



# EMPATHY GLOSSARY

## **ACE for Wildlife Affiliate**

*Administrative definitions*

individuals not employed by an ACE for Wildlife Institutional Partner but are still engaged with the Network. These can include volunteers, consultants, and interested individuals both within and without the current 7-state region.

## **ACE for Wildlife Institutional Partner**

*Administrative definitions*

zoos and aquariums accredited by the Association for Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in a 7-state region (Alaska, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin) that make up the ACE for Wildlife Network.

## **Anthropomorphism**

*Effective empathy practices*

the attribution of human characteristics and purposes to inanimate objects, animals, plants, or other natural phenomena. A projection of the human experience.

## **ACE for Wildlife Member**

*Administrative definitions*

individual staff employed by ACE for Wildlife Institutional Partners.

## **Affective empathy**

*Empathy and related emotions*

the ability to sense or “experience” the perceived emotions of another.

## **Continuity**

*Characteristics of empathy*

more time spent with an animal increases a person’s understanding of and empathy toward the animal.

## **Agency**

*Characteristics of empathy*

the animal presents behaviors of moving, play, grooming, and/or social roles similar to human behaviors.

## **Anthropocentrism**

*Effective empathy practices*

regarding humans as the central element of the universe; interpreting reality exclusively in terms of human values and experience.

## **Cognitive empathy**

*Empathy and related emotions*

the ability to understand the experiences of others by imagining yourself in their reality.



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## **Coherence**

*Characteristics of empathy*

the animal is easily understood as a whole animal with arms, legs, body, and face. One particularly impactful characteristic is the presence of a face – especially eyes.

## **Affectivity**

*Characteristics of empathy*

the attribution of emotions to animal vitality (e.g active = happy, sedentary = sad) or the animal’s patterns and qualities of arousal over time.

## **Empathy**

*Empathy and related emotions*

a stimulated emotional state that relies on the ability to perceive, understand, and care about the experiences or perspectives of another person or animal. Empathy is an umbrella term for three types.

## **Empathy best practices**

*Effective empathy practices*

empathy practices outlined in the Seattle Aquarium’s “Best Practices in Developing Empathy toward Wildlife” published in 2019. These practices include framing, modeling, increasing knowledge, providing experiences, practice, and activating imagination. These practices are also referred to as empathy effective practices.

## **Motivational empathy**

*Empathy and related emotions*

the ability to sense and be motivated to improve the life of another. This can be both in terms of seeing a negative situation and wanting to improve it or a positive situation and wanting to extend that, which is sometimes referred to as empathic joy. Also called compassion or empathetic concern.

## **Empathy bridge**

*Effective empathy practices*

developed by Woodland Park Zoo. A consistent and intentional way of framing interactions with guests broken down into five steps: assuring welfare, introducing the animal, informing the audience, inviting perspective taking, and connecting to caring action.

## **Sympathy**

*Empathy and related emotions*

feelings of concern resulting from an awareness of the suffering or sorrow of another. More generally, a capacity to share in and respond to the concerns or feelings of others.