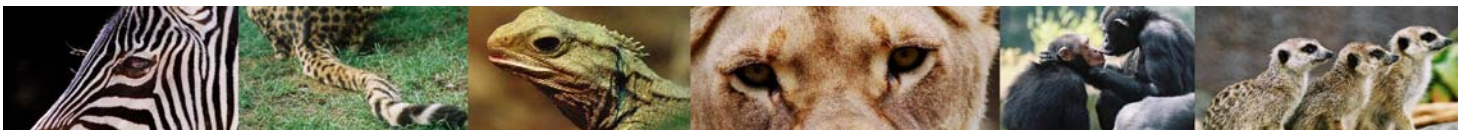


Animal behaviour at Wellington Zoo





Chapter 1: Welcome

This booklet has been designed to facilitate students working towards





Achievement Standard 3.4: Describe animal and plant responses in relation to environmental factors

Wellington Zoo is a fantastic resource for you see to see animal behaviour first hand. We have many species that live in groups here including the Hamadryas baboons and chimpanzees. By observing these groups you can see hierarchies in action and witness some of the advantages and disadvantages to being part of the group. Whilst at the zoo you might get to study courtship behaviours and parental care within different species- both exotics and natives.

Contents

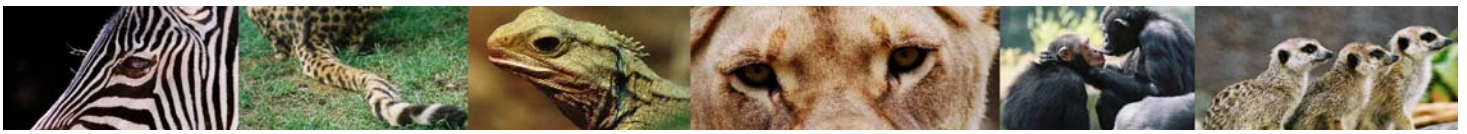
- Chapter 1 Welcome to the booklet and learning at Wellington Zoo
- Chapter 2 Information on 5 mammal species at the zoo
- Chapter 3 Information on 2 bird species at the zoo
- Chapter 4 Observation sheets that can be used around the zoo

Meanings of symbols

	Type of habitat or country of origin
	Diet
	Group structure
	Interesting behaviour

Learning at Wellington Zoo

www.wellingtonzoo.com



We have a team of 3 animal conditioners working at the zoo who play an integral part in the care of our animals.

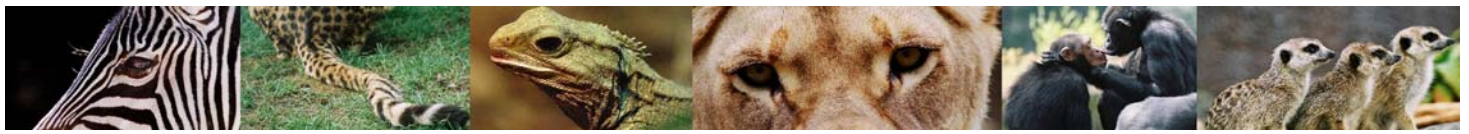
Every day, several of our animals will have a training session. We are not training them to jump through a hoop or have a tea party, behaviours that may have been approved of in the past; instead we are conditioning them for husbandry purposes.

Through training, often it is no longer necessary to rely on hand capturing, heavy restraint, or chemical immobilizations to perform routine husbandry or medical procedures. For example, animals can be trained to calmly enter a chute or crate instead of being forced in. In addition, animals can be trained to accept various procedures, (e.g., TB tests, temperature, blood draws), calmly in a chute and without restraint. The bottom line here is that through effective training, we can enhance our abilities to care for our animals.

Before a training programme begins there are several things that must be taken into account

1. The animal's natural history – it's important to consider the animal's predispositions. For example, it may make more sense to ask an arboreal animal to station off the ground/on a perch.
2. The animal's individual history – it's important to consider the early rearing/life experiences of the animal being trained. For example, an animal that's imprinted on humans may be trained substantially differently than a wild-caught animal brought in as an adult.
3. The animal's function or "role" in your collection – the animal may be in the collection as part of a breeding program or part of an education program. The type of training and your level of interactions with that animal may differ depending on the function this animal serves in your collection.
4. The training process involves a two-way communication. By studying and understanding the animal's behavior, it is possible for trainers in effect to "listen" to messages the animal is sending them. It is then also possible for trainers to communicate clear messages about their expectations back to the animal. A hand-raised parrot that is part of an education program "sends and receives" substantially different messages than a parent-reared giraffe exhibited in a mixed-species savannah exhibit.









