

TREDWELL TRAVEL



Animal Welfare Policy

Animal Welfare Guidelines

PURPOSE OF THESE GUIDELINES

These guidelines aim to provide guidance for responsible activities involving animals on trips that are booked by me. They are used to assist with:

Designing trips and managing requests for experiences which involve wild or domesticated animals.

- Understanding the difference between wild and domesticated animals and why as a result the welfare of wild animals is always compromised when kept and used for tourist entertainment.
- The assessment of the health, safety and best management of wild and domestic animals during trips.
- As a way of providing useful information around animal welfare to customers.



This company's welfare and wildlife position is to actively discourage customers to participate in activities that exploit or harm animals, whether they are wild or domesticated.



Animal Welfare Guidelines

Animal welfare concerns the health of the animal's body and mental state. The following Five Domains of animal welfare model, the universally known principles for defining basic welfare needs, have been considered in forming these guidelines:

1

Nutrition

Factors that involve the animal's access to sufficient, balanced, varied and clean food and water

2

Environment

Factors that enable comfort through temperature, substrate, space, air, odour, noise and predictability

3

Health

Factors that enable good health through absence of disease, injury, impairment and good fitness level

4

Behaviour

Factors that provide varied, novel and engaging environmental challenges through sensory inputs, exploration, foraging, bonding, playing, retreating and others

5

Mental

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





Difference Between Wild and Domestic Animals

This company recognises that there is a difference between wild and domesticated animals. Domesticated animals are animals such as dogs or horses that have undergone selective breeding over many generations to be notably and genetically different to their wild ancestors. As a result domesticated animals adapt more readily to captive conditions and are generally more easy to handle than their wild counterparts. This domestication process has not happened for wild animals such as elephants, tigers and monkeys, that nowadays are primarily kept for tourism and entertainment purposes and remain wild. This company accepts that the welfare of wild animals is compromised in captivity and captivity is only acceptable when it is in the animal's best interests and the highest possible standards of care are given (see later section).



Riding & Using Animals for Transport

This company believes domesticated working animals such as horses, donkeys/mules and camels which are used for transportation should have a decent life, where they are properly cared for and the positive aspects of their existence outweigh the negative.

Some general guidelines for domesticated working animals:

- The animals should look well fed and be given adequate shelter and exercise.
- Their coats should be in good condition without sores (check near the mouth, shoulders, spine and belly, these areas are typically in constant contact with harnessing equipment). Wounds may also be hidden under a saddle or harness.
- Injuries and illness must be treated promptly. Sick and injured animals should not work at all.
- The animals must not be overloaded or overworked, meaning maximum one rider or 20% of the animal's weight. The weight or load an animal carries or pulls must be significantly reduced in relation to the more physically strenuous conditions faced (e.g. altitude, temperature, hours of work and age and condition of the animal).
- The animals should work for at most six hours a day and given one to two full days of rest from work each week. Mares should not be worked for three months both before and after foaling.
- The animal's eyes should be clear, bright and alert.
- Handlers should be trained and familiar with normal and abnormal behaviour and not use physical force (including hitting or beating with crops, sticks or hands) to control or manoeuvre the animal.
- "Hobbling" (the practice of tying any part of the animal's limbs) should not be used as it can lead to lesions, infection and swelling.

Please note that it is never acceptable to ride wild animals on our trips.



Elephant Riding



Elephants are not, and never have been, domesticated. The methods involved in keeping elephants in captivity are very psychologically and physically harmful to the animals.

Whilst I cannot stop customers from doing what they insist on doing, I will inform them where necessary as to why we do not recommend or endorse elephant rides (or rides on any wild animal).

Riding camels, donkeys and mules



Donkeys / mules and camels are considered domesticated animals. Rides on these animals are only offered in the itinerary where the wellbeing of animals has been previously established through the use of trusted suppliers and establishments.

Customers are encouraged to provide feedback if they notice any signs of mistreatment, which will be investigated.



Tips for Customers: What to Look Out For

CAMELS

- Their coats should be in good condition without sores (check near the mouth, shoulders, spine and belly, these areas are typically in constant contact with harnessing equipment). Wounds may also be hidden under a saddle or harness.
- Handlers should not use physical force (including hitting with crops, sticks or hands) to control or manoeuvre the animal.
- There is a species of camel (the Wild Bactrian Camel - *Camelus Ferus*) which is not a domesticated species. This species should not be used for rides or close encounters with people. If you are not sure, best to alert your Tour Operator.



