**CaPTA Animal Welfare Statement**

The CaPTA group of companies including Wildlife Habitat, Rainforestation and Cairns Zoom and Wildlife Dome endeavour to showcase Australian native animals in a safe and interactive environment. We aim to educate our visitors about the animals in our care and their conservation. We promote a sustainable world for both wildlife and humans.

Welfare considerations are applicable to all animals under the care of the CaPTA group at all times. Inclusive of but not restricted to life stage, breeding, veterinary care, transfers, introductions, location, training and conditioning.

Animal visitor interactions must provide conditions and context to promote positive welfare and respect for the animal. These experiences nurture appreciation and respect for animals and provide an opportunity for education and understanding of the ecology of the species and threats to their wild counterparts. In addition, visitors can be provided with information to discover what they can do themselves to minimise threats or assist in conservation.

The CaPTA group of companies is committed to providing an educational and fulfilling experience for visitors to establish and develop appreciation for our native Australian wildlife whilst ensuring that all animals are maintained in either a positive or neutral welfare state across all 5 Domains.

Our Welfare model is referenced to follow criteria within the ZAA Welfare Position Statement and has the basis of the 5 Domains as follows

**Nutrition:**

Ready access to fresh water and nutrition to maintain full health and vigour

The provision of fresh nutritional foods appropriate to species to create a pleasurable and enriching experience. Life stage, breeding, moulting, pregnancy, lactation etc plus combinations of textures, variety, seasonality, quantity, size, provision method, are considered along with suitability to species.

Veterinary consultation regarding diet intake and variety is undertaken as required along with ongoing data provision from nutritionists via Taxon representatives and referenced relevant dietary research.

**Environment:**

Provision of simulated natural conditions/habitats offering adaptive choices and variety.

Animals are provided shelter and whenever possible have provision to sunbathe, bathe, nest build, utilise a variety of perching, and experience other natural weather events such rain and wind. Extreme weather events are managed with fans, misters, and relocation if necessary.

Interpretive tours and presentations demonstrate natural animal behaviours without intruding on their wellbeing or natural form.

**Health:**

Maintaining physical and mental health and wellbeing through excellence in expertise, veterinary consultation and knowledge of the individual animals.

Most animals are assessed regularly via physical Health Checks and weighed (if applicable)

All animals are observed daily and monitored/treated accordingly.

Onsite veterinary consults are undertaken as required.

Veterinary consultation and reassessment regarding preventative medications schedule is undertaken annually.

**Behaviour:**

Freedom to exhibit normal activity within their habitat.

Choices provided for the variety of species cover a large range of options which are relevant to individuals, recommendations via ASMP (Australian species management program) and planned population/collection management.

Options may include perching (type/height/thickness)/breeding partners or opportunity/nest hollows/foods/water sources

The provision of appropriate space, design and furnishings relevant and of interest to species to encourage investigation, interaction, physical activity, social context and other natural behaviours.

**Mental:**

Animals are housed in a manner to ensure conditions and treatment avoid mental suffering or distress whilst at the same time, ensuring the safety of the individuals. Individual animals’ needs are taken into consideration when assessing each species requirements.

Enrichment is provided in a range of forms and continually reassessed to provide mental stimulation and engagement.

Identification and recognition of stereotypic behaviours is addressed and actioned in a timely manner.