

# Animal Training

Training can shape behaviour – why is this beneficial for zoo animals?

## Animal Care

### Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

- ✓ **All students** will understand how animal training is used in zoos and how it benefits animal management.
- ✓ **Most students** will understand the basics of training and recognise how to adapt these methods to accommodate for different species.
- ✓ **Some students** will understand the different forms of learning and how this can impact training and their overall husbandry.

### Session Outline:

The session begins by defining behavior and outlining basic survival behaviors. It explains innate and learned behaviors, covering imprinting, habituation, social learning, imitation, tutoring, trial and error, and conditioning. A brief history of training introduces operant and classical conditioning, followed by hands-on training exercises. Key training concepts like cues, bridges, and positive reinforcement are also covered. The session concludes with a zoo tour, where students observe real-world training and have the opportunity to ask keepers questions.



### Curriculum Links

- Classical conditioning
- Operant conditioning
- Positive reinforcement
- Steps of training
- Reasons for training
- Practicalities of training