Chapter 2: Mammals

Hamadryas baboon

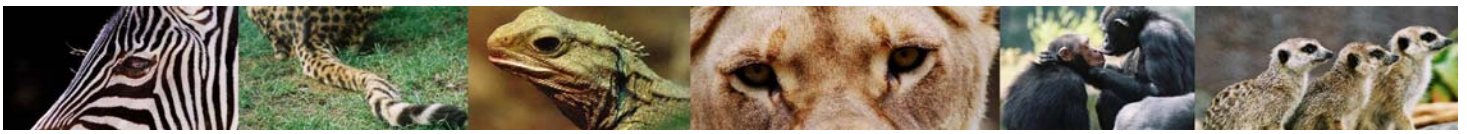
- ✓ Males are larger than the females and have a silvery cape
- ✓ They live in a harsh environment and can travel 20km per day foraging for food.
- ✓ Very social and get stressed by isolation
- ✓ They produce a dog like bark as an alarm call
- ✓ They are a type of Old world monkey
- ✓ No prehensile tail



	<p>Grasslands and open rocky country of North East Africa and Arabia They spend more time on the ground than any other monkey</p>
	<p>Grass, seeds, roots, termites, small vertebrates</p>
	<p>Each male has a harem of females, 2 harems together make a clan. Several clans make a band and several bands make a clan Males stay with their birth clan whilst females move away</p>
	<p>Signs of aggression include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - staring - showing teeth - raising hair - slapping hands on ground - screaming

Our baboon clan is made up of 19 individuals that are divided into 2 harems. The dominant males are Albert and Rameses.

Many of the clan members were born at Wellington Zoo



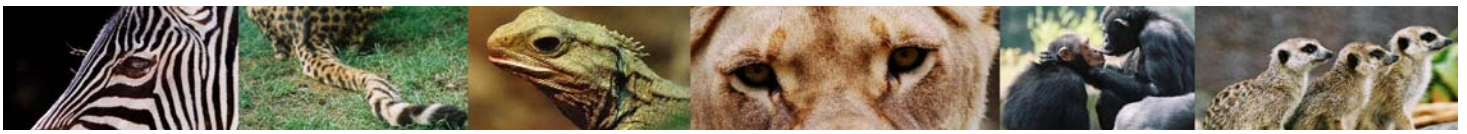
African wild dogs



- ✓ Each dog has unique markings
- ✓ Lifespan 11 years
- ✓ Pack can range 200-700 sq miles
- ✓ White tips to the tails assist with communication
- ✓ They can produce a range of vocalisations

	<p>Open woodlands and plains</p>
	<p>Mammals like antelopes and warthogs although they will also feed on rhino, ostrich and elephant</p>
	<p>Pack of 7-10 adults All the males in the group are related and all of the females are related. Often more males in a group than females</p>
	<p>All of the pack will help to raise the young. If the pack is smaller than 4 members the chance of them successfully raising the pups is slight. Youngsters may leave the pack when they are 2 years old</p>

We have 9 members in the pack at Wellington Zoo. The dominant female is Mupenzi, born 2002, and the dominant male is Zahabu, born 2001. They had 3 pups in 2006.



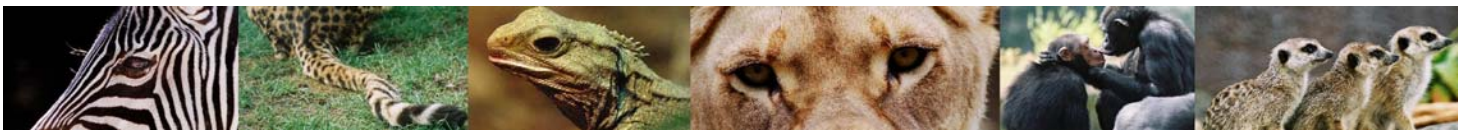
Slender tailed meerkat

- ✓ They have strong powerful digging claws
- ✓ Life span of 12 years
- ✓ Related to otter and mongooses
- ✓ They have 10 different sounds that they use to communicate within the group.
- ✓ When threatened they may dig up dirt to create dust clouds and distract predators



