

FOUNDATION AND FUNCTION OF EAZA NUTRITION GROUP (ENG), PROVIDING SPECIALIST SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN CONSERVATION BREEDING PROGRAMMES.

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Abstract

Specialist subject advisors (e.g. veterinary, scientific) are increasingly being added to steering committees for zoo-based conservation breeding programmes worldwide; several advisors in nutrition have already been informally appointed within European programmes. Following the lead of AZA Nutrition Advisory Group, the newly inaugurated EAZA Nutrition Group (ENG) seeks to facilitate improved communication and coordination among nutritionists and those requiring nutrition information, chiefly within zoological institutions. A principal responsibility of the ENG and all its' members will be providing nutrition advice to zoo-based conservation breeding programmes, and developing guidelines and protocols for general use. ENG will support existing nutrition advisors and recruit, screen, appoint and support additional advisors as requested by individual conservation breeding programmes. To achieve this, ENG must define who can act as an advisor and what the position entails. AZA's Nutrition Advisory Group have already established guidelines for nutrition advisors, clearly outlining their responsibilities and their material has been used as a template, adapted to best suit European requirements. A unique relationship has been forged with the European Zoo Nutrition Centre (EZNC) based in EAZA's executive offices, through their assistance in administration duties relating to nutrition advisors.