The Felid TAG Husbandry Course (FHC) was developed in 2007, and is held each year just prior to the TAG's Mid-year meeting. 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 415 attendees to date with experience level, ranging from 0-30yrs with working with felids. Both AZA and non-AZA institutions have sent participants to the course and often individuals that work with exotic felids in other capacities such as field researchers, graduate students, or NGO’s also attend. We have also had international attendees from zoos around the world.

The Felid TAG offers two Memorial Scholarships in loving memory of Ashlee Pfaff and Stacey Konwiser. Scholarship applications will be available for submission from January 1st - February 1st.

The FHC is designed for both the novice and advanced felid keeper to learn the best practices of felid husbandry from some of the most experienced felid managers and keepers. The course begins with an Icebreaker, where instructors lead students in an introduction over the following 3 days of the agenda and practical interactive lessons. Topics include: behavior, animal welfare, usage/modification/designing of exhibit and holding spaces, safety and restraint, nutrition and body condition, introductions, reproduction, birth management and rearing, veterinary medicine, pathology and quality of life assessment among other subjects. Instruction is enhanced through group discussions and presentations, problem solving activities, video, live demonstrations and a tour, including behind the scenes, of the host facility. The course typically ends mid-day on Wednesday and students are invited to attend concurrent SSP meetings. Educational resources and some meals are often provided.

Applications for the course will be accepted starting February 15th and course acceptance for the foundation course will be based on a first come, first serve basis. Courses will be limited to 35 people to allow for a more social learning environment and all applicants will be notified by February 20th of acceptance or waitlist status.