



The mission of the Zoological Society is to take part in conserving wildlife and endangered species, to educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and to support the Milwaukee County Zoo.

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Alive is published in January, April and October by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226. Subscription by membership only. Call (414) 258-2333 for information. www.zoosociety.org

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# sident's Letter



Construction begins on our conservation education center in October. The Zoological Society will feature this important facility in this year's Annual Appeal. This winter the Feline Building will close so we can create completely new big-cat exhibits. Soon after that, we'll re-do our giraffe exhibit and renovate Heritage Farm.

As we look for major Capital Campaign gifts from corporations, foundations and individuals,

we know that our grass-roots efforts are an important key to our ongoing success in improving the Milwaukee County Zoo. To maintain a quality Zoo and to update it, we need a broad spectrum of support. That's why we're asking our members to help us with our Annual Appeal. We hope all of you will respond even if it's \$1.00 a month per household - when you receive our Annual Appeal letters in the mail.

Some members wish we did not have to close the Feline Building because they so love to see the big cats. Yet closing the building is a must. We've closed popular exhibits before to improve them, such as the old Monkey Island. It was closed for months to create a better environment and new building for the monkeys, with better viewing for visitors.

We want a better environment for the cats - and for those of you who love to visit them (see our story on page 6). The feline facility was built in the 1950s and upgraded in the '80s. Now it's time to bring the building up to current animal-husbandry standards, with natural-looking exhibits containing more space and enrichments. For visitors, this means a Zoo experience that's full of fun, opportunities to learn, and new things to see. When the Feline Building is closed next summer, we'll offer two special traveling exhibits at the Zoo. A stunning exhibit on elephants will be on display in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building. Plus, the popular dinosaur exhibit will return to its outdoor location behind the Small Mammals Building.

Each year we've steadily improved the Zoo, from Wolf Woods to a new Animal Health Center (see page 8), from the new Lakeview Place restaurant to 15 new benches at the Zoo to sit and enjoy the animals.

Our collective effort makes this all possible. Every gift is important. From large corporate donors to a family or school class helping us out, we value your gift and your belief in us. We have been very responsible in our budget and in our public-private partnership with Milwaukee County to make sure we deliver a well-managed project at an affordable price. Thanks for your help.

Gil Boese, Ph.D., President Zoological Society of Milwuakee to Botswanna

Travel with Dr. Gil Boese from Africa's Kalahari Desert to Victoria Falls. February 2004. Call (414) 258-2333, ext. 214.



FALL · October-December 2003

Volume 23, Issue 3

# Holiday Ornaments

To celebrate the new kangaroos at our Zoo, the Zoological Society is offering a pewter kangaroo and joey holiday ornament for sale.

To celebrate our bird-conservation efforts, we are offering a pewter ornament of a cardinal couple. Designed by Port

Washington artist Andy Schumann, the ornaments (which can be worn as pendants) cost \$14 each and raise funds for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. To order, use the form inserted into this Alive.



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# 6 A New Home for Felines

A remodeled Feline Building is due to open in 2005.

# 8 It's Here! A New Animal Health Center

The veterinary staff and everyone else at the Milwaukee County Zoo are excited about the opening of the Animal Health Center, which includes a visitor-education area. Now you can see firsthand what the vet staff does (see page 11 for story on vet techs).

# 15 Pills for the Animals

Two animal pharmacists help the Zoo.

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# On the cover

This female kangaroo is one of four new kangaroos at the Zoo. See *What's Gnu* page 23.



9th Annual People's Choice
ENDANGERED SPECIES
COMPETITION



Endangered wild animals appeared inside Mayfair, a shopping center in Wauwatosa, March 2-9, 2003. Shoppers were not in danger, though, as the animals were the subjects of artwork created by Milwaukee-area students in middle and high school. The display was part of the Zoological Society's Ninth Annual People's Choice Endangered Species Art Competition, sponsored by the Robert K. & Joyce R. Cope Foundation. The competition encourages student artists while increasing awareness of the number of endangered animals. A jury selected 73 pieces for the Mayfair display.

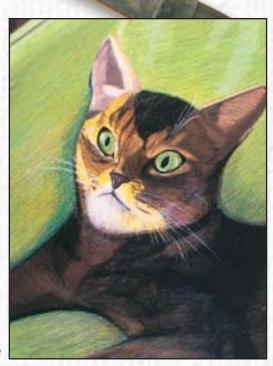
At Mayfair, people cast votes for their favorite depictions of endangered species. Each of the winning six students, three from middle school and three from high school, received a People's Choice award: \$100 and a \$50 Zoological Society animal sponsorship. The three judges also picked three jurors' choice awards, who each received \$50. Four Honorable Mention awards went to two middle school and two high school students, who each received a \$50 gift certificate donated by Artist and Display art-supplies store in Wauwatosa.



4

# Honorable Mention

- Jungle Tiger, ebony pencil of a tiger by Kelly Pritchard of Menomonee Falls, North Junior High School
- Stripe, a pencil drawing of a Grevy's zebra, by Lindsay C. Vrana, Racine Horlick High School
- Gray Wolf, a scratchboard of a gray wolf, by Lindsey Davis, Slinger Middle School
- Parson's Chameleon, an eggshell depiction of a Parson's Chameleon, by Caitlin Myers of Waukesha, who is home-schooled.

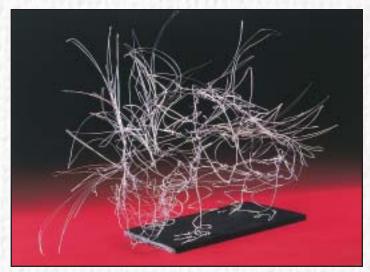


(See story on page 23.)



