



PopLink Version Changes

Please contact us at software@lpzoo.org with any questions,
or to be notified of future releases

PopLink 3.0.1: Release Date August 31, 2026

*Note that studbook databases from previous versions of PopLink can be read and are **automatically** transferred and openable.*

- **New Data Tables and Reports (both modules are optional):**
 - **Resightings data:** you can store data on resightings of animals in wild populations, noting key information in standardized fields at each resighting. You can generate two resightings reports for further analysis
 - **Breeding Effort data:** you can store data on reproductive efforts/breeding attempts, collecting important data that helps you assess reproductive success in a variety of ways for your population. You can generate two Breeding Effort reports for further analysis
- **Data Imports:** You can now import spreadsheet data saved in .csv format to quickly create new studbooks or add individuals to existing populations. You can also import .csv files with User Defined Fields, Resightings data, and Breeding Efforts data, streamlining the process of updating your studbook
- **Improved functionality on international computers:** this version of PopLink should install smoothly for users with non-U.S. regional date settings; data are displayed in the same format as your regional settings, with clear labeling on all data fields to avoid date confusion.
- **Updates to improve installation process on Windows 11:** 3.0.1 has been modernized to install on the latest version of windows
- **Hiding Data Histories and other no-longer-relevant functions:** functionality to show editing history (e.g. data histories) has been removed from 3.0.1 due to other priorities for functionality and debugging. The exports to SPARKS and ZooRisk, programs that are no longer widely used, have been removed
- **Manual, Installation Instructions, FED files, and Institution List updated for version 3.0**
- **PopLink installation website moved to:** <https://www.poplink-download.org>

PopLink 2.5.2: Release Date 12 July 2019

*Note that studbook databases from previous versions of PopLink can be read by PopLink 2.5. PopLink 2.5 will **automatically** transfer your studbook(s) from PopLink 1.3 or later.*

- **Update to improve installation process on Windows 10**
 - Using SQLLocalDB instead of SQL Server 2005
 - No longer requires SQL as a separate download and installation
- **Updates to improve installation on computers with international date/time settings:** this version of PopLink should install more smoothly for users with other regional date settings. However, note that studbooks created using PopLink must be maintained on computers with a consistent date format for the lifetime of the database. Transferring a database between computers with different date formats (such as mm/dd/yyyy and dd/mm/yyyy) may cause unpredictable behavior or inaccurate date conversions. If importing a database from another user or moving databases between computers, please make sure that the new computer's locale

is switched to the same locale as the previous computer before importing the database while working with PopLink. PopLink cannot maintain two databases with different date formats on the same computer.

- **Small updates:**
 - **PMx export:** now has individuals with unknown birth date estimates appended to bottom of demographic and genetic csv files so they can be more appropriately used in PMx analyses.
 - **Import overlays:** now all data in an overlay are imported when an overlay is moved between studbooks
 - **Bug fixes** for Life Table calculations (fixed rounding error)
- **Manual, Installation Instructions, AZA.fed, and Institution List updated for version 2.5.2**

PopLink 2.4: Release Date December 15, 2012

*Note that studbook databases from previous versions of PopLink can be read by PopLink 2.4. PopLink 2.4 will **automatically** transfer your studbook(s) from PopLink version 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, or 2.3.*

If you have studbooks from an earlier version of PopLink (1.0, 1.1, or 1.2), copy and paste them from the earlier version's PopLink Databases folder (stored in C:\Program Files\PopLink 1.X\PopLink Databases) to the PopLink Databases folder in C:\Documents and Settings\User Name\My Documents\PopLink\PopLink Databases. You can then open them through the Open Databases dialog box.

