

# Behaviour expectations

Pre-excursion discussion notes about respect and safety at Adelaide Zoo

Dear educator,

Zoo Learning provides these notes to support your conversation with students with a pre-excursion discussion about why we have particular rules at the Zoo. These rules are designed to keep everyone safe and our animals happy and healthy. We hope you have a fabulous learning experience at Adelaide Zoo.

## Over 130 years of history

For over 130 years Adelaide Zoo has been connecting people to nature and on your visit you will see many of the efforts that are being made to save people from extinction. These guidelines will help you to enjoy your visit and ensure that you and our animals remain safe.

Remember, Adelaide Zoo is home to over 2500 animals and 250 different species. Each animal has the right to be respected and the rules that apply to all visitors are designed to protect animals from harm, keep you safe and help you make the most of your visit.

## Please don't pat the animals unless a Zoo staff member invites you to

Usually our Keepers avoid going into animal enclosures, and there are few animals Keepers will touch at any time. Our aim is to avoid humanizing or domesticating Zoo animals the way we do with dogs and cats. Modern zoos provide the most natural environment possible so that animals are healthy, happy and safe. Therefore, if you try to touch them, you could get hurt, and the animals could be hurt too.

## Special places and times to pat safe animals

The Children's Zoo is a safe place you can go to pat animals and we ask children and students to be with an adult when going into the contact areas (deer and goat yard or fauna park area). Some people find the animal contact experience overwhelming. These animals will sometimes rush up to visitors in expectation of being fed. They may nibble on clothing and bags, papers and other objects. If you don't think you can stay calm in this environment, don't go in.

During special Keeper presentations at Adelaide Zoo, visitors will sometimes be invited to touch one or more of our friendly species. At 11.15am daily our presentations team run a Wildshow Animal Experience in the Westpac Envirodome where you may have this opportunity. Please arrive at least 5 minutes before the start time.

## How to show respect to animals at the Zoo

Yelling and high noise levels can distress some animals. Please keep voices down to a whisper in the Panda Forest, Reptile House, Nocturnal House and the Envirodome; these areas have animals that are especially sensitive to noise. Please make sure the flash is turned off on your camera in these areas. Please respect the animals by avoiding tapping on enclosures and throwing anything at them. Don't forget, this is their home!

Normal walking pace should be how you move around the Zoo. This avoids collisions or tripping.

## Discovering

To finding answers to questions, use your observation skills, read the signs and ask questions of animal Keepers. Volunteers are experienced Members of Zoos SA and are happy to answer questions. You will see them in their Zoos SA Volunteer uniforms.

The messages for today are: stay safe, respect the animals and other people in the zoo, learn and have an enjoyable day!



Principal Partner  
**Westpac**

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## When you first arrive at Adelaide Zoo

Dear educator,

Our Zoo Guides may be scheduled to meet your group when you first arrive at the Zoo to welcome you and your students, however this is not always possible. Zoo Learning provides these notes to support an introduction when your students first arrive at the Zoo. Please run through this checklist with your students before they venture off into the Zoo if we were not able to meet you at the Entrance.

### Checklist

- Please respect the animals in terms of noise levels; tapping on the glass and yelling can distress some animals. Don't forget, this is their home!
- Normal talking voice and normal walking pace should be how you move around the Zoo.
- Please keep your voices down to a whisper in the Panda Forest, Reptile House, Nocturnal House and the Westpac Envirodome. Please remember to disable the flash on your camera in these areas. Giant Pandas in particular are shy by nature and can become quite stressed if there is lots of noise in the Panda Forest area. Please make sure your students understand that quiet behaviour is expected in this area.
- The Zoo recycles as much rubbish as it can so please help by sorting your waste and placing it into the appropriate bins. The bins are labelled and you will notice that the Zoo recycles more items than most sites, eg chip and muesli bar packets, glad wrap and other 'soft' plastics.
- Many of you may have workbooks to fill in or information to collect as part of your zoo visit today. Take the time to read the signs around the Zoo and at the animal enclosures as this should help with your inquires /learning.
- Volunteers are experienced Members of Zoos SA and are happy to answer your questions. You will see them in their Zoos SA Volunteer uniforms.
- You may be able to ask a Zoo Keeper but please keep in mind that they may be busy working with the animal collection and can't always stop for a chat.
- The Zoo animals are all well fed, please do not feed them (keep your food for yourselves).
- If you go into either of our zoo shops please leave large school bags at the entrance of the shop (obviously remove your valuables from your bag first though).
- It is important that you stay safe while you are at the Zoo. Zoo Keepers avoid going into animal enclosures, and there are few animals Keepers will touch at any time. Modern Zoos provide the most natural environment possible so that animals are healthy, happy and safe. Remember not to try to touch the animals - you could get hurt, and the animals could be hurt too.
- There are two contact areas in the Children's Zoo that you can go in and pat animals (the deer and goat yard and the fauna park area). The Zoo asks you to be with an adult supervisor when you visit these areas. Please meet your group leader at ..... am/pm at the Children's Zoo.

The messages for today are: stay safe, respect the animals and other people in the zoo, learn and have an enjoyable day!



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