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#### 7

### 1. People's Choice First Place Jurors' Choice 2-D

#### Middle School

Indicαtor, oil pastel of a Stephen's Island frog by Daniel Sandoval of Milwaukee, from Kosciuszko Middle School, Milwaukee

## 2. People's Choice First Place Jurors' Choice 2-D

#### High School

Old Friends, two tortoises in watercolor, pencil, and pastels by Shannon Smallish of Grafton, from Grafton High School

# 3. People's Choice Second Place

#### Middle School

Black-footed cat, oil pastel of an African cat by Elia Prado of Milwaukee, from Kosciuszko Middle School (See story on page 23.)

# 4. People's Choice Second Place

#### High School

Green Seα Turtle, colored pencil by Nicole Jones of Sheboygan, Sheboygan North High School

# 5. People's Choice Third Place

#### Middle School

Woodland Caribou, oil pastel by Judith E. Peñaloza of Milwaukee, from Kosciuszko Middle School

# 6. People's Choice Third Place

High School

*Tiger*, chalk by Elizbeth Blaisdell of Pewaukee, from Pewaukee High School

## 7. Jurors' Choice 3-D

Porcupine, wire sculpture of a thin-spined porcupine by Alyssa Dallner of Brown Deer, from Brown Deer High School Big Cats are a favorite of many Zoo visitors. So it was a natural, in our Capital Campaign plans to improve the Milwaukee County Zoo, to plan bigger, better and more naturalistic big-cat exhibits. The lions, tigers, cheetahs, cougars and snow leopards will get more spacious exhibits that look a lot more like their homes in the wild.

This benefits both the cats and the public. The cats get a more stimulating environment with more space to play. There will be sight barriers, so if they're playing hide and seek, they have places to hide. "The public gets an idea of the animal in its environment, with pools, different height levels, trees for the cougars, a variety of backgrounds. It helps put the animal in context," says Deputy Zoo Director Dr. Bruce Beehler.

The Feline Building most likely will close in late December so that construction can start in January. "We anticipate re-opening in summer of 2005," says Beehler. The feline project is part of a Zoo Capital Campaign coordinated by the public-private partnership of Milwaukee County and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The Zoological Society is seeking a naming donor for the building. Among other buildings in this Zoo-improvement campaign are a recently completed Animal Health Center and a soon-to-be-started conservation-education center.

The master plan for the new Feline Building will create four big exhibits and a taller snow-leopard exhibit that look like glimpses into the wild, instead of the "glass boxes" that are the current cat exhibits. A flowing, curving path through the building will have themed signs along the way. To get the extra space, the Zoo will reduce the building's extra-wide walkways and reduce the entrances. "It's a relatively inexpensive way to get more space for the animals, both on and off exhibit. The way the building is now, there is backtracking," says Beehler.

To get an idea of what the new exhibit may look like, visit the mandrill and siamang exhibits in the Primates of the World building. "Their exhibits encroach on what was once a public walkway," explains Beehler. "There are interlacing trees in the siamang exhibit. In the mandrill exhibit, there's room for dead trees for the animals to tear apart. There are places for the animals to be apart. It gives the public a feeling of what it's like in their natural habitat." The bonobo and gorilla exhibits in Stearns Family Apes of Africa also are examples of naturalistic areas.

The Milwaukee County Zoo's famous, pioneering, outdoor predator-prey exhibits will remain but get a facelift.

So the Siberian tigers will continue to peer over the camels, with a hidden moat

between them. The cougars and jaguars will rotate outside in a yard overlooking South American animals such as alpacas. The lion and hyenas will rotate outdoors in a yard where they can gaze at the zebra and large antelopes in the African Waterhole Exhibit. The cheetahs will continue to look down at the smaller antelope in the African

Savanna Exhibit. The snow leopard exhibit is the only one not overlooking prey.

cheetah



The Zoo's caracals, Mary and Percy, which are smaller cats, will leave permanently so that the new building can focus on large carnivores, mainly big cats and, for contrast, hyenas. Lions and hyenas share the same habitat in Africa, and hyenas can rotate into the lion outdoor exhibit.

Other remodeling highlights include:

- An outdoor cougar/jaguar exhibit that people can view from inside
- New viewing windows into the tiger and jaguar-cougar exhibits so
  visitors can look eye to eye with the animals. These will be like the Big
  Cat Encounter viewing windows into the lion and cheetah exhibits, a
  project completed two years ago that was also part of the Capital
  Campaign.
- A fun education area with perhaps hidden views that only children can look through
- Visitor services such as restrooms, air conditioning, and benches
- Pools in all four of the big exhibits (jaguar-cougar, lion-hyena, cheetah, Siberian tigers), where it's impossible to have pools in the current building. "Some of those animals love to play in the water," notes Beehler.

