



MEET THE MAZURI NUTRITION EXPERTS

**Improving Animal
Welfare Begins
with What, and
How, We Feed**

Mazuri's team of experts in wildlife nutrition, formats, and process bring expertise to zoo and aquatic animal care teams.

As zoos and aquariums focus on ensuring optimal care and welfare of wildlife - from improving environments to enriching activities - nutrition remains a foundational component of animal health and well-being. What animals consume has a cascading impact on everything from behavior to reproductive health and mental well-being.

At the Association of Zoos and Aquariums annual conference held in New Orleans earlier this year, Species360 talked with Dr. Troy Tollefson, Nutritionist, Mazuri® Exotic Animal Nutrition, about recent changes in wildlife care and nutrition - and what it takes to bring new discoveries to market.

"Nutrition has been at the forefront of changes in animal welfare," said Tollefson. "At Mazuri, we have continued to improve everything from the source to the way that foods are processed to retain quality and benefit."

That includes eliminating unnecessary starches that would not normally be in the animal's diet. For example, Mazuri provides low-starch foods and supplements that address the unique needs of herbivores, primates, aquatic mammals, and other groups. These products are instrumental in boosting animals' weight and body condition, while providing key vitamins and minerals the species requires.

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Adapting the source, technology and approach to processing foods is the focus of a team of wildlife nutritionists, quality, and process researchers and experts at Mazuri, said Tollefson. The company has patented an extrusion technology that employs extreme high pressure to retain nutrients while forming the shape, length, and texture that each species prefers.

“Our nutritionists and quality teams deliver foods in a way that is more appealing to the animal, that reflects what their behavior would be in the wild. That helps the keeper to be more successful in achieving what they want for the animal, and helps the animal to thrive,” said Tollefson.

By providing the zoo and aquarium community with a wide variety forms for different species, Mazuri enables animal care teams to introduce better practices. For example, placing tiny pieces of feed in a bale of hay encourages monkeys to spend the day foraging for it as they would in the wild. These behaviors are an essential element to the psychological well-being for many birds and other species as well.

Its leadership has earned Mazuri recognition by the zoo and aquarium community for being at the forefront of changes in animal nutrition, from exotic birds and reptiles to mammals and fish. Achieving the right balance of food, in the right form, means healthier individuals that may live longer and require less veterinary intervention. Often, dietary changes not only improve the animal’s physical health but also enhance their behavioral and mental well-being.

Learn about the Nutritionists and other experts behind Mazuri’s success, the importance of providing food in the right form, and more at www.Mazuri.com.



**Mazuri® Exotic Animal Nutrition is a
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Species360 extends a special thanks to Mazuri for seven consecutive years of sponsorship of our member community, including helping resource-constrained wildlife institutions such as Paramaribo Zoo in Suriname to participate in Species360 and to use ZIMS for animal records management. Thank you, Mazuri for supporting the Species360 Member Community!