

Bank on BioDiversity. Your sample matters!

Darwin Biobank Monthly Newsletter

Biobanking in the News

Species360 and Toronto Zoo Partner to Advance Cryopreservation for Conservation

Species360 and Toronto Zoo have announced a new partnership to advance global wildlife conservation, focusing on expanding access to data related to cryopreservation. Read more at the link above.

Get to Know Peel

Peel Therapeutics was established in 2016, inspired by the potential for the elephant P53 “anti-cancer” gene to treat cancer. Many Peel team members, and our co-founder Dr. Josh Schiffman, were based at the University of Utah.



Peel Team Hike in Utah. Tune in next month learn more about one of our Peel team members!

Why Peel?

Peel Therapeutics combines evolutionary biology and comparative genetics to develop breakthrough therapies.

At our Darwin Biobank, Peel helps Zoo Partners ensure the genetic potential of their animals will be available for future conservation needs.

Peel is a commercial member of AZA and is committed to helping zoos fulfill their health and conservation missions.

Contact us with questions or about samples:

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The Legacy They Provide



Asian elephant Kirby was born in Nov 2024 at the Houston Zoo, and her placenta was biobanked. She is now 5 months old and tips the scales at 780 pounds.

Kirby is courageous, cute, and curious as ever. While always up for adventure, she is never too far from mom, Shanti, and the rest of the herd.

Journal Club

Cancer Prevalence Across Vertebrates.

Cancer Discov (2025) 15 (1): 227–244.

<https://doi.org/10.1158/2159-8290.CD-24-0573>

Evolution has discovered mechanisms for suppressing cancer in a wide variety of species. By analyzing veterinary necropsy records, we can identify species with exceptionally high or low cancer prevalence. **Interestingly, this study found that white faced saki monkeys, pygmy marmosets, squirrel monkeys and Sulawesi macaques have very low cancer prevalence.**



This Month's Taxa Call Out
Calling all..... Primates!!



This June & July we are putting an emphasis on **Primate samples** – please remember to submit samples on any primates you examine!

*****we will still take any other taxa samples too!*****

What's new with Peel?

Lauren Howard, Peel's Zoo and Conservation Liaison, just joined 100+ colleagues at the 2025 EEHV Workshop in Oklahoma City. Peel is dedicated to elephant health and fighting EEHV!