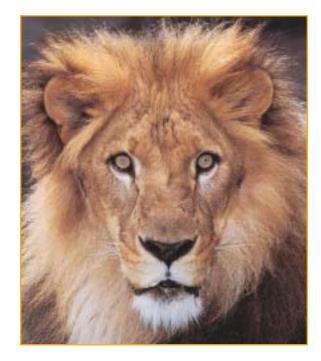
What will happen to the Zoo's cats during remodeling? A few (Ace the cheetah, Sasha the lion, Lhasa the snow leopard) most likely will stay at the Zoo but in other areas. The others tentatively are scheduled to go to other zoos temporarily until their new home is finished. The Zoological Society will keep the people who sponsor these animals informed as to how the animals are doing and hopes to send photos of them at these zoos:

Siberian tigers: Sheena and Kajmak at Houston Zoo (Texas) Hyenas: Cahli and Huck at Lincoln Park Zoo (Illinois) Cougars: Colleen and Rocky at Dickerson Park Zoo (Missouri)

**Cheetahs:** Onyx & Juba at the Kansas City Zoo **Snow leopards:** Tami and Milo belong to the Toronto Zoo and will go somewhere that Toronto determines. Tankh probably will go to another zoo to breed.

The feline keepers, meanwhile, probably will fill in for zookeepers who are retiring. Neil Dretzka, feline area supervisor, looks forward to the new building: "We're hopeful that the excitement generated by the nose-to-nose viewing concept of the Big Cat Encounter will carry over into a similarly thrilling experience in the newly expanded inside exhibits of the renovated building."

-By Paula Brookmire



Amon Ra, the male lion that died last April, has become the symbol of the Zoological Society's Simba Society. Amon Ra's popularity drew many visitors to the Feline Building, and the new lion exhibit, when completed, will be part of his legacy. The Simba Society recognizes donors, during their lifetimes, who remember the Society in a will or with a legacy gift. For information, call (414) 276-0843.



# TREATING OUR ANIMALS WELL

Our Zoo has a reputation for taking good care of its animals. With the opening of a new Animal Health Center this fall, that care should get even better.

It's a long-awaited wonder. The old Zoo Hospital was cramped, drafty, hard to clean and lacking a sterile surgery room. Even a veterinary hospital you would take your pets to would have a sterile surgery, says Joan Maurer, a Zoo veterinary technician. She often worked in the Hospital hallway because office space was lacking. Despite these problems, the veterinarians and veterinary technicians found creative ways to care for the Milwaukee County Zoo's 2,000 animals.

Now their job will be a lot easier.

At about 18,000 square feet, the new Animal Health Center is more than twice the size of the old Hospital, says Deputy Zoo Director Dr. Bruce Beehler, who's also a veterinarian. It will hold more animals in more comfortable conditions with improved safety for the hospital staff. Now, for the first time, our Zoo will have a quarantine area for primates that come in from other countries. For example, bonobos have come from Belgium and Mexico to join our Zoo's large bonobo group, but they had to go to other zoos first for the federally required quarantine time to make sure they had no contagious diseases. Now they can come directly here, which means less traveling and less stress on these great apes.

The best part of the new Animal Health Center, says Dr. Vickie Clyde, one of the two Zoo staff veterinarians, is that it was designed as a medical facility. The old Hospital was a makeshift part of an old building. Clyde and Dr. Roberta Wallace, the Zoo's senior vet, are excited about the highlights of the new center, including:

• A sterile surgery suite that's separate from the non-sterile animal-treatment room

- A new radiology area with two systems: one for larger animals and one for tiny animals that uses the same technology used in human mammography
- A bigger, more sophisticated laboratory with a microscope that can take digital photos and with three dedicated
- A specially designed necropsy area that isn't freezing in winter and roasting in summer, like the old one, and that has a fume hood to remove formaldehyde vapors. (When an animal dies, a full exam is done to determine the cause of death, says Beehler.)
- A visitor-education area that explains what the vet staff does and allows the public to view both the surgery and treatment rooms (see accompanying story on page 10).

Providing better conditions for animals that need cold or warm environments is one of the things Margaret

workbenches for urinalysis, hematology and parasitology (in the old Hospital, staff crowded into a small area for these tests)

- An endoscope system to replace their outdated one and a new ultrasound machine, both with digital capacity so they can send images to specialists at zoos around the world
- Rooms for large mammals, such as dangerous big cats, that have safety "step-ins" for the staff to see where the animals are before entering the room
- Outdoor areas so even sick or quarantined animals can get some fresh air
- Special flooring for hoofed animals plus hot-water pipes to heat floors for animals that can't tolerate cold concrete
- Separate air-handling systems that can keep sick animals from spreading disease.



Michaels, a veterinary technician, likes about the new center. There's a cold room for king and rockhopper penguins and even a pool. For snakes and other reptiles, there's a warm room with heat lamps that can adjust the temperature to suit the animal. The walls are even snake-proof (in another building a poisonous snake once hid in a wall crack).

Joan Maurer is excited about the clinical laboratory's new microscope that is hooked up to the Internet. She'll be able

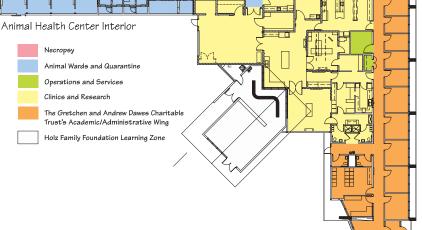


to send images of blood cells and parasites to vet techs around the world. "We have 300 members in our Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians, from Hong Kong to Denmark, who can access medical information via the Internet."

Office space and storage areas are greatly improved in the new center. There is more room for storage of both historic and current medical records and for the extensive veterinary library. Each regular staff member (Hospital Supervisor Dawn Fleuchaus, two vets and three vet techs) has an office. Students, interns, residents and visiting researchers can use study carrels. Shared space is available for the Zoo's many visiting specialists such as: anesthesiologists, a dentist, eye doctors, heart specialists, a gynecologist, neurologist, orthopedic surgeon, pathologists, psychiatrist, pharmacists, ultrasound technicians, urologist, and even a hoof specialist (farrier).

