

Animal Welfare Policy, 2017

FOR VISITORS TO Galway Atlantaquaria



Welcome to Galway Atlantaquaria, Ireland's largest native species aquarium

Is mian le Galway Atlantaquaria léargas cuimsitheach ar an saol faoi uisce a sholáthar i dtaispeántais atá soiléir agus suimiúil, le cúnamh foirne atá eolach cuiditheach agus beoléirithe spreagúla.

Galway Atlantaquaria, National Aquarium of Ireland seeks to present a comprehensive view of the world of water through clear and interesting displays, informed helpful staff and exciting live presentations and animal interaction sessions.

This is achieved through accurately displaying aquatic life in a manner that reflects their natural habitats, providing an enjoyable and educational environment to learn about the diverse marine ecosystem of Ireland.

As Ireland's largest aquarium we strive to ensure that a visit to the aquarium is original and full of wonder for visitors of all ages.



Ocean literacy informs our ethos.

Animal Welfare Policy for visitors to Galway Atlantaquaria, 2017

Introduction

The Aquarium is the Animal's Home.

All Visitors are reminded that they must respect the 'Rules' of the Aquarium.

"Animals are like people; they can get stressed when people bang the glass, upset by people shouting and don't like to be touched."

Welcome to Galway Atlantaquaria, We follow a number of BIAZA zoos & aquariums guidelines to ensure animal's welfare is a key priority. This policy ensures that human interaction is managed properly with key points and signage inside Galway Atlantaquaria.

We hope you enjoy this policy which identifies key guidelines which we hope you can follow.

Have a great visit, take your time and learn about the amazing marine species of Ireland.

The focus of this policy is to inform visitors about the specific importance of the **Mental Domain** and their responsibility to follow direction and respect the animals.

Galway Atlantaquaria relies on and will utilise **the 5 freedoms model** in its duty of care towards animals.

Galway Atlantaquaria has included a number of warning signs inside and outside the aquarium to make visitors aware of the rules of the aquarium.

Galway Atlantaquaria staff is always available to inform visitors of the rules, should they need more information. Galway Atlantaquaria staff gives detailed animal well-being talks at the start of every tour. **Please listen closely** to the rules carefully, as staff will enforce them.

This policy is to ensure your visit is fun, educational and memorable.

Meeting the welfare needs of animals in zoos & Aquariums

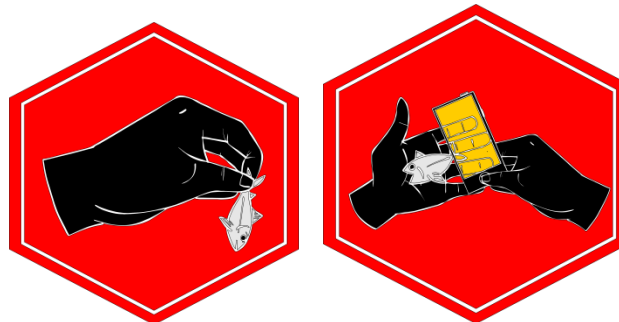
Galway Atlantaquaria staff, volunteers and interns are all trained to look after the animals in the aquarium based on models of best practice.

Galway Atlantaquaria **does not expect** every visitor to the aquarium to understand every key concept of animal welfare, etc. Galway Atlantaquaria understands visitors just want to visit a zoo and aquarium.

This policy wants the visitor to understand why we need to protect animals from **key issues**¹ that the Aquarium has identified. Galway Atlantaquaria staff reserve the right to decide what the rules are!

KEY ANIMAL WELFARE RULES

Do not touch or handle the animals, you will be asked to leave the aquarium if you are seen handling animals outside of tanks.



NO flash photography or cameras in the water, this is REALLY important! A flash can blind the animals and cameras in the water are a great stressor.



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¹ Our welfare signs are always reacting to new challenges

² These signs are also on the Tanks, so there is no excuse for 'negative' behaviour

Do not feed the animals, sometimes people bring in food from the outside and this is really bad for the animals.



Do not bang on the glass! This is really annoying for the animals and the staff you will only be warned once about this behaviour.



Please respect the directions of staff; any abusive or foul behaviour will not be tolerated! Aquarium staff will be respectful, but firm in their duty to keep the animals safe. Do not be offended if they are direct in their management of animal welfare.



You can see more zoo and aquarium rules, terms and conditions here;

GALWAY ATLANTAQUARIA

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

WELCOME TO OUR AQUARIUM, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT
TO ACKNOWLEDGE THESE GUIDELINES.



