

Ethics & Collection Planning

Decision making in zoos – is it as easy as it seems?

Animal Care

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

- ✓ **All students** will understand the reasoning behind why certain decisions are made to aid in long-term management of a species in captivity.
- ✓ **Most students** will understand how effective collection planning can help avoid undesirable situations.
- ✓ **Some students** will begin to understand the complexity of decision making when managing an animal collection.

Session Outline:

The session explores how zoos have changed over the last 50 years, comparing past and current standards. It then explains EAZA breeding programs, including TAGs, collection plans, and EEPs, and the role of databases in supporting these programs and the IUCN's One Plan Approach to conservation. Population management is discussed, focusing on surplus animals and how they are managed. The session also covers the decision-making process for species kept at zoos and the role of non-breeding animals. Zoo legislation, moral duty of care, and the Five Domains are examined. Ethics committees are discussed, and students tackle hypothetical ethical scenarios in groups. The session concludes with a zoo tour to see real-world examples and the opportunity to ask keepers questions.

EAZA Breeding Programme Structure



Curriculum Links

- Role of ethics committee
- EEP
- TAGs
- Population management
- Curatorial decisions
- Ethical discussions and scenarios