



Animal Health and Welfare and monitoring

Understanding Animal Welfare

- Definition: Animal welfare refers to the well-being of animals, encompassing their physical and mental health.

- Five needs:

- **Suitable environment:** The animal should have a suitable environment.
- **Suitable diet:** The animal should have a suitable diet.
- **Normal behaviour:** The animal should be able to exhibit normal behavior patterns.
- **Housing:** The animal should be housed with, or apart from, other animals.
- **Protection:** The animal should be protected from pain, suffering, injury, and disease

Key Responsibilities

1. Daily Monitoring:

- Conduct daily checks on all animals.
- Observe behaviour, appetite, and physical condition.

2. Health Assessments:

- Perform regular health assessments, including weight checks and body condition scoring.
- Identify signs of illness or distress.

3. Record Keeping:

- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of each animal.
- Document health assessments, treatments, and behavioural observations.

4. Feeding and Nutrition:

- Ensure all animals receive a balanced diet appropriate to their species.
- Monitor food intake and adjust as necessary.

5. Environmental Enrichment:

- Provide enrichment activities to encourage natural behaviours.
- Regularly change and rotate enrichment items to maintain interest.

6. Veterinary Care:

- Coordinate regular veterinary check-ups and vaccinations.
- Be familiar with common health issues for each species.

Emergency Protocols

- Recognizing Emergencies:
 - Be aware of signs that require immediate veterinary attention.
- Emergency Contacts:
 - Keep a list of emergency contacts, including veterinary services and animal control.
- Reporting Procedures:
 - Report any concerns or incidents to the designated supervisor promptly.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Monitoring and Ensuring the Health and Welfare of Animals

Purpose

To establish a systematic approach for monitoring and ensuring the health and welfare of all animals under our care.

Scope

This SOP applies to all staff members responsible for the care of animals in our facility.

Responsibilities

- All Staff: Daily monitoring and reporting of animal health and welfare.

- Veterinary Staff: Conduct health assessments and provide medical care as needed.

Monitoring Procedures

Daily Health Checks

- Conduct a visual inspection of all animals at the start of each shift.
- Look for signs of distress, injury, or illness, including:
 - Changes in behaviour
 - Abnormal posture or movement
 - Changes in appetite or water intake
 - Signs of pain or discomfort

Record Keeping

- Maintain a health record for each animal, documenting:
 - Daily observations
 - Any changes in health status
 - Treatments administered
 - Veterinary visits and recommendations

Environmental Checks

- Ensure that animal habitats are clean, safe, and appropriate for the species.
- Monitor temperature, humidity, and ventilation in living spaces.

Welfare Assessment

Behavioural Enrichment

- Provide opportunities for natural behaviours through:
 - Toys and enrichment tools
 - Social interactions with other animals
 - Regular exercise and playtime

Nutrition

- Ensure that all animals receive a balanced diet appropriate for their species and age.

- Monitor food intake and adjust diets as necessary.

Regular Veterinary Care

- Schedule routine health checks with veterinary staff.

- Administer vaccinations and parasite control as recommended.

Emergency Procedures

- In case of a health emergency:

- Isolate the affected animal to prevent the spread of illness.

- Notify veterinary staff immediately.

- Document the incident and any actions taken.

Training

- All staff members must undergo training on animal welfare practices and monitoring protocols.

- Regular refresher courses should be provided to keep staff updated on best practices.

Review and Evaluation

- This SOP should be reviewed annually or whenever there are significant changes in animal care practices or regulations.

- Staff feedback should be gathered regularly to improve monitoring and welfare strategies.

Conclusion

Adhering to this SOP will help ensure the health and welfare of all animals in our care, fostering a safe and nurturing environment.