- **New & Updated Reports**
 - **Proportion of Population Reproducing Report:** a new report which calculates the proportion of the adult population that produced offspring, doing so on an annual basis so you can look at your population's productivity over time.
- **Small updates and bug fixes:**
 - **Survival Tool descriptive survival statistics reports:** small updates were made to this report
 - **PMx export:** now this export can accommodate long dam/sire IDs (greater than 6 characters)
 - **Social Compatibility Report:** Users can now filter by Enclosure feature added
- **Manual, AZA.fed, and Institution List updated for version 2.4**

PopLink 2.3: Release Date February 10, 2012

*Note that studbook databases from previous versions of PopLink can be read by PopLink 2.3. PopLink 2.3 will **automatically** transfer your studbook(s) from PopLink version 1.3, 2.1, and 2.2*

If you have studbooks from an earlier version of PopLink (1.0, 1.1, or 1.2), copy and paste them from the earlier version's PopLink Databases folder (stored in C:\Program Files\PopLink 1.X\PopLink Databases) to the PopLink Databases folder in C:\Documents and Settings\User Name\My Documents\PopLink\PopLink Databases. You can then open them through the Open Databases dialog box.

- **Survival Tool: Descriptive Report Updated**
 - If oldest male or female is still living, pop-up eliminated and PopLink automatically uses the next oldest age class.
 - All Descriptive Survival Tool statistics start at day 365 rather than day 1
 - Age that 25% survive to ($L_x = 0.75$) is now also calculated and reported for male, female, and pooled data (as appropriate).
 - 1st Year survival rate calculated and reported for male, female, and pooled data (as appropriate) using the same filter conditions as the rest of the report

- **Small bug fixes:**
 - PMx export: clearing or changing filters now works when exporting to PMx
 - Studbook Overview: date last edited now updates correctly
 - Clean up Unrecognized Mnemonics: Once “Apply” is selected when resolving unrecognized mnemonics, the fix is saved permanently
- **Institution list updated to ISIS institution list current through July 2011**
- **Manual updated for version 2.3**

PopLink 2.2: Release Date October 31, 2011

*Note that studbook databases from previous versions of PopLink can be read by PopLink 2.2. PopLink 2.2 will **automatically** transfer your studbook(s) from PopLink version 1.3 and 2.1*

If you have studbooks from an earlier version of PopLink (1.0, 1.1, or 1.2), copy and paste them from the earlier version’s PopLink Databases folder (stored in C:\Program Files\PopLink 1.X\PopLink Databases) to the PopLink Databases folder in C:\Documents and Settings\User Name\My Documents\PopLink\PopLink Databases. You can then open them through the Open Databases dialog box.

- **Database Storage Location**
 - **Default PopLink Folder Location:** The default install location for PopLink databases was changed slightly to C:\Users\User Name\Documents\PopLink (removing the version number from the folder) – this change insures a smoother installation process for future releases.
 - **Changing PopLink Folder Location:** Users can now alter the default location to another folder on their hard drive if desired using the functionality in the new Settings pop-up which is accessible when you first open PopLink. This option is typically not recommended for most users unless the location of their My Documents folder is restricting installation (e.g. their My Documents is mapped to a network drive).
- **New Modules:** there are three new modules which studbook keepers can use to track data on individual’s social, enclosure, and medical history. All three of these new modules are optional and may not be utilized by all studbook keepers. Users can show/hide the modules on the new Settings pop-up which is accessible when you first open PopLink or through the Edit menu. The three new modules are:
 - **Social:** The Social Data Table allows you to track social interactions for individuals within a studbook. Each Social Event includes an event type (e.g. introduction, altercation), which individuals are involved, and the event’s general outcome.
 - **Enclosure:** The Enclosure Data Table allows you to track the enclosure, and thus social group history, of the animals within your studbook.
 - **Medical:** The medical module was designed to keep track of important medical information essential to daily care in eight different Medical Note Type Categories.
- **New Reports**
 - **Social Compatibility Report:** Displays a matrix of pairwise social compatibility for any individuals that have a recorded Social Event in the new data module.
 - **Focal Individual Enclosure Report:** Displays an individual’s enclosures over time, as well as the group composition (size, sex ratio, age range) in the enclosure over time.
 - **Enclosure Report:** Displays the group composition (size, sex ratio, age range) of one or all enclosures over time at each change in group composition or as of a certain date.