TICKETS MUST BE
VALID
TICKETS ARE
NON-TRANSFERABLE



ONLY NAMED
MEMBERS CAN
USE FOBS OR ID'S



CHILDREN UNDER 12
MUST
BE ACCOMPANIED
AT ALL TIMES



NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY
NO GO PRO CAMERAS IN
WATER



NEVER FEED
THE FISH



NO HANDS IN
TANKS OR EXHIBITS
BE MINDFUL OF FOREIGN
OBJECTS FALLING INTO
TANKS



NEVER BANG ON
THE GLASS



NEVER PICK UP
OR TOUCH AN ANIMAL



BE MINDFUL OF OTHER
VISITORS RIGHT TO
PRIVACY



NO RUNNING



IF IN DOUBT PLEASE SEEK
ASSISTANCE FROM RECEPTION OR A
MEMBER OF STAFF

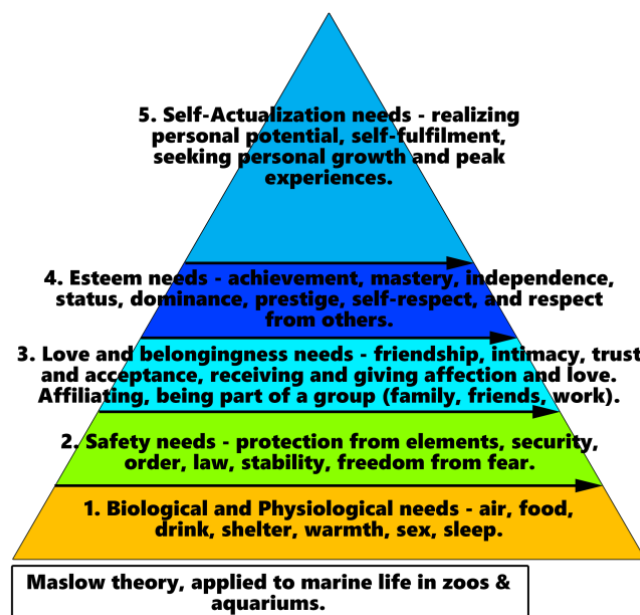
WEB. WWW.NATIONALAQUARIUM.IE TEL. 091 585 100
THESE RULES ARE TO PROTECT THE ANIMALS & WILL BE ENFORCED

Respecting Animals like the visitor would expect to be treated.

