

Suggested Format - Nutrition Section of Husbandry Manuals (follows AZA guidelines):

Executive Summary

Paragraph that can turn into a Fact Card for Public Relations as well as easy entry into a global database including:

Name of animal (common and scientific), expected body mass for adult males and females [with average body condition index score], and the calculated energy needs (kcal or kjoule) for that species based on weight (give equation used for calculation, as well as physiologic model used). (2 sentences)

One to 2 sentences that describes diet in nature, including general ingredients and total amount expected to eat (as-fed basis and dry matter intake, as amounts and percent of body weight).

Zoo diet description - general terminology: diet % (as-fed basis) and/or keeper units: fruit, yellow/orange vegetables, greens, meat/whole prey, seeds/nuts, concentrate (biscuit/pellet - no product names), forage (hay/browse - types). Appropriate management foods (types and general amounts to supply no more than 10-20% of total energy needs). (2 sentences max)

Two relevant bibliographic references on the species

Literature Review -

Wild diets, feeding ecology,

Digestive strategies, domestic/wild models

Infant Animals

- Hand-rearing/Infant Diet Guidelines (may refer to

Infant Diet Care Notebook or if TAG information can refer to SSP husbandry manual(s))

Reproducing/ growing young

Geriatric Diet concerns/suggestions

- Include behavior, health, toxicities, and deficiencies as subsets of each of the above

Recommendations

- Nutrient requirements (identify suitable physiologic model(s) and rationale for selection)

- Feeding guidelines and practical applications (Evaluation of Adequacy), with reference to appropriate published data (some possible examples include):

- physiologic normal ranges (blood and tissue samples)
- body condition index
- fecal scoring system

Clinical Evaluation (in conjunction with veterinary advisors - may refer to veterinary chapters of SSP/TAG Husbandry Manual), including:

- health of animal
- reproduction

- risk of disease
- immune function

Reported Health Problems Linked to Diet
 Identify and List Future Research Needs
 Literature Cited

Appendix A

Zoo Diet Summary - often comprising survey data including the following information: (if data do not exist a diet survey should be generated by Nutrition Advisor, under the auspices of the SSP/TAG chair):

- feeding schedule/interval
- feeding locations
- water
- diet ingredients
- nutrient content of diet(s) - summarize information and provide table(s) of ranges
- quantities, types and sizes of ingredients
- behavior related to feeding (competition, rumination, search, etc) and possible means of mitigating problems, enhancing normal activities
- stimulation of natural feeding behavior

Review of Husbandry Manual Nutrition Chapters by NAG Vice-Chair of Executive Committee to Coordinate

Vice-Chair Responsibilities/Actions:

- 1) Chapter submitted by author to Vice-Chair for review
- 2) Select 3 reviewers -- one NAG member, one species expert for topic of review, one at-large reviewer
- 3) Vice-Chair contact potential reviewers and ask whether review can be completed in 3 weeks
- 4) If affirmative, send copy of chapter plus review form (either electronically or by mail) to reviewers and record dates
- 5) If negative response, repeat steps 2-4
- 6) Remind reviewers after 3 weeks if not returned
- 7) Collate responses, return to author, let TAG/SSP manual coordinator and SSP/TAG Nutrition Advisor (if not author) know status; also report to NAG Chair. Final revision of chapter & submission to TAG/SSP coordinator is responsibility of author.
- 8) Full review process should be completed in 4-6 weeks.