The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) was established in 1909 and from the outset has been committed to conducting and facilitating scientific research. Conservation and research activities supported by, conducted by or on the behalf of RZSS are carried out in Scotland and through long and short term projects around the world. The Highland Wildlife Park and Edinburgh Zoo are part of RZSS. These captive collections provide the opportunity to observe and research many species that are challenging to study in the wild. It is hoped that the body of knowledge assembled through this research can be used to assist in the conservation of wild populations.

The majority of research conducted on the captive collections is in affiliation with universities, research institutes and research groups. RZSS collaborate with a number of universities throughout the UK and around the world and has signed a memorandum of understanding with seven Scottish universities. All captive collection based research is non-invasive.  Much of it is carried out through observation and recording of data, both manually and through the use of video and time-lapse cameras, and also through the non-invasive collection of biological samples such as faeces and urine.

Anyone wishing to conduct research in conjunction with RZSS must submit a completed researcher information form along with a project proposal to research@rzss.org.uk. Should samples or archived data be required a completed sample request form or details of the data should be added to the application.

For Undergraduate and Masters Research projects involving the living collections (i.e. observational ‘field work’) applications should be made two months in advance of the start of data collection.

Applications for research requiring samples and archived data along with all research at PhD and Post Doc level are accepted throughout the year and dealt with on an individual basis.

All enquiries concerning research should be sent to research@rzss.org.uk

**RZSS PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM**

This form should be completed and submitted to ‘research@rzss.org.uk’.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Address** |
| **Email address** | **Telephone number** |
| **University/College/Research Institute**  |
| **Department** | **Course/Level**  |
| **Supervisor/Research Group and their contact email address and phone number** |
| **RZSS Category of research (please place an x in the box)**  **Cognitive studies Veterinary Population management**  **(Animal records)** **Genetics studies on captive and wild animals** **Behavioural observation or samples**  |
| **Project title** |
| **Which RZSS resource do you require access to?** *Data, samples (faeces, blood, hair, radiographs) or the living collection (for observation).* |
| **Will you be requesting samples/data elsewhere or conducting observations in the wild or at other captive collection?** |
| **Time scale of the project** *(start and end dates for in the zoo and the total project)* |
| **Planned output (i.e. peer reviewed paper, thesis, article etc)** |

**Project Proposal**

Hypotheses/Aims

*Please state your proposed hypothesis for the study. If you are unsure of what this will be as of yet please state the overall aim of the project.*

Rationale

What is the rationale for the proposed research? What are you trying to accomplish and how will this research accomplish your aims? How will this research benefit the animals in captivity or in the wild?

Methods

*What procedures will you follow for this research? How will you go about conducting the research on subjects?*

References

*List a few scientific articles that you will be using in your research.*