

- 6 and 8 week program options, pricing available as a flat rate or per student
  - **Contact:** (416) 354-3003 or info@handsonexotics.com

## Sample 8 Week Program:



### Week 1

**Focus:** Exotic Rabbits / Pocket Pets (Introduction)

**General Lesson Plan:** This lesson serves an introduction to safely handling and interacting with animals, starting with nonthreatening smaller animals to encourage engagement and participation. We will also cover the difference between predators (that will be introduced next week) and prey; including diet and physiology. Featured animals include an English Angora rabbit and

an English Lop rabbit.

**Presentation Format:** Short formal presentation (timing will be gauged on group interest), interaction with rabbits will include being taught how to properly hold small animals, grooming rabbits, feeding them greens, and learning what a balanced rabbit diet is!



### Week 2

**Focus:** Hawk (Birds of Prey)

**General Lesson Plan:** This lesson will teach children about predator – prey dynamics, the food chain, and balanced ecosystems. Also introduced will be the difference between carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores; and different characteristics that they have.

**Presentation Format:** Short formal presentation (timing will be gauged on group interest), interaction with the hawk will include help with flight demonstrations to and from perch, and holding the hawk (with falconer's glove and handler assistance) if age appropriate.



### Week 3

**Focus:** Cats! Featuring a Savannah Cat and/or Bengal cat

**General Lesson Plan:** This lesson plan will focus on cats – how domestic cats are as pets, as well as the different types of wild cats from around the world and the role that they play in ecosystems.

**Presentation Format:** Short formal presentation (timing will be gauged on group interest), interaction with a savannah and/or Bengal cat, assistance with training them behaviours, and may include a short craft in which children will get the chance to make a cat wand toy.



#### Week 4

**Focus:** Irish Wolfhound (Responsible Pet Ownership, Positive Reinforcement Training)

**General Lesson Plan:** This lesson plan will focus on what it means to be a responsible animal owner including responsible care and handling, and the concepts behind training animals using positive reinforcement.

**Presentation Format:** Short formal presentation (timing will be gauged on group interest), interaction with Irish wolfhound including taking turns training with positive reinforcement using treats and a clicker, may include a craft in which students make healthy dog treats.



#### Week 5

**Focus:** Scarlet Ibis and Sugar Glider (Flight vs. Gliding)

**General Lesson Plan:** This lesson plan will focus on animals that are able to travel through the air and what allows them to do so (including skeletal structure, flight feathers, and patagial membrane), and the differences between gliding and flying.

When age appropriate, the physics of flight will be discussed.

**Presentation Format:** Short formal presentation (timing will be gauged on group interest), interaction will include flight demonstrations from scarlet ibis and sugar glider (scarlet ibis will fly and land on children's heads with provided hats, sugar glider will glide from handler to student's shirts), and making a healthy treat / enrichment item for our colony of sugar gliders.



#### Week 6

**Focus:** Canadian Animals (Skunk, Crow, Skink, Ferret, Milksnake). Option to include the Canadian Lynx with an additional handler.

**General Lesson Plan:** This lesson plan will focus animals native to Canada, teaching the students about ecosystem roles, diet, and how they adapt to seasonal climates. We will also discuss easy actions that everyone can do at home to help protect native wildlife.

**Presentation Format:** Short formal presentation (timing will be gauged on group interest), interaction will include interacting with animals, and may include making enrichment items for our crow and skunks.



### Week 7

Focus: South America Animals (Red-footed Tortoise, Chinchilla, Macaw, Cave Spider, Guinea Pig)

**General Lesson Plan:** This lesson plan will focus animals native to South America, teaching the students about their natural behaviour, ecology, diets, and how the animals are adapted to the wide variety of habitats found in South America (rainforest, cave, cliff, woodland, etc).

**Presentation Format:** Short formal presentation (timing will be gauged on group interest), interaction with the animals, may include watching our chinchilla take a dust bath and making enrichment items for our chinchillas / a tortoise dinner.



### Week 8

Focus: African Animals (Galapagos Tortoise, Hedgehog, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, African Land Snail)

**General Lesson Plan:** This lesson plan will focus animals native to Africa and teaches the students about their natural behaviour, ecology, diets, and how they survive the often harsh conditions of Africa (including dry seasons and huge temperature variations).

**Presentation Format:** Short formal presentation (timing will be gauged on group interest), interaction with the animals, helping to polish our tortoise's shell and give them a bath, and helping to bathe hedgehogs.