



The Felid TAG Husbandry Course (FHC) was developed in 2007, and is held each year just prior to the TAG's Mid-year conference. This year's course will run Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> and is hosted by John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids, MI. This course has been designed to touch upon the foundations of caring for felids and will focus on the fundamentals. The FHC has had over 500 attendees to date, with experience level ranging from 0-30 yrs working with felids. Both AZA, non-AZA and international institutions have sent participants to the course. The majority of students are front line keepers and managers as well as individuals that work with exotic felids in various other capacities such as field researchers, graduate students, or NGO's.

The Felid TAG offers the Ashely Pfaff and Stacey Konwiser scholarships to two individuals each year. Scholarship applications will be available for submission from January 1<sup>st</sup> -February 1<sup>st</sup>

In this 4-day course attendees will learn the best practices for felid care from some of the most experienced felid managers and keepers. The course will include presentations on: husbandry, introductions, maximizing exhibits, keeper and animal safety, veterinary sciences, nutrition, reproduction, birth management, animal wellbeing, communication and more. Instruction is enhanced through presentations, group discussions, problem solving activities and videos. Training and enrichment demos, as well as behind the scenes tours will be provided by the host facility.

This year we will also be offering our 4th Advanced Felid Husbandry Course (AFHC). The AFHC focus this year will be focused on breeding management including all aspects of breeding related to the care of AZA managed felids. Sample topics during the course include: transfers, introductions, artificial reproductive technologies, birth planning, training of animals and staff, among others. The format will include guest speakers, lectures, group exercises and discussion panels.

The AFHC is meant to supplement and compliment the Felid Foundational Husbandry Course. Therefore, the target audience for this course is individuals that have previously taken the foundational course, have a minimum of 5 years' experience working with animals in a zoological setting and are mid-level supervisors (lead keepers, zoological managers, associate curators etc.).

Applications for both courses will be accepted from February 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Courses will be limited to 35 people to allow for a more social learning environment. Student acceptance for both courses will be chosen based on preset qualifications and only one student per facility will be accepted. All applicants will be notified by February 20<sup>th</sup> of acceptance or waitlist status.

**Foundational Course:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIVJ8o1js9KW-7-eFq-it02ldDI7HlzM515L6HsLfwQfY45Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfIVJ8o1js9KW-7-eFq-it02ldDI7HlzM515L6HsLfwQfY45Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Advanced Course:**

<https://forms.gle/6Lzhmq4qWoxjYoT8>

Questions about the foundational course can be directed to Jill Dignan;  
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Questions about the advanced course can be directed to Jilian Fazio;  
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