

5.4.14 Animal Handling Safety

Purpose

To describe the systems to minimise the hazards associated with animal handling.

Scope

This procedure applies to all employees of the Park who may be required to work with animals in the course of their employment.

Reference

Definitions

Procedure

Specific procedures have been developed and must be followed for all tasks associated with the handling and training of animals. These procedures will be reinforced with disciplinary action for noncompliance, as it is important to ensure the safety of the employee, the animal and our guests.

Employees who work with animals will be given appropriate training in these procedures and will have to demonstrate competency in some of the tasks, especially performance skills. Only trained employees are permitted to work with the animals.

Employees who work with animals are to be appropriately qualified and will be given further training, as necessary. These employees will be given time and all other resources, as necessary, to perform their work safely.

Any new animal, equipment, apparatus, show or handling issue will be assessed for risk to the employee, the animal and bystanders and appropriate procedures developed. Consideration must be given to issues such as manual handling animal attacks, bites or stings and zoo noses.

Guest Interaction with Animals

Specific procedures will be developed following a risk assessment for guest interactions with the animals. As a minimum animal handlers will always be in attendance where guests are invited to interact with animals. Health and Safety rules are to be determined from the risk assessment and explained to guests and volunteers before they have contact with the animals