

Pre-Conference Wednesday Offers Three Educational Classes

[Register](#) & pay for each of these classes online with this link.

[Reserve](#) a room at the Charlotte Hilton Executive Park at the FCF Conference rate with this link.

Take the Wild/Exotic Feline Husbandry Course, or take either or both the Wildlife Conservation Educators Course and Contingency Planning Workshop.

The 8-hour Wild/Exotic Feline Husbandry Course will be taught Wednesday, August 22 at the Hilton Charlotte Executive Park Hotel at the start of the FCF Convention. This eight hour class is \$110 FCF members, \$145 non-members. Broaden your horizons, keep up with the latest in feline healthcare and husbandry, and gain an understanding of the laws, regulations and government agencies that oversee private captive husbandry of wild felines. The instructor led, multi-media presentation, with student textbook, workshops, and final exam is suitable for both novices and “old hands” who want to improve their level of knowledge.

Topics Covered Include:

- Natural History of Wild Felines
- Regulatory Agencies & Permits
- Facility Design
- Handling Equipment
- Diet / Nutrition
- Health Care Basics
- Disposition & Handling
- Behavior Conditioning
- Contingency Planning

Take the 4-hour Contingency Planning Workshop taught Wednesday, August 22.

Disaster and preparedness were focal points during 2017, as hurricanes, wildfires, and many other incidents impacted individuals, businesses, and animals across the country. The exotic animal industry was not spared, and while the response and collaboration among facilities and owners was extraordinary, it is clear that there is much we still have to do at the facility and industry levels. Your level of preparedness ultimately determines how successful your response and recovery will be, so it is critical to have plans in place in advance of disaster.

The need to ensure contingency planning is especially timely, as the recently issued final rule from the USDA regarding de minimis exemptions for licensing was one of the few remaining obstacles for the current hold on the contingency plan final rule. This means that, soon, comprehensive contingency planning will be a requirement for USDA licensure. Even without this regulatory requirement, it is simply advisable

to know in advance what to do, and that you have the means to do it, before you are facing a disaster.

This FCF workshop is not intended to be



a “how to” on building contingency plans. Instead, the speakers will hold a fast-paced interactive working group designed so you walk out with:

- A list of resources on where to go to get help building a robust yet flexible contingency plan, and guidance on understanding how best to use those resources;
- A process to help you identify the risks your facility may face that require contingency plans;
- Information for you to take to your leadership, boards of directors, and

The 4-hour Wildlife Conservation Educators Course will be taught Wednesday, August 22 at the Hilton Charlotte Executive Park Hotel at the start of the FCF Convention. This four hour class is \$55 FCF members, \$80 non-members. Learn how to teach other people about wildlife & conservation. The Wildlife Conservation Educator Course gives you the tools necessary to become qualified as a professional wildlife educator of all wildlife but the course specializes in feline species.

Topics Covered Include:

- What it means to be a professional wildlife educator and how you will impact your community and the animal industry
- Permits and laws regulating exhibition of wildlife
- How to form a wildlife education business, establish a professional image and maintain credibility
- How to choose wildlife ambassadors and basic animal husbandry
- Animal training, enrichment and safety techniques
- How to develop educational shows that flow smoothly, capture your audience’s attention and raise conservation awareness
- How to market your business and shows
- Valuable tips to improve your show and set yourself apart from your competition
- How to speak with a variety of people in a professional manner, from the media to your audience
- How to maintain and grow a healthy business

key players that they will need to understand the contingency planning process, and their part in it;

- Guidance on how to identify and work with relevant governmental agencies, including local, county, state, and federal officials;
- An introduction to the Incident Command Structure (ICS), your role in it, and why it is vital you understand how it is used; and
- A line of communication to the instructors for help and advice after the workshop.

The goals of the workshop are to transfer knowledge that is not easily accessible through standard information channels, while maximizing what we can learn from one another within an interactive framework. Please contact us in advance if you would like specific issues, questions, or scenarios considered for inclusion:

Julia@Coalition-Solutions.com. We will try to accommodate as many requests as possible.