



Sabrina Brando: Global Collaboration for Animal Welfare

Psychology seminar: Wednesday, 24th April, 5.30pm

Where: Room 3A94, Cottrell Building, The University of Stirling

Supported by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)



Abstract: World-leading zoos and aquariums that are members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) have a continuing commitment to achieve the highest standards in animal welfare. Promoting optimal animal welfare is one of the core responsibilities of all zoos and aquariums today, and is fundamental to successful education, research and conservation programs. The current WAZA Animal Welfare Strategy covers 9 different topics, providing a short introduction and theoretical background, specifies recommendations and includes an action point checklist at the end of each chapter. While some of topics will require extensive planning and resources, as well as being time consuming, many day-to-day animal welfare related efforts can be more easily implemented. Dynamic environmental enrichment programs, easy modifications to exhibits, attention to cleaning and maintenance procedures, a focus on positive human-animal interactions, offering complexity, choice and control, are all examples of areas where differences can be made, and positive welfare can be promoted. Daily behavioural observations, individual and group specific record keeping, and regular reviews of the collected data allow for evaluation and modification, or to immediately address problems. While awaiting major environmental changes, daily animal welfare efforts to provide choice and control and promote positive welfare can, and should, be executed where possible today. WAZA Twinning for Animal Welfare program underscores our shared commitment to maintaining, improving and actively encouraging optimal animal welfare in all wild animals in zoos and aquariums worldwide. The WAZA Animal Welfare Strategy “advocates improving animal welfare and for better collaboration and partnerships between zoos and aquaria to achieve and enhance positive animal welfare”. This presentation will give an overview of the WAZA Animal Welfare Strategy, practical examples of great animal care, and highlight the importance of global collaboration for animal welfare.

Bio: Sabrina Brando is Director of Animal Welfare with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Her favourite job title however is ‘I am in the business of animal happiness’. For the last 27 years she has been working in and with the global zoo and wildlife profession, including zoos, aquariums, wildlife centres and sanctuaries. Sabrina has a BSc. in psychology and has a MSc. in animal studies, which focused on “An evaluation of zoo animal welfare assessment from inspection to daily practices with recommendations for a holistic approach”. Sabrina is fortunate to be involved in book chapter writing, presenting at conferences, running workshops, and to collaborate on several research projects on animal advocacy, welfare and behaviour. Sabrina teaches, and always learns new things, when teaching as a guest lecturer at various universities and colleges on e.g. animal welfare, behaviour and the human-animal interaction and relationship. Sabrina loves storytelling and writing - particularly about animals and the natural world, wearing a button with “I love stories” almost all of the time. The button sparks a lot of great conversations and storytelling about animals among many other topics, from people she meets at a conference, to a stranger on a plane. Do you have a story you want to share about the animal(s) you care(d) for, a special friendship you have with your favourite animal, a great action for animals or the planet you were involved in, or anything else that makes your heart sing concerning animals and nature, Sabrina would love to hear from you!

Seminars are free. All welcome!

Please contact Hannah Buchanan-Smith with any enquiries (h.m.buchanan-smith@stir.ac.uk)