- **Medical Notes Report:** Displays all recorded Medical Notes for all or a specific individual over time.
- **Windows 7 Compatibility:** Most of the Windows 7 compatibility issues that caused PopLink 2.1 to freeze have been addressed.
- **Data Entry Improvements**
 - **Batch entering specimens:** Batch specimen creation now allows you to enter a Studbook ID Number rather than PopLink pre-assigning the number. Small bugs with batch entry and assigning sex were corrected. Finally, batch entry includes data in the new Social, Enclosures, and Medical Notes Data Tables.
 - **Auto-adding Birth/Death Events in Enclosures:** If a studbook keeper is using the Enclosures Data Table, PopLink assists with auto-updating enclosure records when a birth or death is added to the Events table.
- **Filters – Search Notes:** You can now search all note/comment fields in the Specimen Notes, Social Events, Enclosures, and Medical Notes Data Tables using the function in the Filter pop-up.
- **PMx Export:** You can export to PMx, the newest version of the population management software most frequently used to manage animal programs.
- **Manual updated for version 2.2**

PopLink 2.1: Release Date December 29, 2009

*Note that studbook databases from previous versions of PopLink can be read by PopLink 2.1. PopLink 2.1 will **automatically** transfer your studbook(s) from PopLink version 1.3.*

If you have studbooks from an earlier version of PopLink (1.0, 1.1, or 1.2), copy and paste them from the earlier version's PopLink Databases folder (stored in C:\Program Files\PopLink 1.X\PopLink Databases) to the PopLink Databases folder in C:\Documents and Settings\User Name\My Documents\PopLink 2.1\PopLink Databases. You can then open them through the Open Databases dialog box.

- **Data Entry Improvements**
 - **Autofilling:** When editing the sex and reproductive field of a new individual, the date and date estimate associated with each field are auto-filled to reflect the birth date and birth date estimate.
 - **Batch entering specimens:** when entering a new individual, users now have the ability to easily batch enter duplicate individuals, changing their sex and local ID.
 - **Change in Reproductive Status language:** Uncontracepted changed to Not Contracepted to more accurately reflect an individual's status at the beginning of life.
 - **Specimen Notes:** The specimen note date can now be manually entered rather than being automatically assigned as the date the note was created
 - **Institution List Search:** During data entry users frequently need to look up information about institutions, including the correct mnemonic. To facilitate speedy lookup of institution data, we have included an Institution List.xls in the PopLink folder (My Documents\ PopLink 2.1) to allow faster searching within Excel.
- **Easily copy and paste any table to Excel:** In almost all data tables you see throughout the program, including the main viewer grid and tables in report, you can right-click on the table and select Export to Excel.

- **Improvements to Reports**
 - **Life Table Report:** This new report displays age-specific fecundity (Mx) and mortality (Qx) values for males and females in the studbook.
 - **Historic/Current Institution List Report:** This new report lists both current holding institutions and historical holding institutions for individuals in the studbook.
 - **Studbook Report:** users can now adding additional parameters to the studbook report, including rearing, owner, birth type, UDFs, and specimen notes.
 - **Specimen Report:** now includes a button titled *Show Descendants* that generates a descendants list for the animal being viewed in the specimen report.
 - **Age Outliers Report:** Unknown age animals are now excluded from the Age Outliers Report.
 - **Specimens with UNK/MULT Parentage and Descendants report:** now includes individuals whose parents are not in the studbook
 - **Exporting:** functionality added to multiple reports, including exporting age pyramid and descendants/antecedents diagrams
 - **Exporting:** reports now pop-up immediately for easier viewing.
- **New Specimen Notes Filter**
 - Users can now search within specimen notes using Filter functionality. The “specimen note” filter allows filtering of individuals that do/do not contain the exact text within a specimen note (=, Not =) or do/do not contain a specific word or phrase within a specimen note (Contains, Not Contains).
- **Improvements to SPARKS and ZooRisk exports:**
 - Previous versions of PopLink dropped events or individuals during export to SPARKS because of restrictions on SPARKS field lengths, values, and SPARKS’ less rich data format. PopLink 2.1 eliminates that dropping by assigning default values for unacceptable field values. The user is alerted to these changes in a SPARKS error report, and the user can then edit their data in SPARKS to correct the default values.
 - PopLink 2.1 now exports to the most current version of ZooRisk, ZooRisk 3.8. A ZooRisk error report is also generated as described for the SPARKS export; upon export, the ZooRisk Readme file gives more details on using the exported data in ZooRisk.
- **Improvements to Overlay Functionality**
 - Users now have the option to import overlay data from an earlier version of the same studbook. By clicking on File -> Import Overlay Data, users have the ability to navigate to a studbook folder and copy data from the overlay table into the studbook they’re currently working on. This function creates a new, identically named overlay in the studbook the user has open.
 - Multiple individuals with UNK/MULT parentage and descendants can now be given analytical parents simultaneously through a new batch editor function.
- **Database Storage System Changed:** The underlying studbook database storage system for PopLink has been changed from a binary file (data.bin) to a SQL database. You won’t see this difference when you’re looking at your database in PopLink, but the under-the-hood change means that your studbook data are stored in a way that is more permanent, secure, and accessible. With a SQL database, “power” users can use a different program, SQL Server Management Express, to view and export data and write custom queries for more detailed analyses (see Appendix 2 for more details). This database format also means that other software can access PopLink data from outside of the program, increasing flexibility for future software development projects. If you’re used to PopLink 1.3, you may want to review the following manual sections for changes related to this new SQL database format:

