Certification in Animal Welfare

As zoo keepers, our primary role is to provide optimal welfare for the animals in our care. On the surface it sounds like a simple task, but as the newly developing science of animal welfare continues to grow, we learn more about the physical, psychological and emotion needs of the animals in our care. This 12-hour workshop is designed for keepers who work with any species. The course will concentrate on the topics associated with improving and enhancing animal welfare. It will give keepers a background in animal welfare topics, teach them how to evaluate welfare and give them tools to enhance their current programs to ensure optimal welfare. Topics such as behavioral husbandry, exhibit design, quality of life, welfare monitoring and keeper/animal relationships will be discussed. Participants will also learn techniques to share with peers on welfare assessment and learn tools to enhance the care of their animals. New approaches to meet the needs of the animals in our care based on behavioral research will also be discussed and applied.