BIOBANKING FACILITIES FOR THE EUROPEAN ZOO COMMUNITY

A resource for supporting population management and conservation research

Samples from animals in UK zoos and aquaria should be sent to the EAZA biobank hub at RZSS Edinburgh zoo

See inside for details of how to ‘Sample and send’!

Dead animal specimens can also be donated to the National Museums Scotland.

Whole animal specimens will be prepared at the National Museum’s Collection Centre. Samples will be made available to the EAZA biobank through the CryoArks initiative.

For more information or to discuss shipment of frozen, whole bodies, please contact: cryoarks@nms.ac.uk.

Or send to:
NMS Biobank
National Museums Collections Centre
242 West Granton Rd
Edinburgh, EH5 1JA

Sample storage at -80°C and -196°C

THE UK’S FIRST, COMPREHENSIVE ZOOLOGICAL BIOBANK

Join the community to enhance durability, sustainability and availability of your frozen biological material

www.eaza.net/conservation/research/eaza-biobank
biobank@eaza.net

Collaborating biobanks:

www.cryoarks.org

CryoArks is funded by

Supported by:
UK Sampling protocol

From Live animals

Whole blood, in plastic EDTA or PAXgene blood collection tube. Invert 15 times to mix.

Or

Tissue (max 1 cm³) from e.g. skin, muscle, umbilical cord. Placed in a plastic tube (2ml screw cap) containing 70% ethanol or frozen in a plastic bag. Do not use formalin or methylated alcohol.

And

Serum (1-10ml) in plastic tubes. Must be spun and separated. Should only be provided if it is accompanied by blood or tissue sample.

From dead animals

Tissue (max 1 cm³) from e.g. skin, muscle, umbilical cord. Placed in a plastic tube (2ml screw cap) containing 70% ethanol or frozen in a plastic bag. Do not use formalin or methylated alcohol.

And

Serum (1-10ml) in plastic tubes. Must be spun and separated. Should only be provided if it is accompanied by blood or tissue sample.

All samples should be taken in accordance with national legislation.

Labelling

Label the sample with animal identifiers (transponder, ring, GAN or local ID), species name, tissue type and date when sample was taken.

Storage

If you cannot ship the samples within 12 hours of collection, then store them in a freezer until shipment.
Please ship the samples as soon as possible and please avoid arrival at the hub on a weekend.

Shipping

1. Primary package tubes.

2. Secondary package
Plastic container or bag for the samples with enough material within to absorb the total sample content.

3. Tertiary package
Reinforced envelope or cardboard box with ZIMS specimen report. Enclose an icepack in the envelope or box if the tissue samples are frozen.

Send samples from the UK & Ireland to:

EAZA Biobank Samples
c/o RZSS WildGenes Biobank
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS)
134 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh EH12 6TS

Contact us: biobank@rzss.org.uk

Please send all samples with a completed Material Transfer Agreement form.
Available at: www.eaza.net/conservation/research/eaza_biobank/

Enclose the animal’s ZIMS specimen report and contact details of sender, otherwise your sample will not be processed.