

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR INSTITUTE

EXOTIC ANIMAL TRAINING



ANIMAL
BEHAVIOR
INSTITUTE

A more personal education



MEANINGFUL

WHAT

IS EXOTIC ANIMAL
TRAINING ALL ABOUT?

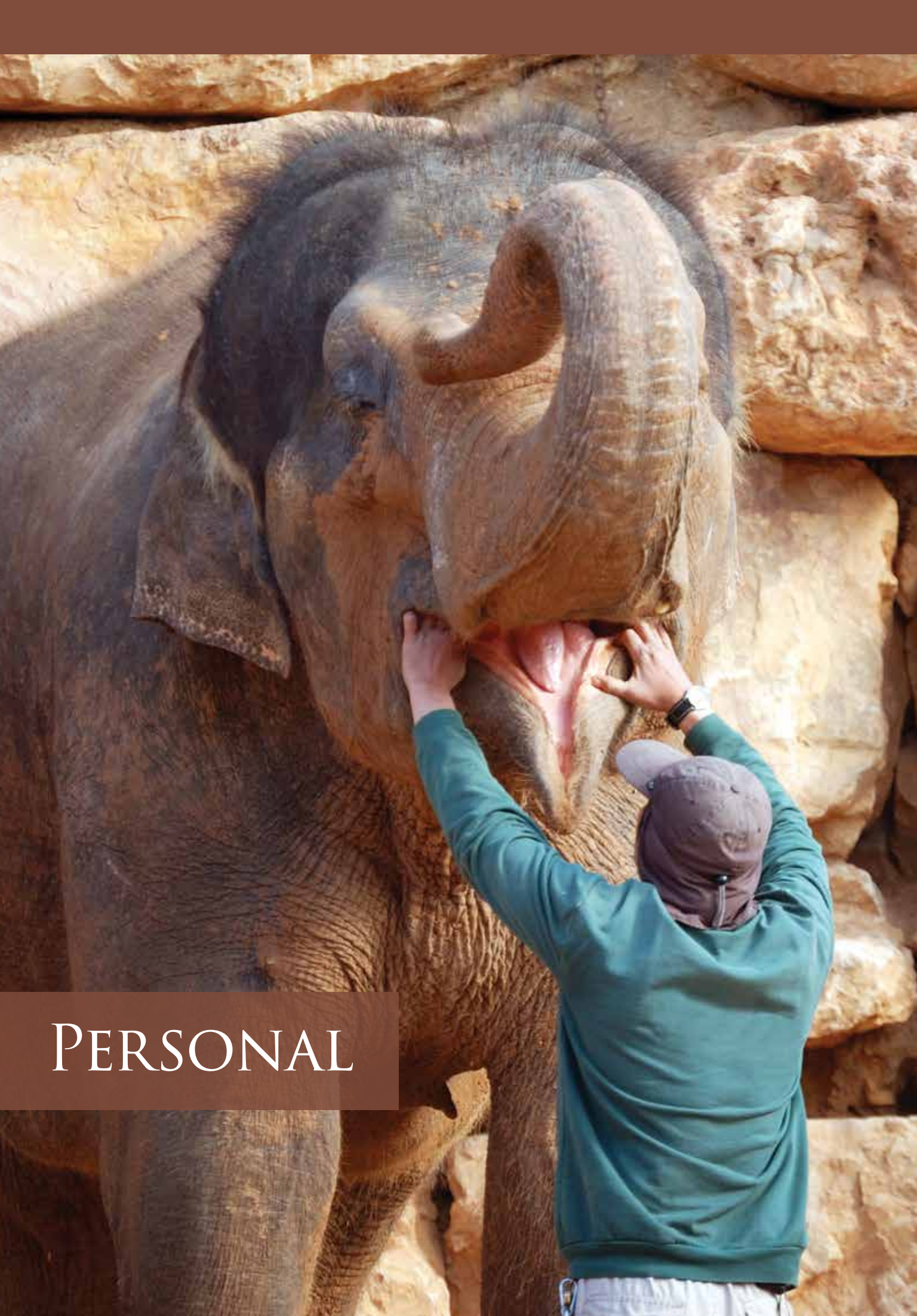
Our Exotic Animal Training program provides a comprehensive approach to behavioral management, emphasizing the unique needs of exotic animals and wildlife. Wild animals retain a measure of unpredictability and are more dangerous than their domestic counterparts. Trainers that work with exotic animals must therefore be sensitive to the emotions and behaviors of the species in their care.

