

Enhance your skills, expand your network, and support the future of Felid conservation in our region

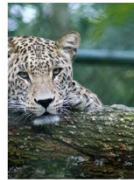


Carnivore & Small Exotic TAG

# Felid Husbandry Advisory Group



STILL WILD



*Warmly  
Acknowledging  
the Kenneth and  
Judith Weeks  
Big Cat Fund*

**Selatan**  
supporting tiger conservation



# Felid Husbandry Workshop October 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2026 Melbourne Zoo

Please note that places for the Felid Husbandry Workshop are limited, so we encourage you to secure your registration early to avoid disappointment. All sessions will be recorded for attendees. We also invite guests to bring an item to contribute to the silent auction, with all funds raised going directly to WildCat Alliance.

## Getting there.

### Skybus

Transport from Melbourne Airport (Tullamarine) to the city is easy via [SkyBus](#) Melbourne City Express (approximately \$25 one way), which stops at the [Southern Cross Coach Terminal](#) on Spencer Street in the Melbourne CBD. It offers convenient, direct, and frequent transfers, usually operating from around 4 am to 1 am, with 24/7 service options.

### Key Details:

- **Main City Stop:** Southern Cross Station (Spencer St), which serves as the central hub for further transport connections.
- **Airport Pick-up/Drop-off:** SkyBus has designated stops directly outside Terminals 1, 3, and 4 (baggage claim).
- **Return Service:** Buses toward the airport depart from Bay 75 at the Southern Cross Coach Terminal.

### Ride Share

Uber which generally ranges between \$40–\$50 depending on traffic and time of day.

DiDi is another ride share option and again costs between \$40–\$50 depending on traffic and time of day.

## Getting around.

Guests using public transport will need to purchase a [myki](#) card, available from train stations and selected retail outlets. Recommended hotels are located within an easy tram ride or walking distance to Melbourne Zoo. Public transport across Melbourne is currently half price until the end of the year, making travel around the city even more convenient. We also recommend downloading the [PTV app](#) or Metro Trains app before arriving, as these apps are very helpful for planning travel around Melbourne. They provide live departure times, platform information, service updates and journey planning across trains, trams and buses, making it much easier to navigate the city and travel to Melbourne Zoo.

### **Accommodation recommendations.**

#### **[Park Inn by Radisson Melbourne Carlton](#)**

Address: 441 Royal Parade, Parkville

Phone number: 03 9380 9222

Room rate: Approx \$150-175 per night.

Rooms available include a standard double bed, a king size bed, 2 twin beds and 3 twin beds.

Getting from hotel to Melbourne Zoo: 1km (8 minute) walk to the zoo

#### **[Mercure North Melbourne](#)**

Address: Corner Flemington Road and Harker Street, North Melbourne

Phone Number: 03 9329 1788

Room rate: Approx \$150-\$190 per night

Rooms available include a standard king bed, twin single beds, a queen and a single bed or two queen beds.

Getting from hotel to Melbourne Zoo: 2.6km (20 minute) walk to the zoo or \$11-\$14 taxi (5 mins) or Line 58 (West Coburg/Toorak) tram (18 mins)

# Program

## Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October Melbourne Zoo.

**7.30 am** Registration Melbourne Zoo Main Entrance

**7.45 am** Welcome Sheila Roe, ZAA Carnivore and Small exotic TAG Co convenor, Felid Husbandry Advisory Group Chair

**7.50 am** Housekeeping

**7.55 am** Site Visit Sumatran Tiger

**8.25 am** Melbourne Zoo Boardroom

**8.30 am** *Wildcat Alliance*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Esther Conway, Manager WildCats Conservation Alliance. Zoological Society of London -online**

**9.00 am** *Can the Big Cats be Saved*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Luke Hunter, Executive Director Big Cats Program. Wildlife Conservation Society New York -onsite or online**

**10.00 am** Morning Tea

**10.30 am** *Introductions and Breeding felids*

**Louise Ginman, Unit Supervisor of Carnivore. Taronga Conservation Society Australia**

**12.00 pm** *Smaller Wild Cat Species*

**Ben Britton, Director. Wild Cat Conservation Centre**

**1.00 pm Lunch**

**2.00 pm *History of Exhibit Design***

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jon Coe, Jon Coe Designs – online**

**3.00 pm *Cheetah management***

**Jennifer Conaghan, Unit Supervisor-Wildlife Operations Western Plains Zoo Dubbo**

**4.00 pm *Veterinary issues and Geriatric care of Felids***

**Dr Kresen Pilay, Senior Vet. Sydney Zoo ,and Dr Jaimee Wheelhouse, Australia Zoo**

**5.00 pm *Managing Visitor Expectations***

**Brendan Mark Host, Behavioural Husbandry Supervisor. Taronga Conservation Society Australia**

**5.35 pm BBQ and Silent Auction Lion Gorge Melbourne Zoo**

**8.00 pm Finish**

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**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**7.50 am Melbourne Zoo Main entrance**

**8.00 am Site Visit- Labyrinth**

- 8.25 am** *Safety*  
**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Shanna Simpson, AZA Safety Committee and Hannah Fullmer and Erin McNally, Growing Resiliency for Aquarium and Zoo Employees (GRAZE) - online**
- 10.00 am** **Morning Tea**
- 10.30 am** *Welfare and Keeper animal relationships*  
**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr Vicky Melfi, PhD SFHEA Professor in Human-Animal Interactions. Hartpury University | Gloucester**
- 1.00 pm** **Lunch**
- 2.00 pm** *Environmental Enrichment -What works and What can go Wrong*  
**Kacey Huggett, Lead Keeper -Large Carnivores and Ungulates. Australian Wildlife Parks | Mogo Wildlife Park**
- 2.30 pm** *Training for geriatric care and medical procedures*  
**Mark Turner, Curator of Carnivores. Hamilton Zoo New Zealand**
- 3.00 pm** *Tigers- Holistic approach*  
**Monique Counihan, Senior Keeper. Melbourne Zoo**
- 4.30 pm** *Saving Wildcats in Scotland - a reintroduction program*  
**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: David Barclay, Breeding program Coordinator. The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland -online**
- 5.30 pm** **Finish**

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**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026 – Melbourne Zoo**

**7.50 am**     **Melbourne Zoo Boardroom**

**8.00 am**     *The Future of Big Cat Welfare: Rethinking Space, Questioning Enrichment, and Embracing Evidence-Based Design*  
**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr Jake Veasey** , BSc (Hons) MSc PhD CBiol MSB. CEO, Care for the Rare Ltd, Canadian Commission  
IUCN / SSC Conservation Planning Specialist Group-**online**

**9.30 am**     *Fishing Cat management*  
**Steve Veen** , Howletts Wild Animal Park Canterbury, Kent. **United Kingdom- online**

**10.00 am**   **Morning Tea**

**10.30 am**   **Site Visit Snow Leopards-training session**

**11.00 am**   *Conditioning and Training for blood draws*  
**Jose Gomes, Melbourne Zoo**

**11.30 am**   *Cat connections- connecting with cats in your care, connecting with conservation connecting people with nature*  
**Elise Maurer, Team Supervisor – Ungulate. Adelaide Zoo**

**12.00 pm**   *Small cats in the region*  
**Mark Turner, Curator of Carnivores. Hamilton Zoo New Zealand**

**12.30 pm**   *National Standards*

**Louise Ginman, Unit Supervisor of Carnivore. Taronga Conservation Society Australia**

**1.00 pm Thank you and Acknowledgments**

**1.05 pm CLOSE Workshop**

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