



Procedure for Assessment of Research Projects and Ethical Approval Level Required

The purpose of this document is to explain how to apply for approval for conducting research at Blair Drummond Safari Park. All correspondence should be with Alasdair Gillies, Research Coordinator – research@blairdrummond.com.

The applicant, either the main researcher or student, must complete all questions in section 1 (and section 2 if appropriate). All sections must be answered by selecting either “Yes” or “No” unless they are clearly not applicable. The completed, signed and dated form should then be returned to the Research Coordinator along with:

1. Your research proposal
2. Evidence of ethical review from your academic institution (as appropriate)
3. Any additional relevant supplementary information

On receipt, the Research Coordinator will determine the appropriate level of ethical review. Once the project has been approved it will be signed off by the Blair Drummond management team and, upon written confirmation from the Research Coordinator, the project may commence.

There are four categories of research that Blair Drummond Safari Park distinguishes for ethical approval purposes:

A) Behavioural observation without any intervention or access to previously collected data (eg records). (Such projects are deemed “Low Risk”)

Research Projects that solely require behavioural observation from outside the enclosure or from a public viewing area will generally not require ethical review other than approval from Blair Drummond Safari Park and the relevant institution. The answers to Section 1 (see below) will all be “NO”.

B) Projects that may have ethical issues (see Section 1) but have been reviewed and approved by another Ethical Review Committee. (Such projects are deemed “Medium Risk”)

These research projects may require the applicant to answer “YES” to one or more questions in Section 1, (see below), but “NO” to all questions in section 2 (see below). Applicants will be from an organisation that Blair Drummond Safari Park acknowledge as having an appropriate ethical review framework. In this case we may accept that the project has received adequate external ethical review and approval providing it has not been identified as “High Risk” (i.e. answering one or more questions “YES” in Section 2 (see below)).



C) All other projects that do not have an Ethical Review from a host institution/external ethical review body and fall under A) (Behavioural Observation) or where the applicant has indicated “YES” in section 1, but “NO” to all questions in Section 2 will be signed off by the Blair Drummond management team. (These projects are also categorised “Medium Risk”)

D) All projects where the applicant has indicated “Yes” to any question in section 2 will require ethical review by at least two members of the Blair Drummond Ethics Committee. Certain projects may require review by the full Ethics Review Committee. (These projects are deemed “High Risk”)

Section 1: Research that may be signed off by Blair Drummond management team.

| Does the project: (tick as appropriate) | Yes | No |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Require the taking of moderately invasive samples? (eg hair, fur, saliva (this does not include available stored samples or samples gathered opportunistically)) | | |
| Involve changes to normal husbandry practices? (eg movement between areas) | | |
| Require restraint or restriction of movement outwith normal husbandry practices? | | |
| Require modification or manipulation of the subject's environment? (eg changes to furniture, introduction of objects, novel foods outwith normal husbandry practice.) | | |
| Restrict or alter typical behaviour of the subject(s)? | | |
| Necessitate the wearing of tracking devices? (eg collars, bracelets.) | | |
| Involve the playback of audio or video in order to monitor response? | | |
| Involve the recording, either audio or video, where staff members can be identified? | | |
| Involve researcher access to off show areas? | | |
| Involve zoo access outwith normal hours? | | |
| Involve research with members of the public? (eg questionnaires) | | |

If the response to any of the questions in section 1 is YES please proceed to section 2. You must elaborate on "YES" answers in your online form and explain how any potential harm to the animals or researchers will be prevented or minimised.

Section 2: Research that will require review by two members of the Blair Drummond Ethics Committee. Certain research may require review by the full Ethics Committee.

| Does the project: (tick as appropriate) | Yes | No |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Require invasive sampling? (eg blood/tissue etc) Stored samples exempt. | | |
| Require the use of anaesthesia on subject animal(s)? | | |
| Have the potential to cause trauma or harm, either physical or psychological, to the subject animal(s)? | | |
| Involve transportation of any animal(s) off site for research? | | |
| Have the potential to reduce the quality of life, environmentally, physically or psychologically, of the animal(s)? | | |
| Involve the use of deterrents? (eg fences, audible and/or scent deterrents) | | |
| Involve the use of invasive tracking/monitoring devices? (eg subdermal implants) | | |
| Involve administration of medicines/drugs or nutritional supplements to the subject animal(s)? | | |
| Have the potential to harm the researcher through the transmission of zoonotic disease? (eg blood or faecal samples) | | |
| Potentially have a negative effect on the subject animal(s) post research? | | |
| Potentially result in the confiscation or rescue of subject animal(s) as a result of research findings? | | |
| Potentially involve the identification or manipulation/misleading of members of the public? (eg presentation of false information or storing subjects' personal details) | | |

If any response to section 2 is YES the project will be subject to additional ethical review. You must elaborate on "YES" answers in your online form and explain how any potential harm to the animals or researchers will be prevented or minimised.



Section 3: Project Risk Assessment.

Having completed section 1, and section 2 if required, I assess the project to be (circle as appropriate). If all NO in section 1, low risk (no risk to researcher or subject). If all NO in section 2, medium risk (potential risk of some harm to researcher or subject). If any YES in section 2, high risk (potential risk of serious harm to researcher or subject).

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|
| High Risk | Medium Risk | Low Risk |
|-----------|-------------|----------|

Section 4: I have enclosed:

| Mandatory Documents | Yes |
|---|-----|
| Research Checklist (completion of the above form) | |
| Research Proposal | |

If other supplementary documents are enclosed, please give details below:



Section 5: Declaration

I declare that the information I have supplied is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and accurate.

| | |
|--------|------|
| Signed | Date |
|--------|------|

Section 6: Contact Details

Lead Researcher

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|-------|--------|
| Name: | Email: |
|-------|--------|

Academic Supervisor (where applicable)

| | |
|-------|--------|
| Name: | Email: |
|-------|--------|

Academic institution (where applicable)

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