

Lions, Tigers & Bears!



**What the AMO can
learn from zoos**

Selina Neill, 2006



What is the Zoo-UAM connection?



- It's time for us to look and think outside the square!
- Zoos have a wealth of knowledge & experience in animal handling & behaviour
- Parallels between the zoo environment & companion animal environment
- Community expectations

Where we went



- Dreamworld
 - Gold Coast, Qld
- Sea World
 - Gold Coast, Qld
- Australia Zoo
 - Sunshine Coast, Qld

What we learned



- Behaviour management strategies
- Environmental enrichment
- Somatic communication
- Public awareness & education

Behaviour management



- Aggression
- Stereotypic behaviour
 - Pacing
 - Head shaking
- Excessive noise
 - Calling

Behaviour management



Behaviour management



Environmental enrichment



- Social
- Food or feeding strategies
- Physical
 - Structures & enclosures
 - Objects
- Sensory
 - Auditory
 - Olfactory
 - Tactile

Polar Bear Shores, Sea World



Polar Bear Shores, Sea World



Somatic communication



More than just reading their body language, its responding in their language.



Somatic communication



- Would you try to take the toy away?

Somatic communication



- There is a huge advantage to being on 'talking terms' with animals

Public Awareness



- Council's can adopt a similar signage strategy in popular dog parks, promoting UAM issues

Other benefits



- Supervisors take note!
- Rewarding for staff
- Motivating
- Challenging

AMOs – take note!



- Seek these places out
- Don't feel limited to what you visit
- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Don't be afraid to apply what you learn

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