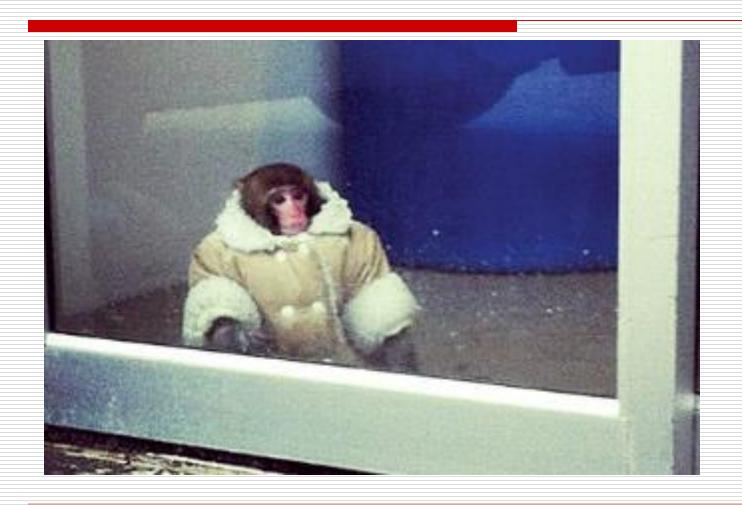
Animal Welfare



Exotics Totem Pole of Priorities

- 1. Vendor
- Consumer
- Animals



- 1. Animals
- 2. Consumer
- 3. Vendor

What is Animal Welfare?

- Different people give different answers it's evolving.
- New ideas and new definitions emerge with regularity.
- The welfare of an individual is their state as they attempt to cope with their environment - (Donald Broom).
- ...neither health, nor lack of stress or fitness is necessary or sufficient to conclude that an animal has good welfare. Welfare is dependent on what animals feel - (Ian Duncan)

Animal Welfare

- Good welfare is when an animal feels happy or content -(Jake Veasey)
- The natural biology, behaviour and lifestyle of the animal in the "wild" state is the benchmark (Hediger, Durrell).
- An understanding of a species' behavioural ecology and natural history is fundamental to identifying those factors likely to be linked with the individual's well-being (Kagan, Veasey).

A modern approach

- There are three interrelated components of animal welfare:
- Basic health and functioning,
- 2. Affective states,
- Natural living (ability to live in a way that suits the animal's natural adaptations)

-(David Fraser)

To varying degrees, there has been a historical focus on just component number 1. This is the case for a good portion of the exotic pet industry today.

What we do know

- All three components of welfare are critical.
- □ Welfare exists on a continuum of poor to excellent.
- □ Welfare involves the absence of negative emotional states (suffering) and the presence of positive emotional states (pleasure) are determinants of welfare.
- At a point, welfare decreases when the effort an animal puts into coping begins to make the animal feel worse.
- Welfare is important to animals.

Exotic wildlife needs that are often ignored

- Space, including vertical space
- Freedom of choice (control)
- Social context
- Activity/Stimulation
- Proper environmental conditions
- Species-appropriate substrates
- Shelter and privacy
- Species appropriate food and water

The Precautionary Principle

If an action or policy might cause severe or irreversible harm, in the absence of a scientific consensus, the burden of proof that harm will not result falls on those who would advocate taking the action.