Instead of having to search for hospital supplies in three separate locations and having boxes on top of boxes, the new hospital will have one medical supply room and more organized storage, says Tammy Tackett, a vet tech who started working at the Zoo last spring and was impressed immediately with the staff. At the private animal hospital she previously worked in, she couldn't always give the best care to animals because "some families couldn't afford the treatment. Here we do the best!"

-by Paula Brookmire with Jennifer Schmidt



# Thanks to Special Donors

The new Animal Health Center would not have been possible without these sponsors and donors:

- the **Gretchen and Andrew Dawes Charitable Trust**, which sponsored the Academic/Administrative Wing of the Animal Health Center. This Trust also has sponsored veterinary interns and residents at the Zoo.
- the **Holz Family Foundation**, which sponsored the Learning Zone visitor-education area in the Animal Health Center. This Foundation also sponsored the remodeled Holz Family Impala Country African Savanna and Bongo Exhibit.
- the Zoological Society's Annual Appeal donors, who helped build the visitor-education area (see next page).

The new Animal Health Center is part of a capital campaign conducted by the private-public partnership of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County.

# GET INTO THE ZONE...

What's that thumping you hear? Could it be a tiger heartbeat? An elephant? A heartbeat recording is one of many ways the Zoological Society's Creative Department is using to bring you into the world of animal health care.

From the sounds of real animal heartbeats to a video of a giraffe exam, all your senses will be in play when you visit the visitor-education area of the new Animal Health Center. Called the Holz Family Foundation Learning Zone, this area is full of fun facts and insights into how the Zoo cares for its animals.

Did you know, for example, that the heart of a blue whale is as big as a small automobile? Did you know that one Zoo penguin swallowed 28 cents that Zoo visitors threw into its exhibit, even though a sign asked them NOT to throw coins? The penguin could have died. You can see the actual coins removed from the penguin's stomach!

Our Creative Department, in close conjunction with the **Education Department and vet** staff, has filled this education area with hands-on, fascinating exhibits, thanks in part to sponsorship by the Holz Family Foundation and in part to **Zoological Society Annual** Appeal donors. "It's been a great challenge to portray all the wonderful work the Zoo's medical team does on a daily basis," says Julie Radcliffe, **Zoological Society interpretive** graphics coordinator. Visitors will find three themed sections: one on diagnosis, one on treat-

ment and one on research-education-conservation. A touch-screen takes you through some of the many tasks the veterinary staff and zookeepers do, from examining elephant feet to checking the tongue of a bonobo. You'll also see some of the many consultants who help the Zoo, from a dentist to an ultrasound expert.

You even get to help the vets make a diagnosis. For example, you'll see an X-ray of a fruit bat with a bulge on one side. What's the bulge?

Take a closeup look at an elephant's blood cell. Then compare it with some animal blood cells that are infected with parasites.

Finding and treating animal parasites is an important job of the veterinary staff to keep animals healthy.

Thanks to some excellent taxidermy, you'll see a museumquality diorama of a lynx undergoing an endoscopic exam. An endoscope is used to examine hollow areas in the body, such as the throat and stomach. A photographic mural in the background, done by Zoological Society photographer Richard Brodzeller, shows you an actual section of the new hospital. Visitors cannot tour the hospital itself, for the safety of the animals. From the



Holz Family Foundation Learning Zone, however, they can look through large viewing windows into both the surgery suite and the animal-treatment room. So you can view actual procedures in progress.

In the research-education-conservation area, you'll learn about some of the field research Zoological Society and Zoo staff are doing on birds and snakes to help save these animals. You'll also discover ways you can help protect animals and keep them healthy. So visit the new Animal Health Center and become part of our health-care team!



Vet tech is the title of the person who helps a veterinarian, or animal doctor. Vet tech is a short name for veterinary technician, says Tammy Tackett, a vet tech at the Milwaukee County Zoo. You also could call us "super nurses for animals," says Tammy.

The Zoo's three vet techs have a big job. They help the Zoo's two vets care for about 2,000 animals. They need to know facts about the Zoo's 300 species (types) of animals. They deal with emergencies, like the day last summer when a kangaroo escaped and



hurt itself. The medical staff treated it so the animal could heal.

Vet techs do everything from buying animal medicines to giving the medicines to the animals. "You never get bored because there is always something new," says Margaret Michaels, a vet tech who has worked at the Zoo for 17 years. Here are some of a vet tech's jobs:

- + Help vets when animals are examined and given anesthesia (a drug that makes them sleep).
- + Check animal records from around the world on the computer.
- + Help clean tools so they don't carry germs.
- **→** Do paperwork to keep track of how sick animals are treated.
- + Examine a sick animal's blood in a laboratory to find out what might be wrong.

In August Nemat the wolf came to the Hospital with a broken tooth. Dr. John Scheels, a dentist who helps the Zoo, smoothed the tooth's rough edges and put a cap on it. Margaret the vet tech set up the surgery room and took some blood from Nemat to check if he was healthy overall. In July, vet techs helped the vets, an ultrasound expert, and the dentist do an exam on Kitty, one of the two oldest bonobos in the world. The vet techs took blood, developed X-rays and helped check that Kitty was OK when she was "asleep" with anesthesia.

What vet techs cannot do are the specialties of the vets. Vets diagnose (figure out the problem), prescribe (come up with treatment) and do surgery (go inside the animal). To become a vet tech, you need to go to college for two years to get an associate degree in veterinary technology. Then get lots of experience working with exotic animals in a pet store or for the Humane Society's wildlife department.

