

## 5 CONCLUSION

Animal welfare is about feeling-states like “suffering” or “complacency”, which we cannot measure directly, but can infer from certain behavioural responses.

The results of this study showed that when the four African Elephants of Basel Zoo were exposed to construction noise there seemed to be no differences in behaviour, which would allow us to conclude that the animals were stressed during observation time. There could be habituation involved in the time between the beginning of the new construction and the start of this study. However, constructions and therefore construction noise in zoos is difficult to avoid. Because of that constructions should be well planned and as short-time as possible to minimize the possible effects on the animals.