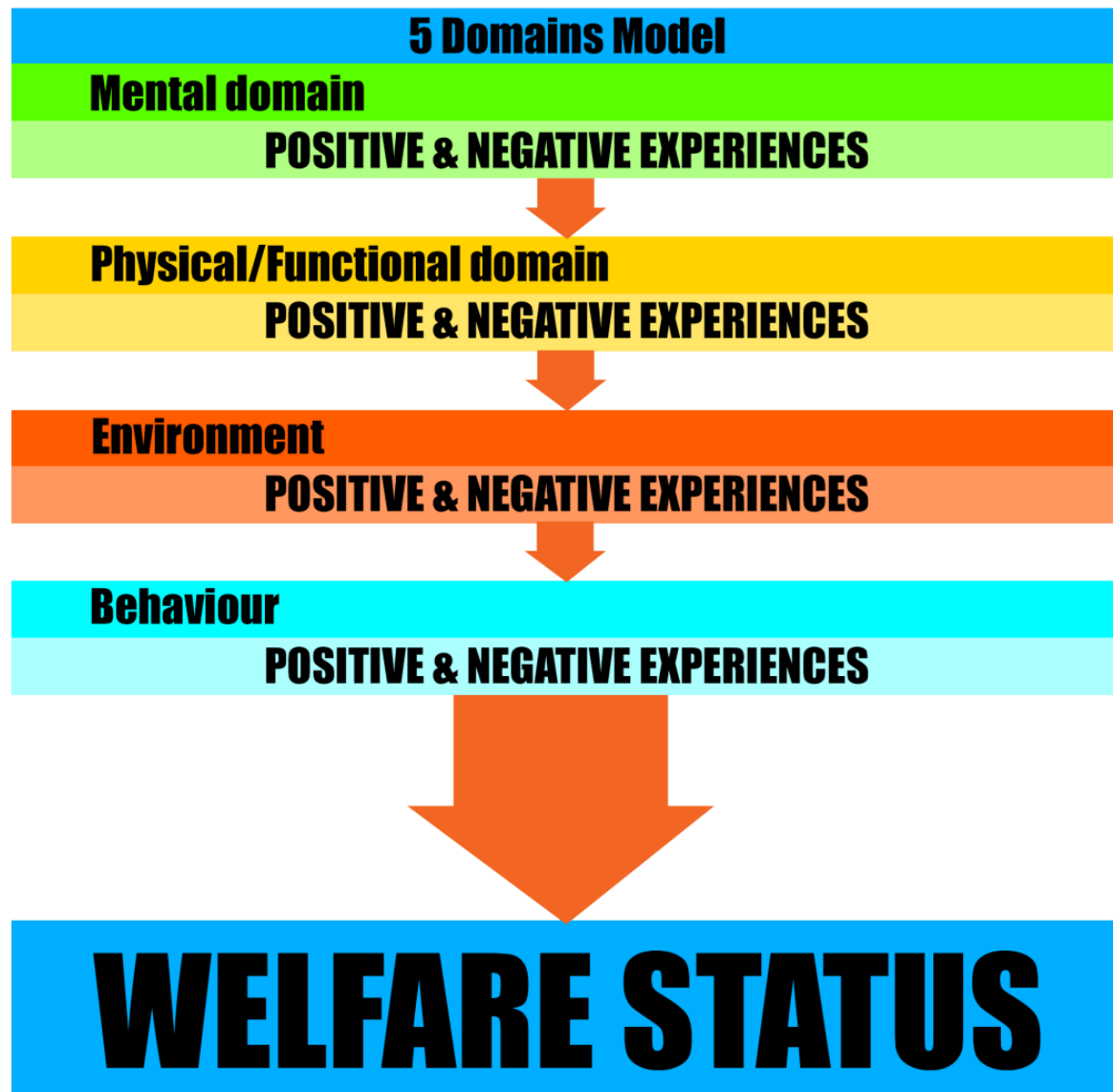
Galway Atlantaquaria expect visitors to respect the animals at all times, sometimes we use 'reflective listening' when we are explaining animal welfare issues. Once you explain to children and adults about how would they like to be treated, they soon get the message. Using Maslow with the five domains model you can see the needs of animals is the same as humans!

The original hierarchy of needs Maslow five-stage model includes:

1. Biological and Physiological needs - air, food, drink, shelter, warmth, sex, sleep.
2. Safety needs - protection from elements, security, order, law, stability, freedom from fear.
3. Love and belongingness needs - friendship, intimacy, trust and acceptance, receiving and giving affection and love. Affiliating, being part of a group (family, friends, work).
4. Esteem needs - achievement, mastery, independence, status, dominance, prestige, self-respect, and respect from others.
5. Self-Actualization needs - realizing personal potential, self-fulfilment, seeking personal growth and peak experiences.



The five freedoms/ Domains Model shows what the needs of animals are under different themes. There are too many similarities between both Maslow model & Domain model, and that is how we want to engage the public when we talk about Animal welfare.



Summary

Galway Atlantaquaria wants all our visitors to enjoy their visit to our zoo and aquarium, with the best of interests in regard to animal welfare. The guidelines in this policy aren't meant to be intrusive into your personal rights, but we have a duty of care for the animals. Galway Atlantaquaria will enforce them as we need to care for the animal's wellbeing.

If you have any questions regarding this policy please let a member of staff know at reception.

Examples of Signage found in the aquarium



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These are found on the tanks.

About BIAZA

Our Association

The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) is the professional body representing the best zoos and aquariums in the UK and Ireland. We have more than 100 zoo and aquarium members whom we support in their commitment to be at the forefront of conservation, education and research.

These days' modern zoos and aquariums are much more than places where the public can go to view a range of different animals. Whilst providing a safe and fun-filled family day out is something our members are understandably proud of, by displaying the BIAZA logo our zoos and aquariums are also demonstrating their dedication to conserving the natural world through research and conservation programmes and to educating and inspiring their visitors to do the same.

BIAZA is a member of both the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) and through this network our members collaborate on a global scale to further conservation science, natural history and environmental education and animal welfare.

<https://biaza.org.uk>



Contact us;

**Galway Atlantaquaria,
The Promenade,
'Toft' park, Salthill,
Galway, H91 T2FD**

Call. 091 585 100

Email. info@nationalaquarium.ie

Facebook: @GalwayAquarium

Twitter: GalwayAquarium

Instagram: galwayaquarium

www.nationalaquarium.ie