Drayton Manor
THEME PARK

RESEARCH POLICY

Preamble

Drayton Manor Theme Park (DMP) is committed to the increased scientific understanding of our living collection and park guests. This chimes with our wider objectives of continually improving animal welfare, animal management techniques, conservation and the understanding of animals under our care as well as the experience of our guests. We recognise that bona fide research leading to evidence led changes are an effective means of realising these goals.

Mission Statement

Drayton Manor Theme Park raises awareness of and actively combats the current global extinction crisis that is blighting our planet and resulting in the loss of species and habitats on an unprecedented scale.

This is achieved through:

- Managing our estate in ways that maximise biodiversity

- Operating in a sustainable manner

- Collaborating with others to keep, breed and study carefully selected endangered animals and plants

- Communicating with visitors in a way that raises awareness about global and local conservation issues and where possible influences behaviour and choices of people to the benefit of wildlife

- Financially supporting projects at home and abroad that carry out effective results led by conservation work

Together, we can make a difference

Preamble

1. All research must support DMP's policy of continually improving animal welfare, management, conservation and understanding of wild animals through evidence led developments.

2. All studies must be scientifically valid as well as be logistically feasible.

3. Research is particularly encouraged in areas identified in this document as appendix one.

4. Acknowledgement of Drayton Manor Theme Park must be cited within the individuals' written report.

5. All research must be reviewed by the ethical review committee prior to the start of the study.

6. A full copy of the research must be given to Drayton Manor Theme Park upon completion of the project, preferably in electronic format.

7. If a project is to be published, written permission from the zoo manager is required before the research is sent for publication. All images, videos and raw data belong to Drayton Manor Theme Park and must not be used without permission.

8. When on site the researcher must sign in and out at the main reception located near the security hut each day.

9. Students must comply to the parks health and safety procedure when on site during the main and closed season.

10. Grants if needed, must be applied through your place of education or an external company.

11. Please read the research guidelines provided by BIAZA[1] before starting your research project.

12. A supporting letter must be submitted to BIAZA when conducting a multi-zoo research project and a copy must be sent alongside your research application.

Research Application

Please make sure you have read and agree to the terms of the research policy before submitting your application to the contact details found at the end of the document.

Personal Details

Name:

Address:

Email:

Tel / Mob:
(Optional)

Institution
Contact
Details:

Course/
Degree
Details:

Emergency
Contact
Details:

Additional Locations
if a Multi-Zoo Project:

BIAZA, EAZA/
EEP approved:
(Please provide
supporting documents)

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THEME PARK

EAZA

BIAZA
BRITISH & IRISH ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

Project Details

Research Area: Behaviour   Nutrition   Enrichment

Other:

Project Title:

Aim &
Objectives:

Null
Hypothesis:

Methodology:

Summary
of your
project:
(Max 200
words)

Data and/or
sample requests:

Specimen Report	Health Report	Post Mortem result	Taxon Report
Animal By-Products e.g. faecal samples	Questionnaire answers from the zoo	Live Specimen	Other

Other Details:

Project Timescale

Data Collection Start Date:

Duration of Data Collection:

Report Submission Deadline:
(If applicable)

Researcher Signature: [   ] Date:

Supervisor Signature: [   ] Date:

Tick here if all information provided is correct at the time of submitting application.

Students must read and agree to abide by the terms of our Research Policy.

Drayton Manor Theme Park requests a copy of all data collected, a copy of the final written report and all associated publications for our research library and database.

Please send your application to: Anne Fletcher
Zoo Administrator
Drayton Manor Zoo
Drayton Manor Park Ltd
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B78 3TW

annefletcher@draytonmanor.co.uk

Appendix

Current research priorities:

- *Mitigation of stress when introducing animals into novel environments*

- *Welfare auditing methodology*

- *Blood sampling using invertebrates that feed on blood*

- *Reptile body condition scoring*

- *The impact of light levels on skin colour in lizards*

- *Zoo visitor evaluation*

- *Genetic diversity of captive Moluccan cockatoos*

- *Flock formation in Cacatua moluccensis & C. alba*

- *Parrot nutrition*

- *Do we provide the nutrition we think we do? Test to compare gutloads, uptake/ assimilation by feeder insects. What is best for our stock? Test different gutloads to find what is best.*

- *Test activity of our Mantella sp. – What are their activity levels like, are there daily/ seasonal patterns? What can we do to increase visibility?*

- *What effects Mantella colour? Is it genetics, UV, diet?*

- *What is the impact of a changing collection? The public perception of new and old exhibits, how to they feel (improved or not in both for species held and exhibiting), what are their favourite species, enclosure etc*

References & Resources

1. *BIAZA Research Handbook*

2. *EAZA Research Strategy*

3. *Guidelines for the treatement of animals in behavioural research and teaching*

BIAZA Research Committee
Conducting research in zoo & 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!

Choose a research topic
- Check the BIAZA website for **priority research topics**
- Ask individual zoos for priority topics
- Check relevant literature (publications, theses, grey literature and the **BIAZA research database**) to see if your study has already been conducted

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?

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)? See chapter 2 of the **Handbook of Zoo Research**

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

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
- Consider if the research will have direct benefits to zoo/focal species

No → Are you using a single zoo site or is it a multi-site study?

Multi-site → Apply for a **BIAZA Support letter**

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 <u>before</u> 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 and write up they may request to be a co-author. See chapter 4 of the **Handbook of Zoo Research**

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, husbandry etc.
- Wait for final confirmation from zoo staff <u>before</u> commencing your project.

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 to the zoo community. It may even appear on the committee's **Facebook page**!
- Present your research at the **BIAZA Annual Research Conference**

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EAZA

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