CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PRIMATES IN MALAYSIA – AN OVERVIEW

DEFINITION

1) ***A primate is any mammal of the group that includes lemurs, lorises, tarsiers, monkeys, apes, and humans. The order Primates, with its 300 or more species, is the third most diverse order of mammals, after rodents and bats.***

Malaysia have at least 25 endemic species of primates, the most iconic ones are the orangutan, white handed gibbons, long tail macaque, pig tail macaque (Beruk) and slow loris.

2) ***Captive management is where animals are kept in captivity in some sort of enclosed space to assist survival of their species. The animals depends solely on caretakers/keepers to take care of their needs to survive sustainably.***

THE PRESENTATION WILL COVER

1) ZOO CAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AS A DYNAMIC AND EVOLVING ACTIVITY
   Captive management has a number of benefits:
   a) Captive populations provide the opportunity for more in-depth study, which is not practical in the wild.
   b) Captive breeding programmes can provide individuals for translocation
   c) Captive individuals on display can help to raise public awareness about the importance of conservation.
2) FOCUS ON THE 5 DOMAINS OF ANIMAL WELFARE (which includes the 5 freedoms) in order to comply with Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 and the their welfare in captivity as a priority by World Association of Zoo & aquaria (WAZA) and South East Asian Zoo Association (SEAZA)
   What are the five domains of animal welfare?
   a) Nutrition – availability and quality of feed and water.
   b) Environment – atmospheric and environmental conditions.
   c) Health – presence or absence of disease and injury.
   d) Behaviour – restriction or expression of behaviour.
   e) Mental state – subjective feelings and experiences.

3) BASIC DAILY HUSBANDRY ROUTINES
    a) Animal observation and identifications
    b) Public enclosure for safety/biosecurity
    c) Feed and water to animals
    d) Clean night stalls
    e) Enrichment and behaviour observations
    f) Help with preventive medicine programs and assist in animal treatment
    g) Record keeping and updating
4) EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT

    Zoos educate visitors about habitat conservation through programs and activities, and the way individual habitats and zoos are being designed. Education about wildlife and habitat conservation is important, and must address scientific, aesthetic, and ecological values to be effective.
5) SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION VERSUS PEST CONTROL

    Sustainable conservation exists when the conservation of biodiversity, with all its various wildlife components existing naturally in a functioning ecosystem, becomes the driving factor.
6) CHALLENGES FACED BY KEEPER'S AND SPECIES ALIKE TO REMAIN RELEVANT AND CURRENT
7) OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS

    There are several occupational hazards associated with zookeepers including allergens, zoonosis, bite injuries, slips, trips, and falls, chemicals, stress, and noise.

    These exposures have been associated with increased rates of allergic diseases, skin infections, bite-related infections, intestinal diseases, tuberculosis and psychological stress.

SUMMARY

In a Captive Management Organization, the animal caregiver or Keeper plays a primary role in providing care to a breeding colony of group-housed primate be it in an indoor/outdoor setting.

Care includes feeding, cleaning, enclosure maintenance, provision of environmental enrichment, health monitoring, behavioural observation, and treatment.

Work is performed indoors and outdoors with exposure to all seasonal weather conditions.