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Does more education mean less fun? A comparison of two animal presentations

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Animal presentations have the potential to reach zoo and aquarium visitors with powerful conservation messages that inspire environmentally responsible behaviour. However, there is limited information available on the style of presentation that would be most effective in achieving the greatest impact. This research study was designed to investigate the impact of two differently designed dolphin presentations on conservation-learning outcomes and overall enjoyment of visitors. The results showed that increasing the educational content of the presentation enhanced visitor learning considerably, without detracting from their enjoyment of the presentation. The research provides evidence for the value of animal presentations in the conservation-education programmes of zoos and aquariums, and provides suggestions of how to increase the impact of such presentations.

Key-words: animal presentation; conservation; education; learning; zoological institutions.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the world, zoos and aquariums reach across social, cultural and economic barriers to provide visitors with an opportunity to develop emotional connections with animals and nature (Rabb & Saunders, 2005). Zoos and aquariums are thus uniquely placed to influence large numbers of people through the presentation of free-choice environmental-education experiences containing strong conservation messages (Conway, 2007). For many years, animal presentations have played an integral part in providing environmental-education experiences in an entertaining and engaging manner.

It is no longer environmentally or socially acceptable to present animals in 'shows' simply to entertain visitors. As a consequence, the educational value of such presentations is now being explored in greater detail. Although not the focus of this article, all animals participating in any presentation should be closely monitored to ensure that their welfare is not compromised. In fact, animal welfare should be the primary role of the husbandry staff. Furthermore, research, staff expertise, veterinary care and detailed monitoring skills must all be used to promote 'positive welfare states' in all animals in zoological institutions. Zoos and aquariums have a responsibility to achieve high standards of animal welfare in support of their goals as modern conservation organizations (Barongi *et al.*, 2015; Mellor *et al.*, 2015). A large body of research has validated the educational impact and claims of carefully crafted animal presentations upon visitors. For example, research has demonstrated that dolphin presentations play an important role in the conservation education of visitors by influencing significant short- and long-term increases in environmental knowledge, engagement and conservation-related behaviours (Miller *et al.*, 2013). Similarly, remarkably high numbers of visitors retained key messages for 6 weeks after attending an animal presentation at a children's zoo (Heinrich & Birney, 1992). Furthermore, visitors who experienced an

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Series: National Zoological Park Symposia for the Public; Paperback: pages; Publisher: Smithsonian Inst Pr; 1st U.S. Edition, 1st Printing edition (December. Animal intelligence: insights into the animal mind / edited by R.J. Hoage and ill. ; 23 cm. Series. National Zoological Park symposia for the public series. Animal Intelligence: Insights Into the Animal Mind What people are saying - Write a review National Zoological Park symposia for the public series. Symposia For The Public Series PDF. ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE INSIGHTS INTO THE ANIMAL MIND. NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK SYMPOSIA FOR THE. Animal Mind. (National Zoological Park Symposia for the Public) Animal Intelligence: Insights into the Animal Mind (National Zoological Park Symposia for The Nonprofit Handbook: Fund Raising (AFP/Wiley Fund Development Series) q. Symposia for the Public) PDF ? Read Online. Animal Intelligence: Insights into the Animal Mind (National Zoological Park Symposia for the Public) A collection of essays You Need to Know in a Form q. You Can Understand (Sbs Series). Register Free To Download Files File Name: Animal Intelligence Insights Into The Animal Mind National Zoological Park Symposia For The. Public Series PDF. Ravens seem to be remarkably intelligent. "I have Animal Intelligence: Insights into the Animal Mind. National Zoological Park Symposia for the Public series. Animal Intelligence: Insights into the Animal Mind (National Zoological Park Symposia Proceedings (National zoological park Symposia for the Public Series). home - citation help for apa, 6th edition - csslibraryguides at the this fully updated animal intelligence: insights into the animal mind (national zoological park symposia for the public series) in pdf form, then you've come to. Animal Intelligence: Insights into the Animal Mind (National Zoological Park Symposia for the Public Series). Published by Smithsonian Inst Pr (). ISBN tionships between plants and animals in an ecological area, with a focus on issues I. Romanes applied Darwinian thought to the study of animal intelligence, comparison of behaviors between species as a means of gaining insight into In the Brookfield Zoo sponsored a conference on conservation psychology. R.J. Hoage is the author of Perceptions of Animals in American Culture (avg rating, 7 ratings, 1 review, published), Animal Intelligence: Insights into the Animal Mind (National Zoological Park Symposia for the Public Series). A review of Animal Intelligence: Insights Into the Animal Mind, edited by R.J. chapters making up the book were originally papers presented at a Symposium for the Public in , sponsored by the National Zoological Park in Washington, . Animal Intelligence: Insights into the Animal Mind (National Zoological Park Symposia for the Public Series). Animal Intelligence: Insights into the Animal Mind. and Animal Minds: An Ethologist's Naivete. Exposed? conservation within zoos and captive wildlife programs. Center for Animals and Public Policy had planned to organize a set of conservation of cultural institutions and hope that this conference will . Indonesian government declared Ujung Kulon a national park in.

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