



## THE ZSL WILD SCIENCE PODCAST: SHOW NOTES

### Episode: ZSL #046 – Feeding the Zoo: Nutrition for animals under managed care

Making sure that the animals held in ZSL's two conservation zoos, London and Whipsnade, are fed a diet that can help them thrive is crucial, both for keeping them healthy under managed care, and ensuring they are in the best possible shape for a return to the wild. Amanda Ferguson is ZSL's Diet Management Officer and is responsible for creating tailored diets for all the animals across both ZSL Zoos, from snails to elephants! We learn how to feed an animal for which there are no guidelines, why enriched feeding methods are so important, and why you'll rarely see a monkey at London Zoo with a banana.

#### Overview

- 00:11** [Harriet McAra](#), Host of Wild Science, Episode introduction
- 01:10** Interview with Amanda Ferguson
- 25:16** How does nutrition help us recover wild populations?
- 33:04** Outro and final reflections

#### Resources

- If there's a topic you'd like to hear on a future podcast, or if you'd like to share your thoughts, email the ZSL Wild Science Podcast at: [wild.science@zsl.org](mailto:wild.science@zsl.org)
- Check out our science and conservation work at: [www.zsl.org/Science](http://www.zsl.org/Science) or [www.zsl.org/conservation](http://www.zsl.org/conservation)
- The Evolution of Enrichment, a public event held at ZSL featuring a talk from Amanda Ferguson on how diet presentation can meet the behavioural needs of animals:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Hqrweox2UA>
- Amanda Ferguson: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Amanda-Ferguson-9>
- Corncrake conservation: <https://www.zsl.org/what-we-do/projects/conserving-native-birds>
- Mountain chicken frog conservation: <https://www.zsl.org/what-we-do/projects/mountain-chicken-frog-conservation>
- Comparison of the nutritional content of the captive and wild diets of the critically endangered mountain chicken frog (*Leptodactylus fallax*) to improve its captive husbandry  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30221785/>

#### Get in touch

- Email [wild.science@zsl.org](mailto:wild.science@zsl.org) with your questions, comments, and thoughts for future episodes!
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