

# TUI Travel PLC Animal Welfare Policy

April 2011

We acknowledge the level of public concern about the welfare and protection of animals in captivity and in the wild. We therefore commit to working with suppliers to ensure compliance with relevant national and international legislation and best practice.

At TUI Travel PLC, we experience high demand amongst our customers for visits to animal attractions and wildlife-viewing opportunities whilst on holiday. We also recognise that these activities have a socio-economic benefit and potential educational and biodiversity advantages.

We are committed to upholding minimum standards of welfare for animals whose lives are impacted by tourism, and to protecting animals from exploitation, neglect and cruelty. We respect the fundamental requirements proposed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2010, and expect all our suppliers to do the same. The Five Freedoms are internationally recognised as providing the benchmark for an animal's physical and mental well-being. They are:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst: *nutritious food and clean water*
2. Freedom from discomfort: *a suitable living environment that provides shelter, opportunities to rest and considers the species-specific needs of wild animals*
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease: *preventative and curative health care*
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour: *living space that encourages natural behaviour*
5. Freedom from fear and distress: *appropriate areas to seek privacy and limited human contact*

We work closely with ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents), other industry partners and animal welfare NGOs worldwide, in particular the Born Free Foundation, in order to understand and identify practices which pose a risk to both the safety of the public and to animal welfare in the destinations to which we send customers. Together we have developed the Travelife Animal Attractions Handbook and checklist in order to help educate our suppliers where necessary, encourage higher standards of welfare, promote awareness of the importance of animal conservation, and eradicate practices that have a negative impact on animals or that do not contribute to the protection and preservation of species in the wild. [www.fto.co.uk/responsible-tourism/sustainability-guidelines/](http://www.fto.co.uk/responsible-tourism/sustainability-guidelines/)

Our objective is to help ensure our suppliers achieve best practice standards in animal welfare and protection, in all animal attractions and other establishments to which we facilitate visits for our customers.

## **We therefore commit to:**

1. Cascade this Animal Welfare Policy to ensure that colleagues, customers, suppliers and other interested parties understand our commitment to animal welfare
2. Include compliance with our Animal Welfare Policy in supplier contracts and influence suppliers to meet relevant requirements of the Travelife Animal Attractions Handbook
3. Ensure awareness of colleagues on animal welfare matters and arrange training for relevant personnel and organisations to audit animal attractions, following up with suppliers to improve standards where necessary
4. Develop a reporting structure to allow colleagues, customers, NGOs and travel partners to report bad practice and take action where activities are found to contravene this policy
5. Work in consultation with governments, NGOs, industry partners and animal welfare organisations to continue to raise standards of animal welfare

**For further information on animal welfare at TUI Travel, please contact:**

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