

September 2009

Dear colleague,

The 6th European Zoo Nutrition Conference, organised by ConZOOlting Wildlife Management and the EAZA Nutrition Group, will be held in Barcelona from 28 to 31 January 2010. The Conference will take place in the coastal enclave of Castelldefels, located close to the airport and just 20 minutes away from Barcelona city and its many attractions.

The Conference will start on Thursday 28 January with a visit to Barcelona Zoo in the afternoon and an icebreaker the same evening. Thereafter we move to the conference venue Hotel Ciudad de Castelldefels for the remaining two and half days, with a Conference Dinner on Saturday evening and closing with lunch on Sunday.

This invitation letter contains further details on registration, accommodation and information regarding the programme. More information will be added to the EAZA website (www.eaza.net under 'nutrition') throughout the upcoming months.

Programme

As in previous years, the programme will comprise a series of invited speakers, papers and posters that represent the broadest range of research and practical experience in this subject. Three keynote speakers have already accepted our invitation to participate, namely:

- Prof J. Mathias Starck (Munich University):
"Phenotypic flexibility of the gastrointestinal tract of vertebrates"
- Dr. Xavier Manteca (Autonomic Barcelona University):
"Feeding behaviour: meeting nutritional requirements and behavioural needs"
- Dr. Juan Jose Negro (Estacion Biologica de Donana, Seville):
"~ Title to be confirmed – pigmentation (carotenoids) & nutrition"

New for this conference is a session on 'Experiences with diet changes'. Taking a case study format, we will be inviting participants to summarise their practical experience of modifying diets. Introduce your species, the old diet, your reasons for changing to the new diet, the new diet, experiences with the transition, and measures of consequences. Explain why you consider the transition a success, a failure, or cannot tell yet... Use the *Diet Change Form* to submit your example.

Contributions on all topics and all species are welcome. See the *Abstract Form* for more information and note the deadline is **5 OCTOBER 2009**. The organizing committee invite all those with an interest in the challenging task of feeding captive wildlife to attend. One of anticipated products of the meeting will be a further book in the series 'Zoo Animal Nutrition', edited by the Scientific Committee and published by Filander Verlag. We also anticipate production of another special 'Nutrition' issue of the EAZA Newsletter.

A draft conference programme will be available at the EAZA Annual Conference in Copenhagen (15-19 September) and updated on the EAZA website (www.eaza.net).

Silent Auction

We are planning a Silent Auction as another new feature, so start thinking about items you might be able to bring as donations. The aim of the silent auction is to collect funds for the organization of the conference, particularly to sponsor students or young nutritionists from less favoured areas to attend the conference in future.

So, we invite you to bring any items related with wildlife. It can be promotional materials from your zoos or institutions (caps, mugs, posters, pens, stuffed animals, etc.), wildlife and/or nutrition books you do not use anymore, or any item related with wildlife (please, no real animal materials!).

Registration

Participation is open to all. The conference fee €145 covers the costs of the meetings, coffee breaks and lunches. The social programme - Barcelona Zoo visit, Ice-breaker and Conference Dinner - is extra and provides the option of paying only for what you can attend, according to your itinerary; partners are also welcome. There is also a student rate of €135 and a single day participation fee of €80. The latter includes the cost of just one day's meetings, coffee breaks, and lunch. Please note that the deadline for early registration and payment is **15 November 2009**. After this date a late registration fee will be charged, which is significantly higher.

If you are interested in taking part in the 6th European Zoo Nutrition Conference in Barcelona, please register using the *Registration Form*, returning copies to the EAZA Executive Office at info@eaza.net or by fax at +31205200752.

Accommodation

The venue is Hotel Ciudad de Castelldefels (www.hotelciudaddecastelldefels.com). It is located one block from the beach, 20 minutes from Barcelona and 10 minutes from El Prat (Barcelona) airport, with easy access from the motorway. Accommodation is not included in the conference fee and must be arranged independently. A block of rooms are reserved at the conference hotel, see *Accommodation* for details of this and other options available.

The official tourism website of Barcelona www.barcelonaturisme.com gives more details on what to do and see in Barcelona.

Climate-neutral travel

Climate change is a big threat to global biodiversity conservation. Therefore EAZA urges all participants to compensate for their travel which produces CO₂ and other greenhouse gasses. Greenseat will use your contribution in forestry and sustainable energy projects. For more info see www.greenseat.com.

We look very much forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Barcelona in January!

Best regards,
Helena Marques, ConZOOlting Wildlife Management
Dr. Andrea Fidgett, Chair, EAZA Nutrition Group