



Our People, Our World, Our Actions: Animal Welfare Policy

Watching animals and sometimes interacting with them remains a popular part of STA Travel's adventures. These activities can have social, economic and environmental benefits, as well as educational opportunities.

The welfare and protection of animals involved in these activities is really important to both our staff and our customers. We do everything we can to help protect animals from exploitation, neglect and cruelty, and we expect our suppliers to do the same. **If something isn't up to our standards, we work with our suppliers to improve or remove it from sale.**

We work with ABTA The Travel Association and their Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism (www.abta.com/animalwelfare) who subsequently work with the Born free foundation and seek advice accordingly. We also use the internationally recognized Five Freedoms:

1. **Freedom from hunger and thirst** – by providing enough fresh water and the right type and amount of food to keep them fit
2. **Freedom from discomfort** – by making sure that animals have the right type of environment including shelter and somewhere comfortable to rest
3. **Freedom from pain, injury and disease** – by preventing them from getting ill or injured and making sure animals are diagnosed and treated rapidly if they do
4. **Freedom to behave normally** – by making sure animals have enough space, proper facilities and the company of other animals of their own kind
5. **Freedom from fear and distress** – by making sure their conditions and treatment avoid mental suffering

Our aim is to eradicate practices that have a negative impact on animals or do not contribute to the protection and preservation of species in the wild.

We will achieve this by:

- Auditing of all of our products involving animal practices
- Including compliance with our Animal Welfare Policy by asking suppliers to meet our relevant requirements
- Making sure staff, customers, and travel partners can report bad practice so we can take action as quickly as possible
- Working closely with ABTA The Travel Association and industry partners to continue to raise standards of animal welfare around the world