

# Enclosure Design

Maintaining a balance between the needs of animals, visitors and keepers

## Animal Care

### Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

- ✓ All students will recognise the need for different enclosure characteristics to meet the needs of different species.
- ✓ Most students will be able to see how novel ideas can be used to create an innovative yet practical enclosure for animals and visitors.
- ✓ Some students will begin to understand the complexities involved with trying to build a successful enclosure.

### Session Outline:

The session begins with a brief history of how enclosure design. Modern day aspects of what an enclosure should have are examined, including: allowing the animal to express natural behaviours, animal and human safety, and educational roles of enclosures. The session then looks at the varying needs of the animals, keepers, and visitors. First the animals' needs are discussed, including not only basic needs but also to ensure comfort, mental stimulations and some unique animal needs (e.g. salt water pools for sea lions). A group discussion evaluates pictures of animal enclosures with a focus on the animal's requirements. After this the keepers' needs are looked out, highlighting how the enclosure should allow the keepers to provide the best husbandry care. The visitors' needs are discussed to with specifics of what they want from an enclosure including being able to view the animals, safety measures and aesthetics. The session then looks at functionality of enclosures including how animals can be moved and secured, different barrier types, and the variety of visitor viewing opportunities. The second half of the session involves a tour of the zoo to see real-world examples of aspects covered in class, with the opportunity to ask questions to qualified animal keepers.



### Key Points Covered:

- Contact vs non-contact
- Designing for animals' needs
- Designing for keepers' needs
- Designing for visitors' needs
- Enclosure functionality
- Innovative features
- Specific species requirement