Taronga Conservation Society Australia

DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR WILDLIFE

With over 4,500 animals in our care and 2 million guests visiting annually, Taronga takes its commitment to conservation and animal welfare seriously. Inherent within that is caring for and portraying wildlife with the greatest dignity and respect, whilst delivering engaging guest experiences. Taronga believes that all individuals and species have intrinsic value and should be treated accordingly. We believe it is a privilege to care for the amazing wildlife we have at Taronga's zoos and aim to present wildlife with context about its homeland, habitat, cultural significance and connections to people, place and stories.

To support our philosophy, Taronga has developed five criteria to ensure all animals in our care are treated and portrayed with dignity and respect.

TARONGA
CONSERVATION SOCIETY AUSTRALIA
For the Wild

1 Taronga presents wildlife in thoughtfully designed spaces inspired by nature that provide for the opportunity to undertake behaviours specific to their life history.

We choose to provide animals with enrichment and design features that use nature as the reference point. By celebrating the natural world and species relevant behaviours, we can inspire our guests so they too can connect-understand-act for wildlife and their habitats.

2 Taronga aims to engender awe, admiration, wonderment for wildlife and recognises the essence of the species.

We choose to connect people to wildlife through personalisation but not humanisation, as we consider it important that animals retain many of the characteristics important to that species.

3 Taronga wildlife connections support the delivery of Taronga's conservation and education objectives.

We choose to design wildlife experiences that communicate an appropriate conservation, environmental sustainability and/or animal welfare message, and align ourselves with likeminded organisations.

4 Taronga strives to empower wildlife through the incorporation of choice (or agency) in their daily lives and avoids portraying human superiority (or dominion) over wildlife.

We choose to develop animal experiences that reflect a more balanced and respectful relationship between humans and animals. We promote experiences that are animal-led, do not require restraints, can occur in an area that has context and meets the species' needs, and is backed by behavioural husbandry that supports good health and wellbeing.

5 Wildlife connections are designed to be a positive experience for both wildlife as well as guests.

We choose to make animal welfare our top priority. The realisation of this is supported by a veterinary care program, diets prepared by our zoo nutritionist, enrichment determined by our behavioural ecology team, care provided by qualified zoo keepers and animal spaces that allow wildlife to flourish.

We believe that people are at the centre of conservation and a future without wildlife is not an option. We strive to engender respect for the creatures with whom we share this planet, to secure a shared future for wildlife and people.