

DAY 1: TUESDAY 17-03-2026			
8:00 - 8:45	Registration		
DARWIN			
8:45 - 9:10	Welcome Address		
9:10-10:10	KEYNOTE LECTURE: Qualitative Behaviour Assessment - Françoise Wemelsfelder		
10:10-10:30	Development of a generalised qualitative behaviour assessment (QBA) tool for zoo-housed animals - Dan Wright, Lewis J. Rowden, Naomi Frost, Anne Carter, Samantha J. Ward, Daan Laméris, S.Mark Rutter and Ellen Williams		
10:30-11:00	Break		
DARWIN: From Standards to Practice			
11:00-11:20	EAZA Welfare requirements - April Adams		
11:20-11:40	From Concept to Action: Operationalising Animal Welfare Strategies in Zoos and Beyond - Justine K Partoon		
11:40-12:00	Challenges in welfare assessment and recommendations for implementing a successful process - Léon Faure, Charlotte Desbois, Amélie Romain and Constance Wagner		
12:00-12:20	Development of a Standardised and Multi-Institutional Welfare Assessment Protocol for Use in Danish Zoos and Aquaria - Cecilie Ravn Skovlund and Kirstin Anderson Hansen		
12:20-13:40	Lunch break		
DARWIN: Nutrition, Feeding Strategies and Welfare Outcomes		GALAPAGOS	STANLEY
13:40-14:00	Reducing Regurgitation and Reingestion in Captive Chimpanzees: Effects of a Combined Dietary and Enrichment Intervention - Charlotte E. Kluiver, Heleen Van Engeldorp Gastelaars, Filipa M.D. Paciencia, Hester G.H. Van Bolhuis, Kelly L. van Leeuwen, Elisabeth H.M. Sterck, Berry M. Spruijt, Joeke Nijboer and Godelieve Kranendonk	13:40-14:40 WORKSHOP A (1): Assessing Welfare in “Unusual Taxa”: Practical Approaches for Under-Studied Species - Lisa Clifforde, Sarah Richdon, and Marina Salas	13:40-14:40 WORKSHOP B (1): From twilight thrills to welfare skills: The zoo managers balancing act - Lisa Holmes, Chris Grindle, Naomi Walsh, Elena Gough and Laura Naidenov
14:00-14:20	The effect of dietary management on activity budgets in Asian elephants in Amersfoort Zoo - Anouk Fens, Bastiaan Dijk and Heleen Post-van Engeldorp Gastelaars		
14:20-14:40	Less choice equals more variety: ensuring the consumption of a balanced diet - Sarah Byrne		
14:40-15:00	Abnormal Ingestive Behavior in Male Zoo Gorillas: Investigating the dietary and activity patterns associated with regurgitation and reingestion - Rhiannon L. Schultz, Isabella L. K. Clegg and Roberta Salmi		
15:00-15:30	Break		
DARWIN: AI, Technology and Digital Monitoring for Zoo Welfare		GALAPAGOS	STANLEY
15:30-15:50	AI Enhanced Camera Monitoring for Zoological Collections: Assessing Behaviour and Welfare - Naomi Davies Walsh, Carl Chalmers, Paul Fergus, Steven Longmore, Bridget Johnson, Lisa Holmes and Serge Wich		
15:50-16:10	ZooVision for Zookeepers: implementing an AI behavior monitoring platform “Elephant-Zzs’s” for everyday keeper use – a case study with Asian Elephants - Mu Zhou, Daniel Herrera, Alexander Mathis and Leyla Rivero Davis	15:40-16:40h WORKSHOP C (1): How the everyday choice of diet items is a long-term welfare decision: feeding diets high in fibre - João Pedro Meireles, Sarah Byrne, Sarah Depauw, Anouk Fens, Geert Janssens, Marcin Przybyto, Lauren Samet, Roxanna van Riemsdijk and Marcus Clauss	15:40-16:40h WORKSHOP D (1): The Right Tool at the Right Time: Navigating the Welfare Assessment Ecosystem - Amélie Romain and Léa Briard
16:10-16:30	From Pen to Pixel: Real-Time Husbandry Recording with Interactive Whiteboards - Lauren Samet, Eleanor Jordan, Emma Buckland and Kat Simpson		
16:30-16:50	Developing a deep-learning model to track proximity and behavior for compatibility assessment in threatened white cockatoos - Kees Groot, Joakim Bruslund Haurum, Irena Czychołł, Simon Bruslund, Cecilie Ravn Skovlund, Mads F. Bertelsen and Björn Forkman		
STANLEY		GALAPAGOS	
