



Further & Higher Education

FEEDING & NUTRITION

General points about this talk:

Talks generally last 30-40 minutes and take place out in the Park in all weathers; please ensure that students wear suitable clothes for the conditions.

Talks are generally led by the keepers and may vary between different staff members. We will adapt this talk according to the age of students.

We endeavour to keep group sizes to below 20 students so that students get the most from the talks.

What we will cover in the talk:

Getting zoo animals diets right requires a lot of knowledge and experience. Aspects that need to be considered when formulating an animals diet involve getting the correct nutritional balance based on current knowledge and information, ensuring that the food is presented in a suitable form for the animal to eat and it should also encourage natural feeding behaviours where possible.

In our feeding and nutrition talk we will take a look at a variety of animals that we have here at the park and discuss what their diets consist of, how this is determined, how this is monitored and any special circumstances that may change the feeding routine. We will also look at how the food is provided to the animals and why is it done in this way.

Animals we may include:

We cannot guarantee which animals you will see during your talk but you will visit at least four animals which may include some of the following:

Humboldt penguin	Linne's two-toed sloth	Brazilian Tapir
Slender-tailed meerkat	Wolverine	Capybara
Asian short-clawed otter	Snowy owl	Anteater
Common squirrel monkey	Asiatic lion	Lemurs
Azara's agouti	Bactrian Ccamel	Black-tailed prairie dog
Aldabra giant tortoise	White rhino	Giraffe



Areas of the City and Guilds Animal Care Specification that this talk addresses:

Level 2

Unit 213 – Introduction to Caring for Zoo Animals

Outcome 2 – Understand the nutritional requirements and feeding regimes of zoo animal species:

- Life stage – Nutritional requirements of juvenile, sub adult, pregnant, lactating, adult and geriatric life stages
- Diets – Use of meat from vertebrates and invertebrates, and plant vegetation as components of diets for carnivores, omnivores and herbivores and account for the impact of seasonality on availability
- Supplements – Different types of supplement to correct nutrient imbalances and deficiencies. Examples of vitamin and mineral supplements, how different types are administered

Level 3

Unit 318 – Understand the Principles of Zoological Animal Health and Husbandry

Outcome 4 – Understand the essential features of nutrition and feeding of zoo animals:

- Factors affecting the nutritional requirements – Life stage (juvenile, adult, pregnancy, lactation and geriatric), health status, size, climate and environment
- Balanced diet is produced – range of feeds available and assess the impact of seasonality on availability, appetite of the animal, frequency of feeding, nutritional requirement of animals and nutritional composition of feedstuffs
- Dietary supplements – reasons for supplementation e.g. correction of nutritional deficiencies (vitamins and minerals), promotion of breeding or behaviour
- Enrichment – Hiding/disguising food, tongue puzzles, food scent trails, scatter feeding and provision of browse

