

ZAA has a progressive, science-based approach to animal welfare. Using the Five Domains Model, ZAA grants accreditation to zoos and aquariums that have clearly demonstrated their commitment to positive welfare. This approach champions welfare from the animal's perspective and it underpins all members do.

ZAA Accreditation: Animal Welfare



The Five Domains Model is a science-based structure for assessing animal welfare. It recognises that animals can experience feelings, ranging from negative to positive.

The first four domains all help inform us about an animal's various experiences, which make up the Mental Domain, the fifth domain.

Nutrition	Environment	Health	Behaviour	Mental
Domain	Domain	Domain	Domain	Domain
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Government regulation



By law, the government requires zoos and aquariums to meet minimum standards to protect animals from having a bad life

ZAA accreditation



The ZAA Accreditation Program goes further, using the Five Domains to focus on good animal welfare. It asks the question, is the animal having a happy life?

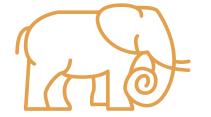
The Program assesses ZAA members' commitment and achievements towards positive animal welfare.

It requires them to think deeply about the welfare of the animals in their care and strive for continuous improvement.













The Accreditation Process

1.



Members must provide compelling evidence for set criteria on both their operations and the experiences of their animals.



Assess operating systems



Assess animals' experiences



Provide evidence

2.



This evidence is reviewed by the ZAA Accreditation Team in the office

3.



One of our expert Accreditation Officers visits the zoo or aquarium in person to validate the findings.

4.



Accreditation reports are presented to the Standards and Accreditation Committee.

5.



The ZAA Board must endorse the Committee's recommendation for approval before accreditation is officially granted.

ZAA-accredited zoos and aquariums operate to the highest levels.

They must be assessed every three years to retain their accreditation status.

International members are assessed yearly.













Visit www.zooaquarium.org.au to learn more