MAKE TRAVEL MATTER

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

SELECTING WILDLIFE EXPERIENCES ON OUR TRIPS

April 2020

Our teams who build and operate travel experiences take wildlife protection seriously. To help them select only those experiences that meet our standards, the TreadRight team has updated our Animal Welfare Policy. In cooperation with our partner ***World Animal Protection***, we are pleased to support a tourism industry free of animal cruelty.

TREADRIGHT FOUNDATION
TreadRight.org

THE TRAVEL CORPORATION
100th Anniversary
1920 • 2020
FAMILY OWNED • FAMILY RUN
DRIVEN BY SERVICE

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

All wildlife experiences across *The Travel Corporation* (TTC) and its family of brands must adhere to Tread-Right's policy, which is based on the Five Domains of Animal Welfare.

NUTRITION	Factors that involve the animal's access to sufficient, balanced, varied and clean food and water.
ENVIRONMENT	Factors that enable comfort through temperature, substrate, space, air, odour, noise and predictability.
HEALTH	Factors that enable good health through absence of disease, injury, impairment and good fitness level.
BEHAVIOUR	Factors that provide varied, novel and engaging environmental challenges through sensory inputs, exploration, foraging, bonding, playing, retreating and others.
MENTAL OR AFFECTIVE STATE	By presenting positive situations in the previous four functional domains, the mental state of the animal should benefit from predominantly positive states, such as pleasure, comfort or vitality, while reducing negative states such as fear, frustration, hunger, pain or boredom.

Distinguishing Between Domestic and Wild Animals

Domestic animals have been selectively bred over many generations for specific traits that make them better suited to living alongside humans. Because of this, with the right care and conditions they are able to live with humans in captivity without suffering. Domesticated animals may include dogs, horses, donkeys and camels, among others.

Wild animals have not been domesticated and flourish in their natural environment with room to roam. These animals are observed without being enclosed, for example on safaris, or in their natural habitat.

Unacceptable Practices

The Travel Corporation and its family of brands view the following types of practices unacceptable and will not offer them as part of our tours and activities, either as **inclusions** or as **optionals**:

- Any activity involving animals **performing for entertainment** or other human interests (ie. elephant, whale, orca or dolphin show, animal circus)
- Any activity involving animals that were **purchased**, **traded**, **bred** or **held captive** for the purposes of tourism
- Any activity involving **riding** or **sitting on** wild animals (ie. elephant, dolphin or ostrich rides)
- Any activity involving **walking with big cats**
- Any type of **sport or trophy hunting**
- **Consuming** meat or other products from **endangered or threatened animals** (ie. shark, tiger, puffin, sea turtle etc.)
- **Baiting** animals for entertainment or to lure them into closer view
- Any activity that supports the **breeding**, **display** and **trade** of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) for entertainment
- Any activity involving the **use of animals for fights** (bullfights, cockfights, crocodile wrestling, bear baiting)

Riding Animals

We will not offer opportunities for our guests to ride wild animals under any circumstances, including elephants, ostriches, big cats and dolphins.

On our tours there may be opportunities for guests to ride domesticated animals such as horses, camels, donkeys, etc. In such opportunities, our **teams must ensure**:

- Facilities possess all relevant licenses
- Working animals are kept under acceptable conditions that meet the Five Domains of Animal Welfare
- Working animals appear in healthy condition, are not overloaded, and have adequate water and rest periods.

Viewing Animals in the Wild

Seeing wildlife in their natural habitat or on safari is a thrilling and unique experience each time.
To protect our wildlife, our guides will ensure that guests:

- **Maintain a respectful distance** from wild animals and **create minimal noise** so as to not disrupt natural behaviours
- **Do not touch**, **feed**, **chase**, or **harass** wild animals (with the exception of wild birds where supervised feeding may take place)
- **Do not take wildlife selfies** that encourage close encounters with wildlife

Viewing Animals in Enclosures

Zoos & Aquariums

The Travel Corporation acknowledges that some zoos and aquariums have a role to play in the conservation of threatened species. As such, TTC evaluates zoos and aquariums on a case-by-case basis to identify whether the facility adheres to the Five Domains.

The Travel Corporation acknowledges that cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) are subject to poor welfare in captivity due to inadequate space and barren, unnatural conditions. This leads to suppressed natural behaviors such as exercise, foraging for prey, and social interaction with pod mates. As such, TTC will not sell or promote experiences with cetaceans held in captivity for the purposes of public display throughout the world.

Sanctuaries & Rehabilitation Centers

The Travel Corporation recognizes sanctuaries and rehabilitation centers can play a crucial role in wildlife conservation and education when they serve the right purpose – that which is in the best interest of the animals. **Some itineraries may include visits to wildlife sanctuaries that**:

- Do not use wild animals for entertainment (rides, shows, or tricks)
- Do not keep wild animals solely to make a profit
- Exist to rescue and help animals

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When selecting such an experience, at minimum our teams must answer "***yes***" to the following questions. Any animal sanctuary or rehabilitation centre that does not meet these requirements ***will not*** be integrated into our tours:

- **Purpose of the facility**: Does the facility exist to address a specific problem and is it in the best interest of the animals? (Ie. for rescue, rehabilitation, release programs)
- **Source of the animals**: Were the animals sick, injured, orphaned, donated or abandoned when they arrived at the facility?
- **Animal Behaviour**: Are the animals able to act and behave naturally?
- **Facility credentials**: Are the correct permits and licenses in place?
- **Breeding**: If the facility has a breeding program, will the animals bred in captivity be released into their native habitat in the wild?

The following guiding questions are used by our teams to help them assess new wildlife experiences:

- Are the animals able to behave naturally?
- Are the animals being coerced or forced to participate in an activity?
- Are animals negatively affected in any way prior to, during, or after an activity or interaction?
- Is the sanctuary/rescue center accredited by Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), or recommended by other sanctuary experts such as the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), the American Sanctuary Association (ASA), or animal welfare experts?
- Is there a licensed veterinarian accessible to all animals 24/7 and evidence to prove so?
- Is there an educational component to the experience?

Questions or Concerns?

Guests and our teams are encouraged to contact us at animalwelfare@treadright.org if they feel an experience does not meet this Animal Welfare Policy. The TreadRight team takes these concerns seriously and will investigate concerns as soon as possible.

We are committed to ensuring all wildlife experiences on our trips meet this Animal Welfare Policy by 2021. Cullinan Holdings endorses the South Africa Tourism Services Association charter on animal interaction.