	<p>Harsh deserts in Africa</p>
	<p>Butterflies, moths, termites, crickets, eggs and small mammals or reptiles</p>
	<p>Usually live in a group of 10-30 animals made up of several family units with a female in charge of each one. Young females leave the group and the males stay</p>
	<p>Each meerkat has special duties that benefit the group. The babysitter stays close to the burrow with the youngsters. The sentries watch for predators, the hunters dig for food and a teacher will show the juvenile how to hunt. All of the group help to raise the youngsters either by babysitting or by providing food for them.</p>





Wellington Zoo has 2 mobs of meerkats. One group of 3 lives in an enclosure by the café and another group of 5 live up by the historic elephant house.



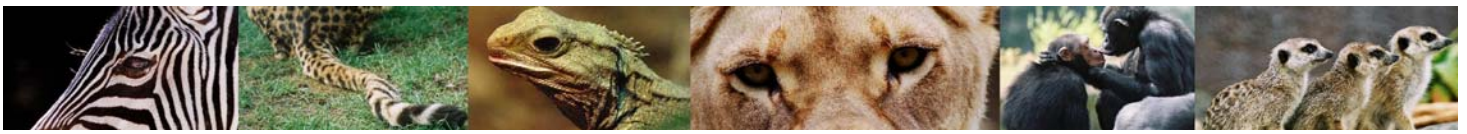
Oriental Small Clawed Otter



- ✓ The smallest otter
- ✓ Very active and playful animal
- ✓ Life span of 12-14 years in the wild and 20 in captivity
- ✓ In some parts of Asia there is a tradition of training otters to catch fish

	<p>Freshwater wetlands and mangrove swamps of Asia</p>
	<p>Crustaceans, small mammals, fish, birds and snails</p>
	<p>Live in social groups with a male and female bonding for the breeding cycle, including raising the pups.</p>
	<p>Male courts the female with lots of playing and chasing</p>





4 Otters live at Wellington Zoo. The oldest is Poppa who has just turned 19 years old. We also have Jack who was hand raised and isn't keen on other otters.



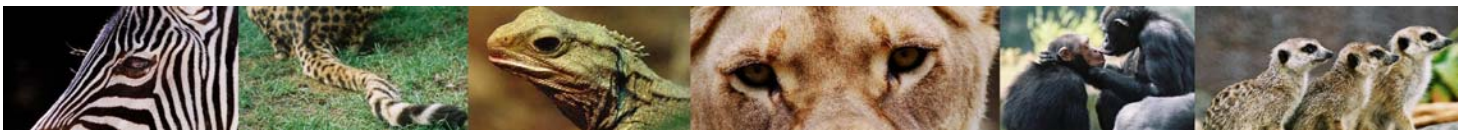
Chimpanzee

- ✓ This species is a great ape
- ✓ Large brain relative to its body size
- ✓ Long period of parental care for offspring
- ✓ Travel mostly on the ground but sleep in nests up in the trees at night
- ✓ Lifespan of 53 years
- ✓ They can recognize themselves in the mirror



	<p>Tropical forest, woodland and savannah of Africa</p>
	<p>Fruit, leaves and animals They eat over 250 different types of food.</p>
	<p>They live in mixed groups which have a strong hierarchy. An alpha male leads the group and has good mating rights with the females.</p>
	<p>Chimps use a variety of tools, 26 different types. The type of tool used often depends on the geographical location of the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ivory Coast: Hunting of adult red colobus monkeys -Tanzania: Termite fishing -Uganda: Medicinal plant usage -West Africa: Cracking nuts

Currently at Wellington zoo we have 12 chimps- 6 males and 6 females. The oldest is Sammy, born in 1977, and the largest is Jessie, born 1978. Three similar sized males are competing for the alpha male position so the chimp occupying it changes almost daily.







