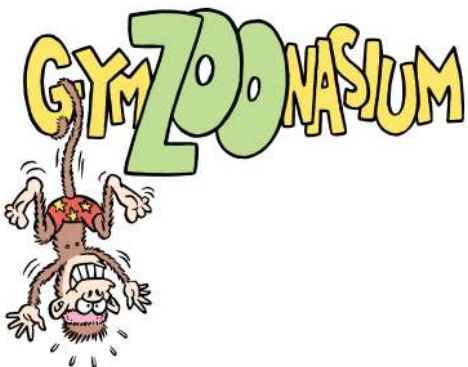




THE LOW DOWN

4m 52s



Today we're staying close to the ground, with six animal poses for a strong body and strong mind.

Movement	Seated modifications	Other modifications	Progressions	Watch points
Cobra Lift	Place your hands behind your head, to keep it supported. Squeeze your tummy muscles and pull your shoulder blades down and back. Lean your head and shoulders back slightly and push your chest up towards the sky.	<u>Standing</u> : Stand facing a wall and place your hands on the wall. Squeeze your elbows into your sides. Press against the wall, pull your shoulder blades down and back, and push your chest out.	Do the Cobra Lift with your hands on the floor instead of your forearms. Only straighten your arms as feels comfortable for your back (don't force the backbend). Lower back down if you feel any pain or discomfort.	* Legs long * Neck relaxed * Shoulders pulled down and back * Elbows close to the body (not pointing outward) * Be gentle. Don't push yourself too high or force this backbend. Focus on pushing your chest forward, and allow the lift to come as a natural extension of your spine.
Caterpillar Crawl	Stretch your body up towards the sky. Walk your hands in the air down to touch your toes, then back up.		Do the Caterpillar Crawl slower and with more control, or moving forwards around the room	* Straight back and legs * Hips level (not rocking side to side) * Abdominal muscles squeezed



Movement	Seated modifications	Other modifications	Progressions	Watch points
Praying Mantis Plank	Put the palms of your hands together. Push them together strongly for as long as you can.	Do the Praying Mantis Plank... - On your knees (instead of toes) - With a ball under your tummy	Try lifting one foot slightly off the floor. Change legs each 10 seconds.	* Body in a straight line (don't let your bottom drop down or lift up in the air) * Tummy muscles switched on * Shoulders down and neck relaxed
Desert Lizard Dance	Reach your arms straight up beside your ears and just do the arms part of the Desert Lizard Dance up in the air. To make it more challenging, lean forward from your hips with a straight back, and do the arm movement in that position.	Do the Desert Lizard Lift just with your legs (one leg lifting at a time, while you leave your arms on the floor). Then do it just with your arms.	Use your upper back muscles to keep your chest lifted off the floor while you do the Desert Lizard Dance	* Lifting the opposite arm and leg (e.g. left arm with right leg) * Squeezing buttocks and tummy muscles * Shoulder blades pulled down and back * Body, arms and legs straight

Movement	Seated modifications	Other modifications	Progressions	Watch points
Elephant Trunk Swing	Sit up tall and lift your left arm (your elephant trunk) to shoulder height. Twist your upper body to the left and reach your arm as far around to your left as you can. Then twist to the right and reach as far across to the right as you can. Repeat 3 times, then switch arms.		Lift your opposite leg off the floor (when your left hand is off the floor, lift your right leg). Keep it still and straight (off the floor) while you do the Elephant Trunk Swing. When you switch arms, switch the lifted leg too.	* Pelvis/hips still, and upper body twisting
Snail Curl	Curl your upper body forwards like a snail hiding in its shell	Do the Snail Curl with... - Your arms by your side - Your head resting on your fists or a firm pillow, or - A folded towel or blanket on top of your feet	Move your knees wider apart to feel a deeper stretch in your hips	* Head down. If your head can't reach the floor, rest it on your fists or a firm pillow.