DONKEYS/MULES

- Check the donkey over to see that it hasn't been subjected to 'firing'. This means burning with red hot metal to various parts of a donkey's body, most often the legs. In some parts of the world, practitioners believe this 'traditional healing' method will make the animal 'strong'.
- Never overload a donkey drawn carriage - if in doubt, walk away.
- Never canter or gallop a donkey drawn carriage.
- Never ride with more than one person on the back of the donkey.
- Consider your own weight before riding and aim to choose an animal appropriate to your size and weight.
- If the owner is treating the animal badly ,i.e. excessive whipping, stop and find an alternative driver.
- An appropriate weight for a standard size donkey to carry is on average 120kgs (260 pounds / 18 stone) - smaller donkeys should take on less.



HORSE RIDING

Before riding, consider the health of the horse and the following guidelines:

- Riders should choose an animal that is appropriate to their size.
- Horses should not carry more than approximately half their body weight and less during extreme heat or on steep declines.
- If extreme temperatures are encountered, animals should not be ridden.
- Are the animals healthy? As with donkeys and camels, please alert your Tour Operator if you believe that the animals are not being well cared for.
- Is the horse obviously underweight? Horses which are underweight should not be ridden. An underweight horse can be identified by protruding or visible ribs, hip bones or spine.
- The horse's eyes should be clean, bright and alert.



DOG & REINDEERSLEDDING

Sled dogs are a group of dog breeds that were bred for pulling sleds as a form of transportation in Alaska, Greenland and northern Canada. Sled dogs today are still used for transport by some rural communities and for recreational purposes in some parts of the world. Reindeer have been used as a means of transportation by the Sami people for hundreds of years and continue to be used for this purpose.

This business is committed to ensuring the following requirements are met before including dog or reindeer sledding as a form of transport or activity as part of a package. If you feel that any of these requirements are not being met, please alert your Tour Operator on the ground and make me aware:

- The operator must have animal welfare policies and standards that they actively follow and require their staff to follow.
- Animals are physically fit and conditioned for the activity they are being asked to perform and of a breed that can tolerate cold weather.
- Animals should be given adequate periods of rest and not forced to work beyond their physical capabilities and willingness to work.
- Animals have access to clean water and receive a varied diet of nutritionally appropriate food (Tip: check to ensure food and water bowls are not empty or dirty).
- Animals are housed humanely, with space to turn around, clean and dry bedding, protection against heat and cold and the opportunity to socialise.
- If the animals must be chained or tied to a restricted area, they should have significant time every day to allow them to run, play and socialise.
- Teeth should not be cut to prevent injuries from fighting with other animals.
- Animals are trained using positive reinforcement (force-free, humane training techniques) vs aversive, punishment-based techniques.



Viewing Wildlife in the Wild: Land and Marine Environments

As this company believes wild animals should be viewed responsibly in the wild, the following guidelines have been prepared with the best interests of wildlife and the safety of customers when viewing wildlife:

- Respect the animals' personal space. A visitor/vehicle must keep a safe and respectful distance and never chase animals. If the animal alters its behaviour, then the visitor has invaded its space and influenced its natural behaviour.
- When swimming, diving or snorkeling, ensure that you keep your distance from marine life and respect their space as wild animals.
- Observe nature as it occurs naturally and not as to how it responds to your presence there. Do not chase or lure animals with food or in any other way.
- Speak quietly - do not call out, whistle or in other ways try and attract the attention of animals. Avoid sudden movements.
- Remember that all wild animals can be unpredictable. If an animal charges you, it may be feeling threatened because it doesn't have enough space.
- Do not feed animals, neither those on land or marine life or birds. Feeding animals attracts them to humans and to human food, which upsets their natural diet, can shorten their life, and causes trouble for other people later by making the animals unnaturally aggressive.
- Do not touch wild animals, as you can unwittingly pass on diseases to wildlife, as well as placing yourself at risk. This includes marine/sea life.
- When in a safari environment, always stay in your vehicle as predators may be present.
- Night viewing: Minimise usage of a flashlight and never deliberately shine your light into an animal's eyes. Do not illuminate prey as this gives the predator an unfair advantage.



Sanctuaries for Wildlife



This company's itineraries will only include visits to facilities involving wild animals in captivity if the rationale for the sanctuary operation is in the best interests of the animals involved.

Genuine sanctuaries:

- Do not buy/sell wild animals.
- Do not use the animals for interactions with customers or in performances/shows.
- Do not breed wild animals - unless they are part of an official recognised breeding program in which the animals involved are being responsibly released back in to the wild (and may otherwise be extinct or endangered).
- Allow for appropriate veterinary care according to their specific needs.
- Do not keep animals without a good reason (i.e. they must have a defined conservation benefit to keeping the animals).



