



DAY 0: MONDAY 16-03-2026

8:30-17:00

EAZA Academy workshop: Quality of Life Assessment (Fully booked!)

MARBLE HALL

18:00-20:00

Ice breaker

DAY 1: TUESDAY 17-03-2026

8:00 - 8:45 Registration, poster set up and workshop sign-up at the VERLAT HALL

DARWIN

8:45 - 9:10 **Welcome Address** by Holly Farmer, Lisa Holmes and Zjef Pereboom

9:10-10:05 **KEYNOTE LECTURE: Qualitative Behaviour Assessment: Assessing emotional well-being in captive animals - 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 at the MARBLE HALL

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** - Naomi Frost, Stefano Vaglio, Colin Dubreuil, Rachel Hopley, Lisa Clifforde and Rebecca Biddle

12:00-12:20 **Development of a Standardised and Multi-Institutional Welfare Assessment Protocol for Use in Danish Zoos and Aquaria** - Cecilie Ravn Skovlund, Kirstin Anderson Hansen, Sashia Juhl Lindhøj, Charlotte Bie Thøstesen, Björn Forkman, Peter Sandøe

12:20-13:30 Lunch break at the MARBLE HALL

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

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

13:40-14:40 **WORKSHOP A (1): Assessing Welfare in “Unusual Taxa”: Practical Approaches for Under-Studied Species** - Lisa Clifforde, Sarah Richdon, Holly Farmer 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

15:00-15:30 Break at the MARBLE HALL

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-Zzzs’s” for everyday keeper use – a case study with Asian Elephants** - Mu Zhou, Daniel Herrera, Alexander Mathis and Leyla Rivero Davis

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 Czycholl, Simon Bruslund, Cecilie Ravn Skovlund, Mads F. Bertelsen and Björn Forkman

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

GALAPAGOS

STANLEY

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, poster set up and workshop sign-up at the VERLAT HALL

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 at the MARBLE HALL

DARWIN: Public Perception, Interpretation and Visitor Impacts on Animal Welfare

STANLEY: Advancing Welfare Beyond Mammals: Fish, Reptiles and Birds

11:00-11:20 **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

AQUAC3: Development of an online platform connecting aquaria and the scientific community to improve aquatic knowledge and optimize aquarium fish welfare - Kristina Edwards

11:20-11:40 **Listening Instead of Labelling** - Sarah Bonser-Blake and Sarah van Herpt

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

11:40-12:00 **Thriving, Not Just Surviving: A Proactive Approach to Collaborative Health and Wellbeing in Zoological Institutions** - Analisa Edell and Heather Shields

Responses of Six Reptile Species to Decreases in Glass-Tapping and Anthropogenic Sound - Kylen N. Gartland, Sara Zalewski, Brad Barr and Grace Fuller

12:00-12:20 **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** - Simone Logica, Pierfrancesco Biasetti, Camillo Sandri and Caterina Spiezio

Evidence, Sunlight, Choice: improving reptile welfare sustainably - Sam Aneca

12:20-13:30 Lunch break at the MARBLE HALL

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

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

13:40-14:40 WORKSHOP A (2): **Assessing Welfare in “Unusual Taxa”: Practical Approaches for Under-Studied Species** - Lisa Clifforde, Sarah Richdon, Holly Farmer and Marina Salas

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

15:00 - 15:30 Break at the MARBLE HALL

15:30-17:00

VISIT ZOO ANTWERPEN

During this dedicated time slot, delegates are invited to freely explore Zoo Antwerpen and/or join short thematic talks delivered by researchers and animal caretakers:

15:30 – Ape Enrichment (Great Apes Exhibit): Insights into enrichment strategies for apes, presented by researchers and keepers.

16:00 – Recall Training in the Savannah Aviary: Caretakers demonstrate recall training and discuss its role in welfare management.

16:30 – Aquarium Innovation: 3D Feeders: Researchers and aquarium staff present the development and application of 3D feeding devices.

17:00-19:00

POSTER SESSION (with drinks) at the MARBLE HALL

DAY 3: THURSDAY 19-03-2026

8:00 - 8:30 Registration and workshop sign-up at the VERLAT HALL

DARWIN

8:30-9:25 KEYNOTE LECTURE: **Developing a practical approach to animal welfare: Start with, “We are all animals. What do we all Need?”** - Jason Watters

9:30-9:50 **DARWIN: Ethics, biological imperatives, and welfare trade-offs in management decisions**
Concerns about population viability challenge survival-based and reproduction-ignoring welfare traditions - Marcus Clauss, Mads F. Bertelsen, Severin Dressen, Laurie Bingaman Lackey, and João P. Meireles

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 at the MARBLE HALL

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 Zerine Moni, Dipa Ray, Mst. Farzana Aktar, Md. Arafat Hossain, Mehedy Hasan Pranto, Md. Mahabubur Rashid and Jashim Uddin

12:20-13:30 Lunch break at the MARBLE HALL

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 **Aniwel: 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 (*Ursus arctos*) in a sanctuary setting** - Elena Stagni, Marta Brscic, Ana Vacas and Irene Redtenbacher

14:40-15:00 **Promoting Agency in Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*): Development and Assessment of an Automated Animal-Activated Enrichment System** - Oriol Talló-Parra, Maëlina Gomez, Clara Agusti, Daniel García-Párraga, Robert Gojceta and Xavier Manteca

13:40-14:40 WORKSHOP F (1): **Bringing Welfare Science to Life** - Elly Neumann and Benjamin Fainsod

13:40-14:40 WORKSHOP D (1): **The Right Tool at the Right Time: Navigating the Welfare Assessment Ecosystem** - Amélie Romain and Léa Briard

15:00-15:30 Break at the MARBLE HALL

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 (*Eulemur flavifrons*)** - Léon Faure, Charlotte Desbois, Amélie Romain and Constance Wagner

15:30-16:30 WORKSHOP F (2): **Bringing Welfare Science to Life** - Elly Neumann and Benjamin Fainsod

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

17:00-17:30 **Closing ceremony at DARWIN**
 By Zjef Pereboom, Holly Farmer and Lisa Holmes

19:00-24:00 **FAREWELL DINNER at the MARBLE HALL (pre-booking needed)**

VISIT TO ZOO PLANCKENDAEL (pre-booking needed)

09:00-15:00

During this dedicated time slot, delegates are invited to **freely explore** Zoo Planckendael **and/or join short thematic talks** delivered by researchers and animal caretakers:

09:00 – Bus leaves from Zoo Antwerpen

10:00 – Cinereous Vulture Dating Aviary: Breeding and Welfare

Scientists discuss behavioural observations, monitoring and breeding strategies.

10:30 – Bonobo Research Talk

Researchers discuss current research with bonobos.

11:15 – Giraffe Lodge: Tongue Use & Mixed Exhibits

Researchers and caretakers explore feeding behaviour and enclosure design in mixed-species settings.

13:15 – Indian Rhinoceros Welfare Assessments

Discussion of practical welfare monitoring approaches.

13:45 – Elephant Lodge: Monitoring Space Use

Presentation on behavioural tracking and spatial monitoring.

14:15 – Orangutan Research Talk

Researchers discuss research with orangutans.

15:00 – Bus back to Zoo Antwerpen (via Mechelen station)

The bus will make a stop at **Mechelen train station** (faster communication to go to **Brussels Airport-Zaventem** and train station **Brussels-Zuid/Bruxelles-Midi**) and then will go back to **Zoo Antwerpen**. Please ask the organisers if you have questions about this.

