



Photo: Courtesy of Zoo Atlanta



Photo: Courtesy of Columbus Zoo

***IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group: Otters in Zoos, Aquaria, Rehabilitation, and
Wildlife Sanctuaries (OZ Task Force)
– Supporting quality captive otter care worldwide –***

OZ Mission Statement:

The IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group's Otters in Zoos, Aquaria, Rehabilitation, and Wildlife Sanctuaries Task Force (OZ) promotes worldwide communication between individuals working with otters in captivity and all other settings.

For captive biologists:

All institutions holding otters should support *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation efforts for these charismatic species. Providing financial and or technical support for these efforts is crucial as is the proper captive care of these species. The OZ Task Force recommends that all captive facilities work together to further improved care of, and sound breeding/contraceptive management of the world's captive otter populations, including the development of, use of, and distribution of best care practices via husbandry manuals based on captive and field study experience. We support and encourage efforts being made to advance all of these goals by professional organizations such as the African Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Australasian Association of Zoos and Aquaria, Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums, European Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and many others. Copies of current husbandry manuals are available at the IUCN/SSC Otter Specialist Group website, <http://www.otterspecialistgroup.org/Library.html>.

For field biologists

The OZ encourages all *in-situ* researchers to become involved in some capacity with the zoos/aquariums working with otters in their range countries. This can take many forms including; offering technical advice regarding behaviour or habitat requirements, offering to do informative talks for employees or zoo/aquarium members, or providing informative materials for use in fund raising.

For additional information please contact: Jan Reed-Smith, Chair – jrsotter@iserv.net or Lesley Wright, - L.C.Wright@rl.ac.uk