Students begin their program with two required courses, Animal Training and Animal Enrichment. Animal Training relies on the use of operant conditioning to modify an animal's behavior, increasing the frequency of preferred behaviors and eliminating those that are undesirable. Animal training improves animal welfare by facilitating the voluntary cooperation of animals in a variety of procedures, such as veterinary care, physical exams and educational programming.

Animal Enrichment explores the practice of providing animals with environments that promote good psychological and emotional health. Enrichment can include new opportunities for feeding, foraging, or interacting with others. Effective enrichment creates novel outlets for behavior and reduces the likelihood that inappropriate behaviors will develop. It is an essential component of animal welfare.

The two fundamental courses in training and enrichment are augmented with a selection of electives specializing in the behavior and training of different taxonomic groups, including carnivores, marine mammals, birds and primates. Keepers and trainers require a detailed knowledge of a species' natural history. Our specialized electives provide that knowledge while allowing students to tailor the program to their individual needs and interests.

Are you ready to get started in exotic animal training? The Animal Behavior Institute is the only institution to offer accredited, online programs in Exotic Animal Training. Our specialized training will give you the skills you need to effectively train animals and embark on a new career.



PERSONAL

WHO

WORKS IN EXOTIC
ANIMAL TRAINING?

Exotic animal trainers work with a wide variety of wild animals, such as dolphins, birds, wolves, big cats and other carnivores. They may be self-employed as trainers or behavioral consultants. Behaviorists may also work in wildlife rescues, zoos, aquariums, animal sanctuaries, the film and entertainment industry, and other animal-related institutions.

Sample positions include:

- Exotic animal trainer
- Elephant trainer
- Big cat trainer
- Enrichment specialist
- Zoo keeper
- Movie animal trainer
- Wildlife educator
- Animal ambassador trainer
- Bird trainer
- Behavioral researcher
- Marine mammal trainer
- Aquarist

The outlook for professionals in animal care and service, including animal trainers, is positive. Employment in these areas is expected to grow 15 percent over the next decade, faster than the average for all occupations. Salaries vary greatly based on the specific field or employer. For example, independent animal trainers may work for \$20-50/hour or more. Animal care workers in other fields may earn significantly less. Competition for some positions, such as those in the zoo and entertainment industries, will remain strong. The specialized training offered by the Animal Behavior Institute can help give you the competitive advantage you need to secure a position and advance in this field.

Please note that students interested in Exotic Animal Training may also be interested in our Zookeeping certificates. Please contact us for additional information on other programs.

*U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook.

A person wearing a red polo shirt and khaki pants is walking a cheetah on a leash. The cheetah is walking on a grassy area. The person has a name tag on their shirt and a keychain on their belt. The cheetah is looking towards the camera.

FLEXIBLE

WHEN

CAN I START?

Now! Getting started is easy - you can apply online in minutes. Your academic advisor can help you plan your courses. Your certificate in Exotic Animal Training requires the completion of five online courses and 40 hours of relevant field experience.

Academic Curriculum

All trainers need to have a detailed knowledge of animal behavior, but they also need a deep toolbox of techniques that can be used to modify behaviors. Our coursework is designed to provide you with a rigorous education in training and behavioral management, including animal behavior, training, enrichment, cognition and emotions.

