**BIAZA Research Committee**

**Conducting research in zoos & aquaria – a quick starter for students**

**Visit the research section of the BIAZA website and read the Handbook of Zoo Research**

This will save you a lot of time and help you overcome issues throughout your project!

**Check with your academic supervisor for your university ethical procedures and the study zoo for their ethical processes**

**Are you using a single site or is it a multi site study?**

**Ethics**

**Does your study impact directly on the study animals (beyond normal husbandry), involve the use of recording equipment or involve people (zoo staff, visitors etc)?**

- **Yes**
  - **Support letter**
  - **Submit your research proposal form**

- **No**
  - **Plan in advance**

**Plan in advance**

- **See chapter 1 of the Handbook of Zoo Research**
- **Are there seasonal restrictions for your research?**
- **How long will it take – remember zoos may take a long time to respond to questionnaires**
- **Do you need to conduct preliminary investigations before you start your study?**
- **Are there legal or ethical issues eg is your target species legally protected in some way?**

**Design your research project**

- **See chapter 1 of the Handbook of Zoo Research**
- **Ensure your project has clear and achievable aims and is feasible in your timeframe – talk to your academic supervisor and zoo research staff before commencing your project.**

**Applying to the study zoo(s)**

- **Read the research pages of each zoo website to check the application process. You will likely need to complete an application form at each study site before conducting your research.**
- **The process may require a fee so check the terms carefully.**

**Data ownership & publication**

- **Before you start your project check if the study zoo has a research policy and read the terms.**
- **If you wish to publish your findings you may need to inform the study zoo. If zoo staff have contributed to research design and/or analysis they may be interested.**

**Submitting your research proposal form**

- **Ensure you have provided the zoo with as much information as you can about your project.**
- **Think carefully about the usefulness of your project as zoos are more likely to approve projects that will be of benefit to animal welfare. Include dates.**

**Ensure you keep in regular contact with your academic supervisor and zoo research staff or nominated supervisor. This input will provide you with support where necessary and ensure your project is kept on track throughout.**

**After the study is complete**

- **Send the study zoo(s) a copy of your final report – they will be interested to hear about what you’ve found!**
- **Stay in contact with the research team if you are publishing your findings as use of the zoo name, animal house names and photographs may need to be approved (as above).**
- **Submit a summary of your project findings to the BIAZA Research Committee newsletter for wider dissemination.**

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dissemination to the zoo community. It may even appear on the committee's Facebook page!

• Present your research at the BIAZA Annual Research Conference

BIAZA Annual Research Conference