



FORT WORTH ZOO RESEARCH GUIDELINES

The mission of the Fort Worth Zoo is to strengthen the bond between humans and the environment by promoting responsible stewardship of wildlife and ensuring diverse, high-quality educational and entertaining family experiences through effective and efficient management of its resources.

In keeping with the overall mission statement of the Fort Worth Zoological Park, the Zoo's conservation research mission statement is as follows:

The Fort Worth Zoo will encourage, conduct and support conservation research projects for the betterment of animal life and ecosystems both in captivity and the wild.

To accomplish this mission, the following operational goals have been established:

- Conservation research will focus on rare and endangered species, as well as the preservation of habitat and ecosystems and the development of scientific husbandry management practices.
- The Fort Worth Zoo will encourage and support the involvement of staff, universities, residents, interns and students in conservation research projects.
- Fort Worth Zoo staff will endeavor to conduct conservation research projects in cooperation with American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) and international conservation organizations.

In order to ensure that research is in keeping with the Fort Worth Zoo's mission and is in conformity with high standards of humane care, all research projects at the Fort Worth Zoo **must be approved** by the Zoo's Research Committee and where appropriate, the Zoo's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee prior to initiation. The timeline for the review process will vary, and may take up to four to six weeks to complete.

Research proposals must include the following components for consideration.

1. RESEARCH REQUEST FORM

- Complete the **Research Request Form** and submit with your proposal.

2. PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

- Include the following information in the proposal:

Introduction - Clearly state the purpose of the project. Include overall goals and specific objectives. Provide sufficient background information and cite relevant literature to enable reviewers to understand the significance of the project and why it is necessary to conduct the research at the Fort Worth Zoo.

Methods - Describe in detail how the project will be conducted at the Fort Worth Zoo. Include information on the animals to be studied and number of individuals, data collection techniques, staff assistance and time, access, equipment, veterinary medical procedures, data analysis etc.

Projected Outcomes - Describe how the information gained will be utilized and disseminated.

Project Schedule - Provide a timetable (beginning and completion dates) for data collection at the Fort Worth Zoo.

Literature Cited - List all references.

3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Where appropriate, provide a copy of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval from the Principle Investigator's institution.
- Where appropriate, provide letter(s) of endorsement from relevant TAG, SSP, etc.
- Copies of any appropriate permits (e.g. CITES) must be provided.
- Submit CV for the Principle Investigator.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Scientific merit (adequate literature review, relevant hypothesis, sound project design and methods of data collection, importance for management)
2. Conservation merit (support of species management and conservation status)
3. Feasibility/logistics (animals, personnel, time, funds)
4. Project justification (will the results of the study have an important impact)
5. Educational/collaborative merit (dissemination of results, involvement of other zoos or institutions)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Reports or published articles resulting from the analysis of data or samples collected at the Fort Worth Zoo should acknowledge the Fort Worth Zoo in the publication.
- The Fort Worth Zoo should receive a copy of any publication resulting from the analysis of data or samples collected at the Fort Worth Zoo.

Submit form, research proposal, and supporting documents to:

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Electronic submissions are preferred.