

Tiger Training

Tiger Training is Terrific

Training works for all different kinds of animals! Using positive free choice training helps zoos provide the best care for their animals.



Grizzly bear target training



Komodo dragon staying still in a crate for a veterinary check

And Alliteration is Amazingly Awesome

Can you make some silly phrases by using the same sound at the start of each word? For example: "Tasty treats for terrific tigers!"

Challenge 1) R sounds. Include five words that start with the same sound as the word 'reward'.

Challenge 2) W sounds. Include a sentence with the word whistle.

Challenge 3) How silly can you be? Make sounds that start with the same sound as 'choice'.

Alliteration is the same letter or sound at the beginning of closely connected words. Some examples of alliteration are:
1) Run, round, robin, rubber, road, rock, right, rain
2) While, wet, wit, wisdom, wild, wish, weasel,
3) Chew, choo, choose, chuff, change, chunk, chit, chat,

Animal Training at a Glance

Zoo Training 101

Animal training is a complex field of study. Did you know that there are professional Animal Behaviourists with university degrees?

The Basics

At the zoo, we use free choice training. This means our animals always get to decide if they want to participate in the training or not. It's the zookeeper's job to find ways to keep the training interesting and exciting!

Stay Positive We use positive reinforcement in our approach to training. This means we reward our animals for participating and never use force.



The Reward The animals are provided with something they enjoy immediately after each correct movement to help reinforce the training.



Master the Bridge You'll hear the zookeeper using a special sound, often a whistle or click, that goes off precisely when the animal does the behaviour we are looking for. Their reward follows a few seconds later. This sound is called the bridge and tells the animal exactly when they made the correct movement that led to the reward.



Animal Training At Home

Become an Animal Trainer

Are you ready to start training? You can train your toys, stuffed animals, or even a household pet under the supervision of an adult.



Step 1: Decide on the behaviour you'd like your animal to learn during training. Keep it simple and ensure it's something your animal can do, such as open their mouth so you can look at their teeth.

Step 2: Create a plan. Use free choice training and choose a reward for when they choose to participate (never use force!).

Step 3: If you decide to use a **bridge** make sure your animal knows that the bridge = their reward is coming quickly.



Step 4: Start your training in a distraction free space that your animal is comfortable in. Stay positive!



Step 5: Reflect. If your animal couldn't figure it which movement equals the reward, how could you make it easier by breaking down the action into smaller pieces? Keep adjusting to set them up for the very best success!