

ANIMAL WELFARE

Authors define animal welfare using the widely recognised **Five Freedoms** model: freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from pain, injury and disease; freedom from discomfort; freedom from fear and suffering; freedom to express natural behaviour.

APPLICATION

This guide is intended to be used during all types of zoo inspections. This means that **all institutions** seeking or having already obtained the status of a zoo undertake to comply with the legal requirements imposed on them, whether or not they receive public funding. The means of implementing the requirements and the model for their application vary depending on the resources available to the institution. Based on best international practice, it is recommended for inspectors to take zoo collection size into account.

EXPERT OPINION

It is recognised that **each animal has unique needs**. This means that in practice, the criteria for assessing the welfare of different animal species may vary. For example, terrestrial animals vs aquatic mammals. With this in mind, there is space for expert opinion within the guide.

INSPECTING ANIMAL WELFARE IN LITHUANIAN ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

SUMMARY OF THE ZOO INSPECTION GUIDE

Lithuania's current legal framework does not specify the exact measures that can and/or should be taken when implementing and inspecting the zoo licence requirements in practice. **This poses challenges for the assessment of compliance by the responsible authorities and the self-assessment of zoos.** The zoo inspection guide aims to guarantee an objective zoo assessment process by setting a standard that **is publicly available** to all stakeholders. This standard will then help to **ensure high animal welfare standards** and to **fulfil the zoo's education, research and biodiversity conservation potential.**

1. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

2. PUBLIC EDUCATION

3. ANIMAL WELFARE

4. SAFETY MEASURES

5. ZOO MANAGEMENT

FIRST
APPENDIX

A **questionnaire** for the Zoo Inspection Commission, intended to be used during the zoo inspection.

SECOND
APPENDIX

A **list of equipment** recommended for carrying out effective zoo inspections.

THIRD
APPENDIX

Zoo collection, animal diet, visitor education, research plan **templates**.

The guide is comprised of **five chapters**. Each chapter takes into account different legal requirements, looks into international best practices and describes how they can be applied in the Lithuanian context.

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Create
Lithuania 

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