-Jennifer Schmidt



Joan Maurer (back) draws blood from an animal, helping Vet Michelle Bowman. "We collect blood on animals as little as fish all the way up to animals as big as elephants," says Maurer, a vet tech at the Zoo.



Margaret Michaels monitors the heart rate of a turtle given anesthesia.

# "Paging Dr. Wallace, Dr. Clyde..."

Before a sick animal comes to the Animal Health Center, an animal doctor called a veterinarian often checks on the animal in its exhibit. Veterinarians cannot bring every sick animal to the Animal Health Center. Some animals are too big, and others can be treated safely in

their exhibits. A vet must know the quickest route to the animals, especially if the

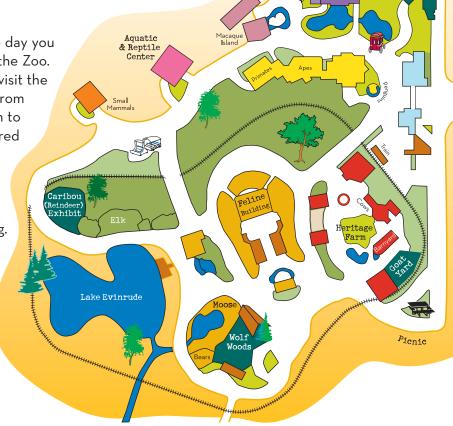
animal is seriously sick.

Pretend you are a veterinarian at the Zoo. One day you get three calls for help from different parts of the Zoo. For each call below, find the shortest route to visit the sick animal. Then use a crayon to draw a path from the Animal Health Center to the animal. Return to the Animal Health Center. Use a different colored crayon to draw the shortest path from the center to the next call area.

**Call #1:** A zookeeper at Wolf Woods calls you and reports that one of the wolves is not eating.

**Call #2:** A zookeeper at Stackner Heritage Farm's Goat Yard calls and says that one of the goats is limping.

**Call #3:** From the Caribou/Reindeer Exhibit a zookeeper calls and lets you know that a caribou (also called reindeer) is giving birth to a calf.



# Make Your Own First-Aid Kit

To keep animals healthy, veterinarians need many supplies. We keep medical supplies for ourselves in things called first-aid kits. Most first-aid kits have a cross on the outside. Do you have a first-aid kit at home? You can make your own first-aid kit for your room. Be sure to ask a grown-up for permission before making this.

#### Materials needed:

One old shoebox with lid Colorful paper

Tape

Facial tissues

Antiseptic pads

Markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils
Bandages, gauze, cotton balls, cotton swabs

Dr. Meghan pr. Meghan pr. Meghan

#### Directions:

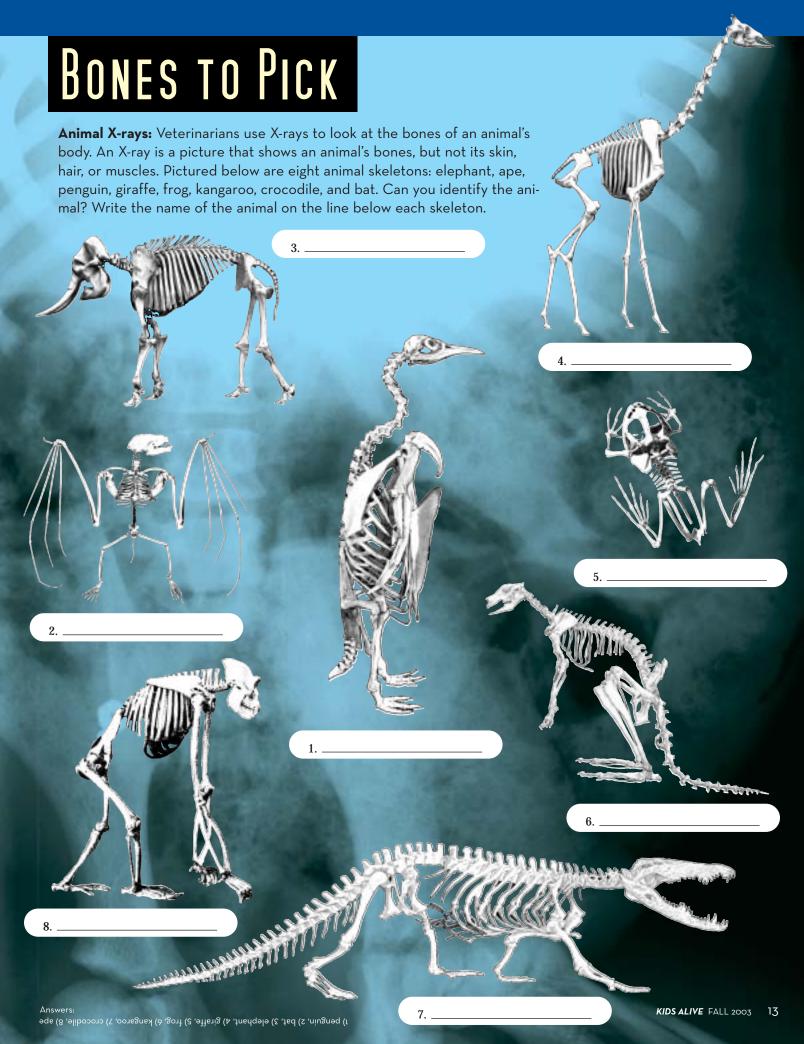
First-

Top of lid.

