatran tiger.

John Radnidge
Director
Symbio
Wildlife Park



Sumatran Tiger Exhibit

Photo Credit – John Radnidge

Masterclass in the Euthanasia of Animals at Zoos and Wildlife Parks

In response to industry approaches, Richmond TAFE is developing a skill set for several new units offered as very affordable TAFE Plus ‘Masterclasses’. The Masterclasses are being developed in collaboration with industry – in this case the NSW Fauna and Marine Parks Association. The first of these Masterclasses is the Euthanasia of Animals at Zoos and Wildlife Parks. Although the thought of euthanasia is confronting it needs to be addressed as there are a variety of scenarios where euthanasia may be considered appropriate. Examples of these include:

- Casualty wildlife.
- Controlling vermin and feral animals.
- Small vertebrate animals bred for food for carnivores.
- Large animals as food for carnivores.
- Problem animals in emergency situations.
- Animals no longer able to display the broad range of their behavioural repertoire due to injury, old age etc.
- Animals as part of species management programs.

There are two main parts to the course that include theory and practical components. The theory component is offered online and includes topics such as Introduction and General Aspects regarding Euthanasia; Methods / Techniques of Euthanasia; Scenarios of Common Application of Euthanasia, which are linked to recommended euthanasia techniques; and a Chat Session. The Practical Workshop component can be held anywhere such as Fauna and Marine Parks Association meetings, an ASZK Conference or specific workshop. If you have any further queries I can be contacted at: graeme.phipps@tafensw.edu.au

Graeme Phipps
Captive Animals
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Use of Immobilisation Drugs by Exhibitors in NSW

There has been a degree of confusion over the ability of exhibitors to obtain restricted substances such as S4 and S8 immobilisation drugs, which are regulated under the NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods legislation. In order to clarify the issue NSW Health has provided the following advice. Zoos and fauna parks may keep on site Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 immobilising drugs, if obtained by, and under the care and control of a veterinary practitioner who is authorised under the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966*. In this circumstance, the S4 or S8 drugs should be kept in a locked cupboard or safe, on the site of the zoo or fauna park, accessible only by the veterinary practitioner in the lawful practice of his or her profession. If the veterinarian is not able to personally administer the drug, then, if they determine that it is safe and appropriate, they can delegate that duty to a nominated staff member of a zoo or fauna park. In these circumstances the



Lion Photo Credit – Stephen Jackson

drug should be labelled and dispensed by the veterinarian for a particular animal (or animals) with specific instructions for administration. In this situation the veterinarian must be satisfied that any delegated staff member is properly trained and competent in the safe and appropriate administration of the drug and that access to the dispensed drugs is restricted to the delegated staff member. The administration of the medications to animals is additionally subject to certain restrictions under the provisions of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*. Therefore the NSW Veterinary Practitioners Board should be contacted to ensure that any proposed protocols are in accordance with the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*.

Remake of the Non-Indigenous Animals Regulation



Photo Credit – Stephen Jackson

Orang-utan

The remake of the *Non-Indigenous Animals Regulation 2006* has been deferred until 2012. The main amendments proposed that relate to exhibitors include:

- Removing the exemption from obtaining a permit to import or move a 'lower risk' animal, except for owners who hold a suitable licence or permit under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*.
 - Requiring persons who wish to exhibit a new species of animal that is classified as 'higher risk' to be licensed under both the *Non-Indigenous Animals Act 1987* and the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* (with provision for adjusted licence fees).
 - Prescribing additional information that must be included on returns furnished by a licensee, and introducing a requirement to notify the Director-General of changes to licensee or premises details within 48 hours.
 - Amending a number of the animal classifications contained in Schedule 1 to provide better consistency with nationally recommended classifications.
- Increasing penalty notice amounts for individuals for more serious offences and introducing higher penalty notice amounts for corporations.
 - Increasing fees in line with inflation and to improve cost recovery, and amending the structure of application fees such that they consist of two parts – a lodgement fee and an issue fee.
 - Improving the security of licensed premises to prevent theft, escape or malicious or accidental release of licensed animals.

Therefore all exhibitors should be aware of these potential changes. Further details of the 2011 proposed changes can be obtained at:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/about/legislation-acts/review - An amended draft Regulation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) will be provided later this year for the 2012 Regulation.

Reducing the ecological footprint at Calmsley Hill City Farm

Calmsley Hill City Farm, formerly Fairfield City Farm, is located in Abbotsbury in the South West of Sydney, off the M7 just under 1hr from Sydney and 1/2hr from Parramatta. Though it is well known for providing a great educational experience with domestic and native animals (including goats, pigs, chickens, rabbits, sheep, kangaroos and koalas) it is also developing alternative green energy and suitability techniques. Two areas where we are making big changes include:

- Water and energy use:
- Replacing over 35 inefficient light fixtures with a mixture of LED, T5 and CFL bulbs.
- Labelling all light switches to ensure only the required lights are turned on.
- Consolidating the use of fridges and freezers and removing the oldest and most inefficient ones.
- Placing timers on a range of equipment to ensure that it is only on when needed.

- Insulating the main office and gift shop roof in an attempt to reduce the need for heating and cooling.



- Clear roofing panels have been installed in many areas to take advantage of natural lighting.
- Waste Management
- Using Bio-swale to filter the run-off from our animal pens before releasing the water back into our dam.
- Establishing a windrow compost heap to deal with the straw and manure that is cleaned from animal pens. This is then put back on to the farm's garden.
- A new contractor has been sourced to sort and recycle our rubbish off site.
- Only recycled paper and paper products are used on site.

We also have signs that advise visitors where our rubbish goes and how visitors can compost their rubbish at home. Come along and be a part of the sustainable journey with us. Please visit our website www.calmsleyhill.com.au for more information.

Tara Gunter
Farm Manager
Calmsley Hill City Farm

Photo Credit – Stephen Jackson



Green Tree Frog

Some of the forms, including forms being used by exhibitors are old forms that do not fax very well as the lines are not clear. As a general reminder all exhibitors should check that they are using the most current forms. The forms can be found at:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/exhibit

A new policy has been developed for the exhibition of animals that are managed under the Australasian Species Management Program. This policy states that applications for permits under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* to exhibit a prescribed species (as per Schedule 2 of the Regulation) will generally be refused if it relates to a Managed Species under the ASMP unless it is demonstrated that the applicant is an approved participant in the ASMP. This policy is available on our website at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/exhibit.

Exhibitors are reminded that animal records must be kept up-to-date. As inspectors can only periodically inspect facilities the maintenance of up-to-date records is fundamental to assuring the community that the welfare needs of exhibited animals are being met. Recently an exhibitor was issued a penalty notice for failing to comply with this requirement.

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Animal Roundabout is complimentary

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up-to-date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.