16:50-17:50	WORKSHOP C (2): How the everyday choice of diet items is a long-term welfare decision: feeding diets high in fibre - João Pedro Meireles, Sarah Byrne, Sarah Depauw, Anouk Fens, Geert Janssens, Marcin Przybyto, Lauren Samet, Roxanna van Riemsdijk and Marcus Clauss	WORKSHOP E (1): Developing a Fixed-List Qualitative Behaviour Assessment tool for monitoring giraffe welfare during visitor feeding experiences - Thomas Welsh, Annika Paukner, Ellen Williams and Samantha Ward	

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 18-03-2026			
8:00 - 8:30	Registration		
	DARWIN		
8:30-9:25	KEYNOTE LECTURE: Assessing cognitive and affective states (Fifth Domain) - Daan Laméris		
	DARWIN: Individual Differences in Practice: Behaviour, Cognition and Husbandry Decisions		
9:30-9:50	Cognitive Bias Testing for Orangutans & Gorillas - Eridia Pacheco and Marieke C. Gartner		
09:50-10:10	Personality in zoo animal husbandry and care: translating theory into real world practice - Ellen Williams, Lucy Stratford and Elly Neumann		
10:10-10:30	Case report of first introduction of non-related female pygmy hippos: how behavioural observations help to adjust and maximise success - Chloé Raoul, Amélie Deslias, Clémence Collignon, Denis Michaud and Léa Briard		
10:30-11:00	Break		
	DARWIN: Advancing Welfare Beyond Mammals: Fish, Reptiles and Birds	GALAPAGOS: Public Perception, Interpretation and Visitor Impacts on Animal Welfare	
11:00-11:20	AQUAC3: Development of an online platform connecting aquaria and the scientific community to improve aquatic knowledge and optimize aquarium fish welfare - Kristina Edwards	Public understanding of animal welfare: implications for education provision in zoos - Ellen Williams, Dan Wright, Lewis Rowden, Naomi Frost, Anne Carter, Samantha J. Ward and Deana Stephens	
11:20-11:40	Vulture Housing and Husbandry in European zoos: understanding current practice and provision for six EEP vulture species - Alice Doyle, Wanda McCormick, Lucy Garrett and Vicky Melfi	Listening Instead of Labelling - Sarah Bonser-Blake and Sarah van Herpt	
11:40-12:00	Responses of Six Reptile Species to Decreases in Glass-Tapping and Anthropogenic Sound - Kylen N. Gartland, Sara Zalewski, Brad Barr and Grace Fuller	Thriving, Not Just Surviving: A Proactive Approach to Collaborative Health and Wellbeing in Zoological Institutions - Analisa Edell and Heather Shields	
12:00-12:20	Evidence, Sunlight, Choice: improving reptile welfare sustainably - Sam Aneca	Are the world largest lizards able to cope with the presence of visitors? A behavioural study of Komodo dragon male and female housed at Natura Viva Garda Animal Park - S. Logica , P. Biasetti , C. Sandri and Caterina Spiezio	
12:20-13:40	Lunch break		
	DARWIN: Monitoring Change, Behaviour & Development	GALAPAGOS	STANLEY
13:40-14:00	Rapid multi-taxa monitoring to support animal welfare during the opening of a new area - Constance Wagner	13:40-14:40 WORKSHOP E (2): Developing a Fixed-List Qualitative Behaviour Assessment tool for monitoring giraffe welfare during visitor feeding experiences - Thomas Welsh, Annika Paukner, Ellen Williams and Samantha Ward	13:40-14:40 WORKSHOP A (2): Assessing Welfare in “Unusual Taxa”: Practical Approaches for Under-Studied Species - Lisa Clifforde, Sarah Richdon and Marina Salas
14:00-14:20	Watch out: Impact of a new environment on the sentry behaviour of a group of meerkats - Ilse van den Brekel, Stijn Berger and Alexander Kotrschal		
14:20-14:40	Early Implementation of a Digital Welfare Monitoring System: Lessons from the First Three Months in a French Zoo - Ana Pascaud and Sabine Ketelers		
14:40-15:00	A framework to understand critical developmental stages as drivers of long-term and intergenerational welfare in zoo mammals - Oriol Talló-Parra, Marta Amat, Clara Agusti, Maëlina Gomez, Marta Teixidó, Marina Salas and Xavier Manteca		
15:00 - 15:30	Break		
15:30-17:00	VISIT ZOO ANTWERPEN		
17:00-20:00	POSTER SESSION + Belgian Beers		