1. Cover the shoebox with colorful paper and tape it on.

Animal Health

- 2. Draw a thick cross on all four sides and on the lid of your shoebox (see picture).
- 3. Write "First-Aid Kit" on the shoebox lid (see picture).
- 4. Write the word "Dr." next to your name on all four sides of the box (see picture).
- 5. Decorate the box with markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils.
- 6. Fill your kit with bandages, gauze and cotton supplies; facial tissues; and antiseptic pads. Ask a grown-up to help you find these supplies.
- 7. Can you think of any other things to put in your first aid kit? (Hint: You might want tweezers to pull out splinters or "spray-on bandages.")



Zoo Careers

# Creating Animal Ambassadors

"During one of my visits to a school, the class and I were touching elephant skin when a student raised his hand and asked, 'Do elephants eat Paydays?'" remembers Meg Morello. She is a school program special-

ist for the Zoological Society's Education Department. The boy had seen a TV commercial showing an elephant eating a Payday candy bar. Meg laughed and said, "It was very important for me to be there to correct misconceptions about animals that are persistent in popular culture." Meg travels to 10 second-grade classrooms to teach students about conservation through a program called Pee Wee Ambassador.

Pee Wee Ambassador, sponsored by Brady Corporation, is a new division of the Zoological Society's long-standing Animal Ambassador animal-science program. The overall program provides students from low-income neighborhoods with the chance to learn about animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. They discover their connections to these animals and how they can help save endangered species.

The Pee Wee program focuses on two areas: animal body coverings and habitats. In the fall, Meg brings to each classroom furs and skins for children to touch. She shows them a poster of 12 animals: four mammals, four birds, two reptiles and two fish. She'll ask the kids to identify

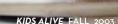
an animal and the type of body covering it has. A polar bear, for example, has fur. "How would fur benefit an animal?" she asks. Fur can camouflage (hide), warm, or protect the skin on an animal. Classes study habitats at the Zoo during a field trip in the winter. Students get a guided Zoo tour to look at

"Pee Wee is the first step in the Ambassador program. By the time the kids finish the Ambassador program (at the end of the fourth grade), they will understand their role in protecting wildlife and why it is necessary," says Meg. Some kids get the chance to visit the Zoo for the very first time thanks to this program. Because they meet with Meg at school and at the Zoo, students can tell her what they remembered from their first meeting. "I receive personal satisfaction by seeing how much the kids learn. It is neat to see how they connect it all by reviewing what they

Meg, a 2001 graduate of Middlebury College (Vermont), interned with the Zoological Society Education Department for three summers and was hired after graduation. In addition to Pee Wee Ambassador, she runs programs for preschool through second-grade classes, teacher workshops, and summer camps.

"It is rewarding to teach things I'm interested in and to be teaching in a place where kids are excited to go," says Meg.

-Jennifer Schmidt







Jeff and Patti Langer try a variety of flavorings for animal medicines.

The pharmacists at Langer Pharmacy were up to some "fishy" business even before they closed their doors for good. Then things just got "fishier."

About 20 years ago a veterinarian asked Langer's, a popular South Side Milwaukee pharmacy, to create a specialty medicine for an animal patient. That was their foray into animal medications, says Jeff Langer. He worked in the well-known pharmacy his father had founded on South Howell Ave. in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood until Osco Drugs bought it. Osco put a stipulation in the sale that the Langer family pharmacists could not open another drug store and compete. "But that was only for human customers, I made certain of that," Jeff Langer says. That's so he could open an animal pharmacy called The Pet Apothecary. Now he provides many medications for Milwaukee County Zoo animals as well as for pets.

From sea lions to penguins (who get a yearly treatment to prevent avian malaria), the Pet Apothecary helps "make the medicine go down easily" – you might say "one anchovy at a time." Jeff and his wife, Patti – both pharmacists – run the business with a son, Aaron, and employee Elizabeth Wilson. Jeff creates the medical concoctions and Patti runs the business end. They like working with the Zoo so much, they give the Zoo a discount on services.

They have three challenges in working with animals:

1) to ensure that animals receive the correct dosage of specialty meds and that there are no harmful extra ingredients in them; 2) to make medicines "tasty" to the animals; and 3)

to give a sick animal as few pills as possible by combining medications. "If you have a stressed-out cat, you don't want to give medication to the animal four times a day," says Jeff. Often there are drugs already on the market for specific animal diseases. "We recommend those first, always. Our service is for products that aren't commercially available."

Zoo animals can be picky eaters. "We work with hundreds of different flavors to find the most palatable ones," Jeff says. They research each ailing animal to see what its diet consists of in the wild. Are they carnivores? Herbivores? Some animals like raspberry flavor. Sometimes the challenge is to make a bitter medicine have no flavor. "Our most common flavor is chicken, or a mix of fish with tuna and anchovies. Sometimes we have to use a specific fish, such as tuna. Some animals like oily food; so we mix in olive or cod liver oil."

How does he know he has it right? "I taste everything to make sure. Trying to put yourself in, say, a sea lion's position is pretty difficult. Orangutans are easy, though, since they like bananas."

His most challenging patient was a Zoo fruit bat with a heart condition. The Apothecary had to prepare a digoxin (heart medication) solution without the usual alcohol found in human dosages. "Then the bat developed a blood pressure problem and needed a diuretic. We were using two different meds. One needed to be given once a day, the other twice. So we arranged that it would only be two doses per day," he says.

Though there are animal pharmacies throughout the world, Jeff Langer believes he has the only one in Wisconsin.

