

Enclosure Design

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

Animal Care

Learning Outcomes:

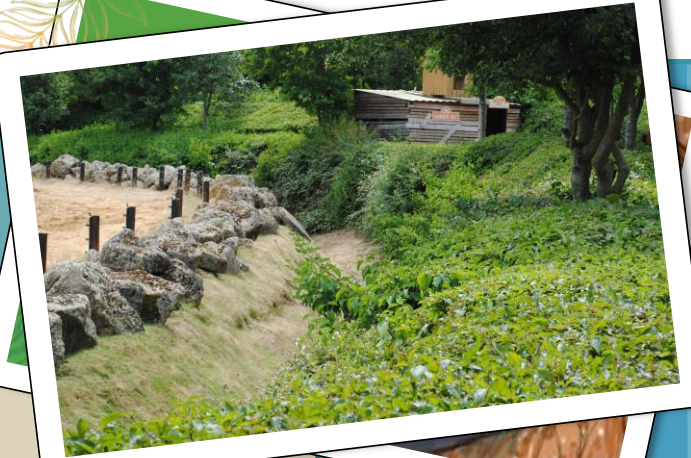
At the end of the session:

- ✓ **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 enclosure design, followed by a look at modern requirements, such as allowing natural behaviors, ensuring safety, and supporting education. It examines the varying needs of animals, keepers, and visitors. Animal needs include basic care, comfort, mental stimulation, and unique requirements (e.g., saltwater pools for sea lions). A group discussion evaluates enclosure photos with a focus on animal needs. Keeper needs are discussed in terms of supporting optimal husbandry, while visitor needs include animal viewing, safety, and aesthetics. The session also covers enclosure functionality, including animal movement, barriers, and viewing options. The second half features a zoo tour to observe real-world examples and the opportunity to ask questions to keepers.

Please note, no live animals are used in this session.



Curriculum Links

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