

Two Teams, One Heartbeat. A tale of two keeper groups and two otter groups coming together for increased wellbeing.

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The topic covers the collaboration between two different animal care departments coming together to create better wellbeing opportunities for 6 of our male Asian Small-clawed otters (four are castrated, two are not). It includes the relationship building between keepers and new animals, the introduction process of a group of four male otters to a group of two male otters, overcoming various challenges with the introductions, learning new ways to manage them (including using fission-fusion), and some of the training that took place to help one of the new otters learn to swim in a bigger pool than he was used to.