They have a Web site at www.petapothecary.com.

- Elaine Bergstrom



# Mining Bat Mysteries

Where do Milwaukee's bats, seen flying at night in summer, go in winter? Many head northwest, to Dodge County, to a place called Neda Mine. This abandoned iron mine has become Neda Hibernaculum, believed to be one of the 20 largest bat-hibernating chambers in the world. Here researchers are studying bat behavior to find ways to help conserve these fascinating, flying creatures that get rid of so many irritating insects for us.

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee and Zoo Pride, the Society's volunteer auxiliary, have joined forces over the years with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and other groups to support research at the Neda Hibernaculum, which houses from 300,000 to a half-million bats each winter, according to researcher Jim Reinartz. Neda Mine is owned by UWM and maintained by its field station near Saukville. Reinartz is director of the Field Station.

Reinartz and a team of researchers hope to uncover environmental and other factors affecting Neda's bat migration. They also are trying to find a way to count or closely estimate just how many bats reside in the Neda Mine for the winter. A series of grants\* has been supporting this research. In 1995 and '96, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County along with Zoo Pride, donated \$15,000 to help study the best hibernating conditions for the four types of bats that reside at Neda. During that same time, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and UWM stabilized the mine entrances and built slatted cages that permit entry and exit by bats but not humans.

Thanks to continued funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, by the year 2000, the researchers had created a more accurate way to count the bats entering and emerging from the mine.

Researchers want to know the bats' migration routes to and from Neda Mine and how they know when it's time to emerge from the mine. Discovering how bats prepare for and emerge from hibernation may help scientists find ways to save many endangered bat species. "We do not know whether bats disperse uniformly in all directions from the hibernaculum, taking the most direct routes to their



summer homes, or whether they follow migration routes that are related to landforms and vegetation on the ground," says Reinartz. Knowing more about their migration patterns will allow him to make recommendations about where to build communications towers and wind-farm windmills (which have been proposed in the area) so as to minimize threats to migrating bats.

The majority of the bats at Neda are little brown bats. These tiny creatures – whose main body is half the size of your thumb – have an incredible, 35-year life span, longer than any other Wisconsin mammal.

"We want to know if their numbers are increasing there," says Reinartz. "Also, we want to come up with the best estimate of the true numbers already there, and how their activity correlates to the climate, temperature, light, and other signs of seasonal change."

Collecting this data has long-range value, he says. "Studying seasonal climate changes and the bats' reactions to them becomes important when you consider what would happen to the bats if the temperature of the mine changed."

A little brown bat Left: Jim Reinartz sits next to the infrared light beams used to count bats as they enter Neda Mine. UWM Visual Imaging. Below: Dave Redell works on the beam detection system.

When bats hibernate, their
body temperature drops to just
enough to keep them alive, he
explains. "If you wake them
up too much, it will deplete
the little energy they have
saved to emerge from torpor (the sleeping state),
and it will kill them."
In April 2002 David

Redell, a researcher in the Wildlife Ecology Department at UW-Madison, received a \$2,000 grant through the Zoological Society's Wildlife Conservation Grants for Graduate Student Research program. He has been working with Reinartz; with DNR staff members Maureen Rowe and Gerald Bartelt; with Dan Shurilla, an electronics technician for UWM's Psychology Department; and with Herb Guenther, a private electronics expert.

Reinartz wanted to find the best way to record the movements of the bats as they entered and left the mineshaft. Shurilla and Guenther had an answer.

Inspired by a home security system, Shurilla and Guenther constructed a unique infrared beam-break detection system that was installed at entrances to the mine. When bats fly through two beams of the infrared light, they are counted and the direction they are flying is registered. The equipment also records the time, temperature, and humidity. Redell expects the beam-break detection system to provide yearly estimates of the number of bats using Neda Mine as well as to document population changes over time.

All of the research being conducted at Neda Mine will help further our knowledge of the ecology and behavior of the bat population. This may provide us with a better understanding of how to preserve the only protected bat hibernaculum in Wisconsin.

\* Other groups funding this research include the DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, Bat Conservation International, and the National Science Foundation. For more information on the Neda Mine Hibernaculum, contact the UWM Field Station at (262) 675-6844.

Bat photo @Merlin D. Tuttle, Bat Conservation International.

# Why Teach Teachers?

On a pleasant day last June 21, a group of elementary school teachers came to a Zoological Society workshop at the Zoo to learn about moths and butterflies. You'd think that, having just finished the academic year, the teachers would look forward to a summer away from a classroom. This classroom, however, was anything but usual.

The teachers, who taught ages ranging from preschoolers to those in second grade, were enthusiastic. They would be learning to use the Milwaukee County Zoo as a science-resource center. They would be walking through an exhibit of live tropical butterflies, even having the flying creatures land on them. "It's always exciting to come to learn something new and to get different ideas for my classroom," said Phyllis Shudy, who teaches at Preschool Playmates in West Allis.

The Zoological Society offers two types of teacher programs: 2½-hour workshops such as the one on moths and butterflies, and two-day courses, such as one on endangered species, also offered last June 21, continuing on June 22. The short

workshops are for early childhood teachers. The two-day courses, which are limited to 25 participants, are geared to a wide range of teachers, from elementary to high school level.

Most of the hundreds of educational programs the Zoological Society holds at the Zoo annually are for children and families. Only eight or nine programs are offered just for teachers, but they are important programs.

