

Coming Soon!

### **Topical Working Group 1: Physical Collections (TWG-PC)**

Living specimens in zoos and associated samples can be valuable for basic scientific research (Poo et al. 2022). However, samples in zoos are not regularly shared for myriad reasons, including limits on zoo staff time and resources that prohibit many requests for research materials (Lawson et al. 2008, Anderson et al. 2010), and institutional systems that are not focused on external research. Furthermore, while animals housed at zoos may have decades of health, behavior, and pedigree information; at death physical specimens at most zoos are often incinerated, even those of rare and endangered species. For many zoo-housed specimens, a permanent disposition within a museum is a preferable alternative to incineration—in particular if data and/or samples generated over the life of the animal can be transferred with the specimen itself. Unfortunately, because collection inventories from zoos are not currently accessible directly to staff at museums nor to non-zoo parties, no formal pathway exists for the communication of availability of specimens upon death. This working group will develop best practices guides and new pathways for transferring physical specimens (whole specimens, tissues, etc) from zoos to museums.