Chapter 3: Birds

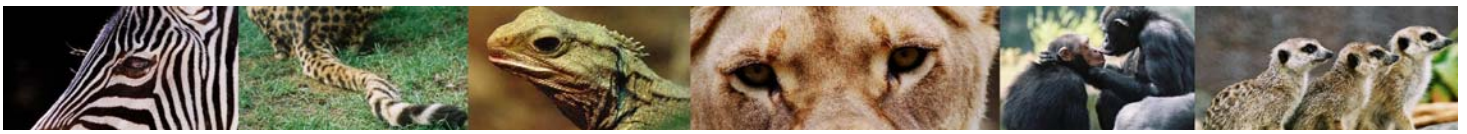
Sun conures



- ✓ There are 40 different types of conures
- ✓ They are friendly birds that can often be fed by hand
- ✓ Both parents feed the youngsters
- ✓ They build nests in hollows of palm trees.

	Savannah, open forests and palm groves
	Seeds, fruits, nuts, berries and blossoms
	Usually live in groups of 4-12 individuals
	Usually feed quietly amongst the vegetation but in flight they are extremely noisy and their screeching call notes can be heard long before they come into view

There are 8 sun conures at Wellington Zoo divided into 2 groups. The group in the cotton top aviary along the river trail is composed of 3 sun conures. The remaining 5, mum, dad and their 3 offspring are in another aviary.



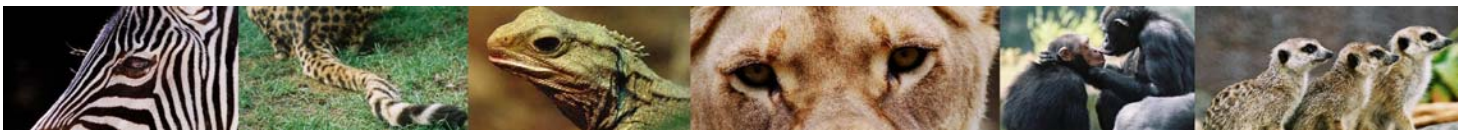
Kea

- ✓ Highly intelligent
- ✓ In captivity can live for 50 years
- ✓ Type of parrot. Their closest relative is the kaka



	<p>High country and mountains of New Zealand's South Island</p>
	<p>Berries, roots, buds, seeds, insects and worms. They will also scavenge on dead animals.</p>
	<p>Each male may have up to 4 mates. Both sexes share responsibility for guarding the eggs and feeding the chicks.</p>
	<p>They are very curious birds and like to play and taste anything new or novel. Can use tools</p>

Wellington Zoo has 3 kea, 2 females called 1 eye and 2 eyes and 1 male called Koro.



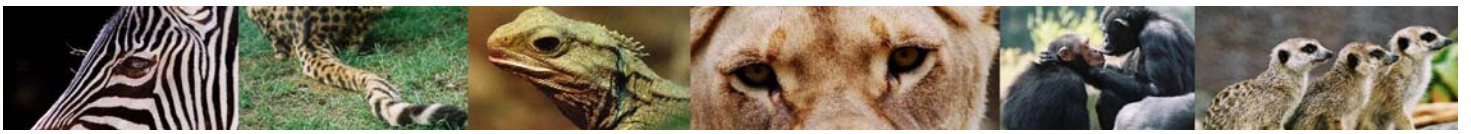
Chapter 4: Animal Observation: Frequency of behaviour

To carry out this observation you may want to work in pairs, one person to observe the animal group and the other to time and tick the sheet. Observe the group of animals for 10 minutes. Note down any of the behaviours listed as they occur during your observation. Repeat with another group of animals.

Name of Group 1 _____

Name of Group 2 _____

Category of Behaviour	Action	Observation 1 Ticks	Observation 2 Ticks
Grooming	Self grooming		
	Same sex grooming		
	Male/female grooming		
Communication	Aggressive facial display		
	Aggressive action		
	Aggressive noise		
	Submissive action		
	Retreat		
	Pant hooting		
	Communicating with a human		
Care of young	Mother feeding young		
	Mother carrying young around		
	Mother grooming young		
	Other females interacting with young		
	Males interacting with young		
Locomotion			
	Climbing		
	Brachiation		
	Knuckle walking		
	Bipedalism		
	Remaining still		
Tool use	Use of sticks		
	Use of stones as weapons		
Play	Young playing together		
Other Behaviour			



Animal Behaviour Observation

For each of the animals pick one individual in the group and observe their behaviour for 5 minutes. Note down the number of times they carry out each of the behaviours.

Animal	Vocalisation	Foraging/ Feeding	Social	Sleeping/ Relaxing	Parental care	Other
Otter						
Lemur						
Cockatoo						
Sun bear						
Chimp						