

African Wild Dog SSP Report
AZA National Conference
New Orleans, LA

Committee

Elections are over due for this committee

Three-Year Terms

Bill Savage, Oklahoma City Zoological Park
Lynn Kramer, Denver Zoological Gardens
Randi Myerson, The Toledo Zoo

Two-Year Terms

Bret Sellers, Secretary, Woodland Park Zoological Gardens - term expired
Lisa New, Knoxville Zoological Gardens - term -expired
Mary Burke, Brookfield Zoo - term expired

One-Year Terms

Chris Waldron, Philadelphia Zoo - term expired
Andi Kornak, Vice Chair, Binder Park Zoo - term expired
Curby Simerson, San Diego Zoo - term expired

Anyone interested in serving on this committee please contact Bret Sellers
(bret.sellers@zoo.org)

SSP Advisors

Education - Advisor - Liaison to Committee, Mike Quick, Charis Henrie,
Education Program Coordinator, Oregon Zoo

- Web page development
- Charis is looking for volunteers to assist with the SSP's education activities.

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Veterinary - Liaison to Committee, Mary Burke, Advisor- Dr. Michael Briggs, DVM, African Predator Conservation Research Organization

- Dr. Briggs is working on updates of the Veterinary/Pathology chapters of the husbandry manual.
- New contact information for Dr. Briggs:
Michael B. Briggs, DVM, MS
African Predator Conservation Research Organization
289 Butte View Drive
Bolingbrook, Illinois 60490

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Pathology - Liaison to Committee, Mary Burke, Advisor- Dr. Mike Kinsel/Head of the Pathology program at Brookfield, Lincoln Park and Shedd Aquarium.

Field Conservation - Liaison to Committee, Bret Sellers, Advisor - Dr. Joshua Ginsberg, WCS

- Dr. Ginsberg has assisted the SSP with several field project reviews.

Nutrition - Liaison to Committee, Mary Burke, Advisor-Deb Schmidt/Nutritionist, Lincoln Park.

Small Population manager - Liaison to Committee, Mike Quick, Advisor- Sarah Long/PMC/ Lincoln Park.

- Sarah conducted an import analysis to assist with the future import by the Bronx Zoo.

Reproduction - Liaison to Committee, Randi Myerson, Advisors - Michael Briggs, DVM, African Predator Conservation Research Organization and John K. Critser, Ph.D., University of Missouri

- Evaluation of the submitted Deslorelin study by Dr. Cheri Asa.

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Behavior - Liaison to Committee, Andi Kornak, Advisor - Sue Margulis, Ph.D. Behavioral Research Manager at Brookfield Zoo and University of Chicago.

- Dr. Margulis assisted with the consultation on several aggression issues in the wild dog population over the last year.
- Please refer aggression issues to Mike Quick, SSP coordinator.

Training - Liaison to Committee, Andi Kornak, Advisor - Marty McPhee, Disney's Animal Kingdom.

Action Plan

These are the areas of concern and interest that are used to develop the Three Year Action Plan. Please support these SSP action plan projects

- **Reproduction**
 1. Understanding the Reproductive Biology of the African Wild Dog for Improved Management and Conservation - Nucharin Songasen, Smithsonian National Park Conservation and Research Center.
 - Link reproductive endocrinology (hormone assays) with corticoid assays. Fecals will need to be collected from 10.10 animals in the SSP population.
 - A behavior questionnaire will be developed to compliment the data gathered from the fecal assays.
 - Semen evaluation and cryopreservation methods will be developed.
 - Post-mortem evaluation of ovaries to study the identifying factors in large litters.
 2. Evaluation of the GnRH Agonist Implant Deslorelin for contraception in Carnivores - Dr. Cheri Asa, St. Louis Zoological Park
 - The AZA Wildlife Contraception Center is sponsoring a basic research study of the efficacy of the gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonist deslorelin (Suprelorin®) in implant form.

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- Deslorelin effects contraception by temporarily suppressing the reproductive endocrine system, preventing production of pituitary and gonadal hormones.
 - Record any signs of estrous behavior, male sexual interest, mounting or copulation.
 - Complete the AZA Wildlife Contraception Center's annual Contraception Database Survey, which is distributed in the spring by the Center's Database Manager.
 - Monitor suppression via fecal gonadal hormones.
- Space Issues
 1. Dynamics of Captive Pack Formation in the African Wild Dog - Dr. Kim McCreery and Dr. Robert Robbins, African Wild Dog Conservancy, Tuscon, AZ
 - Study the factors affecting aggression in the captive population. The level of aggression seen in captive packs is rarely observed in the wild.
 - Video data of interactions between newly formed packs will be collected and analyzed.
- Animal Welfare Issues
 - Husbandry
 1. Development of husbandry manual
- Medical Issues
- Field Conservation
 1. Community-based Study of the Conservation Status and Ecology of the African Wild Dog in Southeastern Kenya - Dr. Kim McCreery and Dr. Robert Robbins, African Wild Dog Conservancy, Tuscon, AZ
 - Collect census data on two endangered mammals of the region: African wild dog and the hirola
 - Train locals in field research techniques.
 - Survey resident population's attitudes towards African wild dogs.

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- Identify the threats to the two endangered populations.
- Assist the local governments and NGO's with the development of a conservation program.

2. Health, Reproduction and Animal Well-being in Reintroduced African Wild Dogs – Dr. Micaela Szykman, Smithsonian National Park Conservation and Research Center

- Conduct pre & post reintroduction fecal steroid assessments.
- Document and evaluate current successful pack formations for future reintroductions.
- Songasen's research will assist the field element of this study through method development and information evaluation of the captive population.

- Development of Public Relations and Education

North American Population Analysis

The AZA Canid Taxon Advisory Group has designated a set target population size of 100 specimens for this species. The current population size is 103 distributed among 26 AZA institutions. Current genetic diversity is 91.5% with 21 founders represented in the current population. The genetic diversity is expected to fall below 90% in the next generation.

Population analysis of the current population will occur at this meeting. Our goal is to provide animals for the nine zoos that wish to join the SSP. Breeding recommendations in 2003 produced no puppies that survived past 30 days. The number of breeding pairs recommended in 2003 was intended to create and maintain a population size of 100 individuals over the next two years. Shortly after these recommendations were approved. The SSP received a number of requests from institutions who wished to join the SSP. Permission was requested and approved by the TAG to increase our carrying capacity by 30 more animals. Due to the large variation in litter sizes of this species (1 to 16 pups), this population should be closely monitored demographically in order to avoid potential space problems and maintain a stable growth rate and age structure. As a result the SSP plans to hold a mid-year meeting each fall.

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It is the recommendation of the management group to move same sex siblings as packs rather than individuals whenever possible. Due to space constraints it is essential that we manage the breeding and moves recommended with a strategy to maintain packs of wild dogs in our institutions. Members of the African Wild Dog SSP management group and advisors are available to assist institutions on management and husbandry issues.

The SSP has recommended 7 breeding pairs for the next two years. The Bronx Zoo will import 6.4 animals in 2004 or early 2005.

Husbandry Manual

The husbandry manual is still in development. Chapters of the AZA and EEP husbandry manual are available for SSP participants. Contact Mike Quick

Mike Quick

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