Animal Products



We would advise against customers purchasing products that are made from wild animal derivatives which can also fuel wildlife farming and illegal wildlife trade.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Turtle Soup
- Shark Fin soup
- Snake whiskeys
- Bear bile
- Tiger or Lion bone wine
- Civet coffee (Kopi Luwak)

In most local markets, customers should avoid purchasing any wild animal products, especially anything from an endangered species, such as:

- Skins, including fur and reptile skins
- Horns e.g. rhino
- Spiders and butterflies
- Turtle shell
- Seashells, coral, starfish
- Ivory
- Traditional medicines made from endangered animal parts and products

Trades such as this are generally illegal but may not be enforced through relevant government agencies, so it is important not to support this illegal trade. The wild animals used to produce these products often suffer significantly, and suffering is likely to occur regardless of if the animal has been bred in captivity or wild, or if the process is legal or illegal.



Animal Photography and Videography

Customers are asked not to visit venues that offer animal shows, 'selfies' or direct interaction with wild animals.

The animals involved in these activities are sometimes taken from the wild, often bred in intensive conditions, usually taken prematurely from their mothers as babies, forced to live in inhumane and unnatural conditions, and undergo cruel physical and psychological conditioning to make them compliant and perform.



Visiting these venues supports a cycle of animal cruelty. If you are not sure, it's best to say no.



The following
activities will
never form
part of this
business'
itineraries...





Elephant Entertainment

Elephants are not, and never have been, domesticated. They are wild animals in captivity that need to be cruelly trained in order to make them submissive enough to be used for performing, riding, bathing, and other close tourist interactions.

The methods involved in the training and keeping elephants in captivity for tourist entertainment are very psychologically and physically harmful to the animals. These are some of the reasons we DO NOT offer elephant rides and other close contact activities such as elephant washing and bathing on our trips:

- All elephants undergo a cruel, painful and intense training process that forces them to accept human control.
- Elephants need to be constantly restrained often using bull hooks (by the handler) to maintain control of the elephant. These can cause serious injuries to the elephants, including sores and cuts that are likely to become infected.
- Elephants may display sudden outbursts of human targeted aggression, leading to injuries and fatalities.
- Captivity can cause significant health and behavioural problems.



Marine Entertainment Parks

Dolphins and other marine mammals used for human entertainment purposes suffer physically and psychologically and are made to act unnaturally.

I encourage my customers to avoid marine parks that keep large marine mammals, such as dolphins, captive as they are bred in captivity or captured from the wild and forced to live in unsuitable conditions that cannot adequately simulate the vast ocean or provide for their complex social, behavioural and intellectual needs.

For more information on this subject, please watch the 'Inside The Tanks' documentary on Youtube by JonnyMeah, available on Youtube.





Lion Walks

In southern Africa excursions are offered in which you can walk with lions. These animals have been taken from their mothers prematurely and in most cases have first been used for petting and as photographic props. Once these young animals have become too dangerous for direct handling by tourists they are used for lion walks.

Many of the places that offer walking with wild cats claim that once matured, animals will be placed back into the wild. Fact is that these hand-reared animals can never effectively be released to the wild as their chances of survival cannot be guaranteed. It is also highly irresponsible to release a dangerous, large predator familiar with people into the wild where local people live. (Furthermore, predators are only tolerated in protected areas and these are limited. In these areas, predators are already living. It is not possible to put an endless stream of predators in one area - there is too little prey available.)

When a lion has become too dangerous for walking with tourists, they may be sent to canned hunting camps to be shot by trophy hunters in an enclosed environment. Cubs and adult lions may also be sold to zoos or wealthy collectors of exotic animals.



I ask my customers not to visit, support or engage in any of the following exploitative activities during their trip...

- Visiting or taking part in sport and cultural activities that cause animal suffering or death such as rodeo, bullfighting and running, elephant polo, ostrich riding and racing, cock fighting
- Animals used for begging such as dancing bears, snake charmers or buying bananas for elephants and monkeys etc.
- Trophy/game hunting of wildlife (e.g. lions)
- Any cage diving where baiting of any kind is used (e.g. shark or crocodile cage diving)
- Restaurants or hotels that display captive wildlife

Any questions or concerns?

If you have concerns about a supplier we use or an included activity, please speak to your Tour Operator at the time as well as in any feedback form they provide to you. Please also inform me of any concerns you had during your trip on your return so I can follow up.