- **Installation** – users now need to install SQL Server Express – see manual section “Installation of PopLink”
 - **Extra features accessed via SQL Server Management Express** – see manual Appendix 2 for more of the special features for power users
 - **Database naming restrictions** – SQL databases cannot start with numbers or include spaces, dashes, slashes, or other restricted characters. The program will prompt you if your studbook name is not valid
- **Studbook storage location changed** – to accommodate changes for Windows Vista and Windows 7 users, the files that users access most frequently (the studbook database and its associated exports) are now stored in the user’s “My Documents” folder (full address location C:\Documents and Settings\Username\My Documents\PopLink 2.1).
 - **Manual updated for version 2.1**

PopLink 1.3: Release Date January 31, 2007

- **Manual updated for version 1.3**
- **Survival Tool:** This new report option produces a set of analytical reports describing a population’s survival data, including a Descriptive Report that is useful for communication/public relations purposes and an Analytical Report that can be used in population management. Full details on the tool are described in an appendix to the PopLink manual.
- **Improvements to Renumber Specimen** function, including changing temporary IDs through the database (i.e. in an offspring’s parentage fields) when a temporary ID is renumbered to a permanent ID.

PopLink 1.2: Release Date November 9, 2007

- **Manual updated for version 1.2**
- **Creating an Empty PopLink Database:** This new option on the Create a New database screen allows the user to create a PopLink database without first having a SPARKS studbook.
- **SPARKS studbook archive:** When a PopLink database is created via importation from SPARKS, a copy of the SPARKS studbook is now archived in the PopLink database folder for safe-keeping.
- **Export to SPARKS:** PopLink databases can now be exported back into SPARKS format.

PopLink 1.1: Release Date September 30, 2007

- **Manual updated for Version 1.1**
- **Export to PM2000:** Small bugs associated with the export to PM2000 were fixed, including an error that caused problems with creation of the standardized report in PM2000 when more than 25 institutions were incorporated into planning.

- **Age Outliers Report:** This report lists separate tables with the 10 oldest living and dead individuals of each sex. This report can be useful to look for age outliers – individuals that are exceptionally old and may affect your mortality and life table analyses.
- **Importation of ZIMS data:** To ensure future compatibility with ZIMS (Zoological Information Management System) data, which may be available for download in 2008, PopLink 1.1 can import a file containing all essential studbook information that will be exported from ZIMS.
- **Windows Vista compatibility:** PopLink 1.1 has been updated to run on Windows Vista; full compatibility is still being tested. Follow the special installation instructions in the manual if you're running PopLink on a Vista machine.

PopLink 1.0: Release Date December 1, 2006

- Original PopLink release