DAY 3: THURSDAY 19-03-2026			
8:00 - 8:30	Registration		
DARWIN			
8:30-9:25	KEYNOTE LECTURE: Practical approaches to zoo animal welfare - Jason Watters		
DARWIN: Ethics, biological imperatives, and welfare trade-offs in management decisions			
9:30-9:50	The Moral Frontier of Zoo Animal Welfare: Are Our Current Approaches Enough? - Georgina Groves		
09:50-10:10	The welfare outcomes associated with the most highly motivated behavior in all life forms: reproduction - David M. Powell		
10:10-10:30	Caring for Animals, Supporting People: Welfare Trade-Offs in Population Management Strategies - Léa Briard, Maxime Collin, Amélie Romain, Mélanie Berthet and Baptiste Chenet		
10:30-11:00	Break		
DARWIN: Environmental / sensory block			
11:00-11:20	How noise affects giraffes: A combined 24/7 behavioral and acoustic analysis - Hanna Mebus, Constance Wagner, Clémence Verguin and Paul W. Dierkes		
11:20-11:40	Light at night: The Effect of different light conditions on the activity pattern of captive housed nocturnal species on a reversed day-night cycle - Heleen Post-van Engeldorp Gastelaars and Fleur van Opstal		
11:40-12:00	Illuminating Animal Welfare: Biology and Application of Lighting Design in Zoos - Grace Fuller and Jennifer Hamilton		
12:00-12:20	Non-invasive Assessment of Transport Stress in Goats and Its Translational Potential to Zoo Animals - Md. Niamot Ali, Abdulla Al Mamun Bhuyan, Mst. Ishrat Zerin Moni, Dipa Ray, Mst. Farzana Aktar, Md. Arafat Hossain, Mehedy Hasan Pranto, Md. Mahabubur Rashid and Jashim Uddin		
12:20-13:40	Lunch break		
DARWIN: Applied welfare tools, enrichment & implementation		GALAPAGOS	STANLEY
13:40-14:00	Specifically Unspecific – Simple Devices as Feasible and Effective Enrichment for Small Mammals - Miriam Göbel, Sylvia Kaiser, Helene Richter, Philipp Wagner and Gerrit Wehrenberg		
14:00-14:20	Aniwell: An original Tool for Animal Welfare Assessment and Team Coordination - Sylvie Clavel and Lucie Mouveaux		
14:20-14:40	BearWell in practice: implementation of a species-specific welfare assessment protocol for brown bears (<i>Ursus arctos</i>) in a sanctuary setting - Elena Stagni, Marta Brscic, Ana Vacas and Irene Redtenbacher		
14:40-15:00	Promoting Agency in Bottlenose Dolphins (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>): Development and Assessment of an Automated Animal-Activated Enrichment System - Oriol Talló-Parra, Maëlina Gomez, Clara Agustí, Daniel García-Párraga, Robert Gojceta and Xavier Manteca	13:40-14:40 WORKSHOP D (1): The Right Tool at the Right Time: Navigating the Welfare Assessment Ecosystem - Amélie Romain and Léa Briard	13:40-14:40 WORKSHOP F (1): Bringing Welfare Science to Life - Ely Neumann and Benjamin Fainsod
15:00-15:30	Break		
DARWIN: Scaling Welfare: Strategy, Capacity & Long-Term Systems		GALAPAGOS	STANLEY
15:30-15:50	From Intention to Implementation: The Updated World Zoo and Aquarium Animal Welfare Strategy as a Tool for Global Change - Thalia Pelegrin and Paula Cerdán		
15:50-16:10	A decade of applying the Cetacean Welfare ("C-Well") Assessment: welfare results over repeated applications and correlations to environmental and social factors - Isabella L. K. Clegg and Rhiannon Schultz		
16:10-16:30	Behaviour Led Capacity Building: Advancing 'One Welfare' Approach in Zoos - Grant Kother		
16:30-16:50	How Hubs Support Breeding and Welfare Among Blue-Eyed Black Lemurs (<i>Eulemur flavifrons</i>) - Léon Faure, Charlotte Desbois, Amélie Romain and Constance Wagner	15:30-16:30h WORKSHOP B (1): From twilight thrills to welfare skills: The zoo managers balancing act - Lisa Holmes, Chris Grindle, Naomi Walsh, Elena Gough and Laura Naidenov	15:30-16:30 WORKSHOP F (2): Bringing Welfare Science to Life - Ely Neumann and Benjamin Fainsod
17:00-17:30	Closing ceremony		
19:00-23:00	Farewell Dinner		