

Ethics & Collection Planning

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

Animal Care

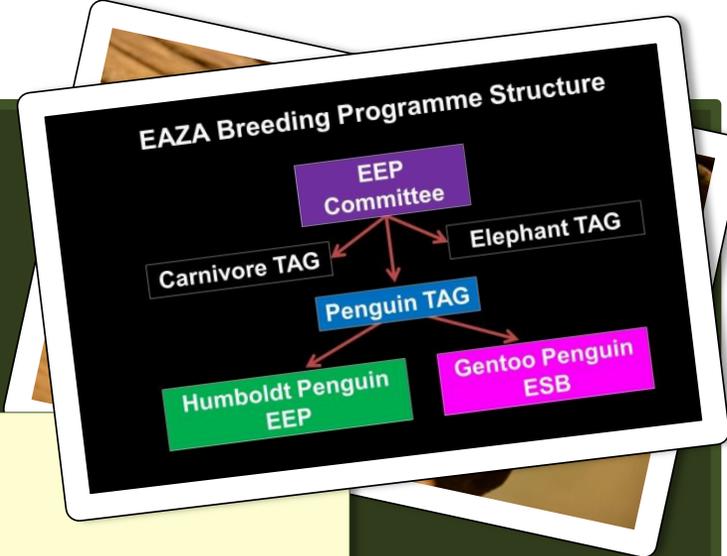
Learning Outcomes:

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 examines how zoos have changed over the last 50 years, highlighting what was acceptable in the past being different to what is acceptable now. The talk then looks at the structure of breeding programmes within EAZA with the roles of TAGs, regional and institution collection plans as well as EEPs. This includes the use of database used and their roles within plans and programmes. The session also highlights how these plans can support the IUCN's One Plan Approach to conservation. The talk then moves into a discussion about population management within zoos, referring back to the breeding programmes and focusing on how surplus animals can occur and how they are managed and minimised. The decision process on why certain species are chosen to be kept at a zoo and the role animals have within a zoo that are not on a breeding programme is discussed. The talk will then cover zoo legislation and moral duty of care. The five freedoms are looked at by comparing how the five freedoms are difficult or not possible in a wild environment. The final part of the talk looks the role ethics committees have within zoos. Students are given hypothetical ethical scenarios to discuss in small groups before presenting their solutions to the group as a whole. The second half of the session involves a tour of the zoo to witness real-world examples of aspects covered in class, with the opportunity to ask questions to qualified animal keepers.



Key Points Covered:

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