



Welfare Assessment for Potential Educational Candidates

Long Term Pain Assessment

- Does the animal have full range of motion in all joints?
- Is the animal free from non-union fractures?
- Is the animal free from fractures near joints?
- Is the animal free from joint dislocations?
- Is the animal free from severely misaligned healed fractures?
- Is the animal free from conditions that have the potential to cause long term pain?
- Is the free of physical injuries?
- Can any current conditions be treated, and if so, completely resolved?
- If permanently placed, will the animal be free of pain and stress from management, handling, or surgical procedures?
- Is the animal free from conditions that cause wing droop, lameness of a limb, or limping?
- Is the animal free of disease?

Long Term Mobility Assessment

- Is the animal free from conditions that could impact its ability to perform self-care behaviors, i.e., preening, bathing, sunning?
- Is the activity level normal for the species?
- Is the animal able to ambulate normally for the species i.e., walk, run, hop, fly, perch, stand upright, balance, land etc.?
- Can the animal access its water supply?
- Can the animal locate food and self-feed without assistance?
- Is the animal able to navigate and move around freely?
- Does the animal make use of available space?
- Does the animals' sensory capabilities appear to be functioning normally?

Psychological Assessment

- Is the animal a species that is known to do well as an educational ambassador?
- If an owl, is it human reared, imprinted, or has not reached fledgling stage?
If an owl, is there potential to create a positive association of people before reaching fledgling stage?
- If medical treatment is needed, is it likely that the treatment will be low stress, and a short treatment time?
- Is the animal resting according to predicted patterns based on natural history?
- Does the animal show behaviors that indicate trust and comfort as opposed to avoidance and escape?
- Does the animal have potential to participate in modern training programs?
- Is the animal in its first year of life?

Scoring

If you answered “no” to any of the above questions, the candidate may not be suitable for placement. Sometimes, a longer period of time is needed for the animal to heal from current injuries, and discontinue all handling in order to build trust and comfort around human caregivers. It is recommended that all potential candidates are fully evaluated before transferring to another facility as an educational ambassador.