The two required courses for this certificate program are:

ABI 222 Animal Enrichment

ABI 233 Animal Training**

You will also select three electives from the following:

ABI 251 Behavior & Training of Marine Mammals

ABI 281 Avian Training

ABI 291 Carnivore Training & Behavior

ABI 331 Animal Behavior

ABI 378 Primate Behavior & Enrichment

**Must have access to an animal.

Field Requirement

We believe that academic training must be accompanied by real world experience to be truly effective. During your time as a student, you will complete a field requirement consisting of 40 hours of hands-on experience as an employee, intern or volunteer at an approved institution of your choice. One of the strengths of our program is that students are able to choose where they would like to complete their fieldwork; the facility is not assigned.



EXCEPTIONAL



WHY

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR
INSTITUTE?

Widespread Recognition & Acceptance

You can be confident about pursuing your education with the Animal Behavior Institute. Our quality programs enjoy widespread acceptance at other institutions. We are licensed by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges* and accredited by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). As a result of this Accredited Provider status, the Animal Behavior Institute is able to offer IACET CEU credits that are accepted by hundreds of professional associations. Our courses also meet the continuing education requirements of many educational institutions, including public and private schools.

In addition, individual courses are accepted directly for CEU credit by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers. Please see our website at www.animaledu.com for a complete listing of our educational partners.

*The Animal Behavior Institute is licensed by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges having met the requirements of Article 8 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes of North Carolina. Please note that the NC State Board of Community Colleges is not an accrediting agency.

Personal Support

We'll provide you with close personal support from the day you begin until well after you've finished your program. When you enroll at the Animal Behavior Institute, your academic advisor will help you plan your individual program and answer any questions that arise along the way. Students have the freedom to choose how many classes to take each semester, when to take them and how to pay for them. And our flexible financing makes any program affordable. Students can choose to finance a single course or their entire program – it's up to you. Alumni have access to the same resources you'll enjoy as a student. This includes access to job and internship listings, advising and assistance with resumes and cover letters. We're with you before and after you graduate.

Our Approach

All courses at the Animal Behavior Institute share a common core, building a strong foundation and then applying that core to problem solving. The highlight of each week is a student-centered discussion; students work collectively to solve real world problems and case studies. Our approach helps build a strong rapport between each individual, their student colleagues, and the faculty. Small class sizes ensure that you'll know your instructors and receive the personal education you deserve.



PROFESSIONAL

WHAT

IS UNIQUE ABOUT
OUR FACULTY?

An academic institution is only as strong as their faculty and ours are outstanding. Our faculty are selected on the basis of their education, experience, and passion for teaching. We'd like to introduce you to two of the instructors in our Exotic Animal Training program.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



DR. GINA CALDWELL

Professor of Animal Behavior

Dr. Caldwell teaches courses in animal behavior and psychology at multiple universities. She has dedicated her career to animal training, behavior, and welfare. Dr. Caldwell has over twenty-five years of experience in the behavioral science and zoological field working with a variety of species; her graduate research focused on the effects of environment enrichment on sea otter behavior. She has participated in several marine conservation and research projects with a diverse group of animals including bottlenose dolphins, sea otters, penguins, and right whales. Dr. Caldwell works at a private zoo where she collaborates with the curatorial team on best animal welfare practices, mentors staff on animal husbandry, and designs habitats to promote species appropriate behaviors.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



ANDREA BOGLE

Professor of Animal Behavior

Professor Bogle began her animal training career over 12 years ago. Since then she has worked with a wide variety of exotic and domestic species at zoos around the world. Her experience includes training animals for television and movie productions, research training with wolves and dogs, training dolphins for animal assisted therapy, and working with private clients to resolve behavioral problems. She is currently a senior trainer at the Texas State Aquarium.

Professor Bogle brings a wealth of experience to the Animal Behavior Institute. She currently teaches several courses in animal training and behavior.

Visit us at www.animaledu.com for a complete list of instructors and their qualifications.

Office of Admissions

Animal Behavior Institute, Inc.

4711 Hope Valley Road

Suite 4F-332

Durham, NC 27707

Toll Free:

(866) 755-0448

Fax:

(866) 351-6911

Email:

support@animaledu.com

www.animaledu.com



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