



RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

Last update Jan 2018

OVERVIEW: 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 research projects for the betterment of animal life and ecosystems both in captivity and the wild.

GOALS:

- The Fort Worth Zoo will encourage and support the involvement of staff, universities, residents, interns and students in research projects.
- Fort Worth Zoo staff will endeavor to conduct research projects in cooperation with National and international conservation organizations.

DEFINITION:

- Any activity or procedure performed, on a live animal or a group of living animals, to gather data in a systematic way to provide scientific information is considered research.
- If an animal is manipulated in any way to obtain any kind of sample or if during sample collection pain is inflicted, it will be considered research.
- The above statements apply to activities/procedures carried out in the physical location of the zoo or during field work.
- A request for specimens, samples or biomaterials of deceased animals is not considered research and a Biomaterial Request Protocol should be completed instead.

STRUCTURE: The Fort Worth Zoo is a USDA- registered research facility and as such all research projects conducted by the zoo's staff, either at the zoo's site or in the field, should provide specific documentation of the use of animals for research, testing, teaching and/or experimentation. These research projects must be approved by the Zoo's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) prior to initiation. The timeline for the review process will vary, and may take up to six to eight weeks to complete.

COMPONENTS: Research requests must include:

1. FORT WORTH ZOO RESEARCH PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

2. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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



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EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Scientific merit (adequate literature review, relevant hypothesis, sound project design and methods of data collection, importance of conservation and management)
2. Categorization of pain and distress (as per Appendix 1)
3. Feasibility/logistics (animals, personnel, time, funds)
4. Project justification (How will the pain/distress caused to the animal be offset? Does the research justify the associated the pain and distress?)
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 when appropriate.
- The Fort Worth Zoo should receive a copy of any publication or report resulting from the analysis of data or samples collected at the Fort Worth Zoo.

Request Fort Worth Zoo Research Project Application Form and/or Submit Form and Supporting Documents to:

- Tarren Wagener, Ph.D. Director of Animal Programs, Fort Worth Zoo
 - E-mail: TWagener@fortworthzoo.org
 - Fax: 817-759-7501