"Whenever the

participating teachers reach their students through activities and concepts we've covered in our teacher-education programs, there is a multiplier effect for the Zoological Society's mission to educate," says James Mills, the Zoological Society's school program coordinator. Teachers are able to pass on messages about conservation and wildlife to the new students they teach each year.

"We provide teachers with information about animals – both in the wild and in the Zoo's collection – and ideas for activities to do in their classrooms and at the Zoo," says Mills. "We also inform them about our program offerings and how to use the Zoo as a teaching resource, especially for science-based field trips. The two-day courses may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and count





Teachers at a Zoological Society workshop learn a craft to teach their students. From left are Angela Concotelli, JoAnn Rajchel and Kris Wucherer, all of Children's World Learning Center in Oak Creek.

toward a teacher's state teaching license requirements for professional development."

There is a definite need for improved science education at the elementary school level, where teachers often are least prepared to teach science. The Zoological Society addresses this need both by teaching children directly through year-round workshops and camps and by teaching educators. "Short workshops and longer courses enable us to help teachers develop or update their knowledge and teaching skills regarding animal science and environmental issues," says Mills. "We hope that our programs help teachers to deepen younger students' appreciation

of animals and to help older students develop the ecological understanding that can lead to a conservation ethic later in life."

With the groundbreaking this year for a new Zoological Society conservation-education center at the Zoo, the Education Department may be able to offer more teacher-education programs in the future. For more information, call (414) 256-5421.



The Serengeti Circle is an exclusive group of corporations and foundations that support the Zoo and Zoological Society through grants and sponsorship of special events, exhibits/attractions, educational and conservation programs, and promotions at the \$2,500 level and above. For more information on sponsorship opportunities at the Zoo, please call Patty Harrigan, (414) 302-9485. For information on grant opportunities, please call Sarah Roemer, (414) 276-0843 ext. 309.

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area and enjoyed visiting the Zoo since childhood. For almost 15 years we had a family membership in the Zoological Society that gave our son, Ryan, many experiences. We want to give something back to the place that helped us broaden our love for animals of all shapes and sizes. Through our upgraded membership to the Platypus Society, our family looks forward to new experiences, and we know our increased support will give others opportunities to enjoy the Zoo as well. The Zoological Society Development staff has made us feel very welcome!"

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# Bali mynah

Born: June 11, 2003 Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary

population boom of sorts at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Zoo's endangered Bali mynahs have produced eight chicks since December 2000, and their survival rate has been excellent for this species. "There are over 500 Bali mynahs in the captive population, but there are fewer than 20 in the wild, if there are any at all," says Kim Smith, the Zoo's curator of birds. Getting captive birds to breed is crucial to the survival of this species. After seven years in the 1990s of having no Bali mynah births here, two chicks were

The Bali mynah, one of the rarest birds on Earth, is having a

news. Then, in January 2001, their mother was killed by two large thrushes in the same exhibit. The very next month, however, the Zoo's other pair of Bali mynahs hatched three chicks. In July 2001 they had two more chicks, and then had their latest in June 2003. Four of the chicks have gone to other zoos to breed, and this year's chick (which is not on exhibit) will depart also, since it's so important to increase the population. Meanwhile, the parents can be seen in the exhibit with the

> golden-backed woodpeckers and the whitefaced whistling ducks. The lone male Bali mynah is in an exhibit with the Victoria crown pigeon, waiting for another mate.



Bonobo

Born: March 4, 2003 Stearns Family Apes of Africa

She's a tiny thing, but she certainly seems to have "attitude" from this photo. Maybe that's because her mother, Kosana, suffered as the result of 9/11 and survived. Kosana was on her way to the U.S. from Belgium on Sept. 10, 2001, stopping in Newfoundland. When the planes quit flying after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, Kosana, a great ape native to the hot African climate of the Congo River basin, had to spend seven days in a crate in the cold. She may have been pregnant and lost the fetus during that time. So her later pregnancy and delivery here of a tiny baby, still unnamed, is a success story in the Milwaukee County Zoo's breeding of the highly endangered bonobo. The baby is not always on exhibit because keepers are monitoring Kosana's diet and her nursing of the baby. This new youngster makes six toddlers under age 5 among our bonobo group of 18. Our Zoo now has one of the largest groups of bonobos in captivity.

# **Red Kangaroos**

Two females arrived: May 7, 2003 One male arrived: August 7, 2003 Joey born: October 7, 2002 Australia Building

Hop down under to see Menindee and Kadina, the two new 1½-year-old female red kangaroos at the Zoo, and Eli, the new male. The females arrived from Kansas City and the male came from the Philadelphia Zoo. We also have a new baby kangaroo, born to Ellie last year. Named Nicky, the joey emerged from Ellie's pouch this year. Although called red kangaroos, these Australian animals may be red, gray, or brown. Red kangaroos have long tails, used for balance; small arms, used for eating grass and other plants; and big feet connected to

powerful hind legs, useful for kicking, hopping, and thumping the ground to alert others of danger. Red kangaroos cannot walk but they can hop as far as 12 feet in one leap and as fast as 30 miles per hour! Rather then kick their enemies, red kangaroos usually kick each other for mating rights. They stay in groups and hop away from danger whenever they can. Wild red kangaroos can be found in the open, arid plains of central Australia, where they often give themselves spit baths to cool off under the hot sun. The Zoo's kangaroos are outside in summer but go back indoors in mid-October. Eli is shown here, while one of the female kangaroos is pictured on the *Alive* cover.

# **Black-Footed Cat**

Arrived: June 29, 2003 Small Mammals Building, nocturnal section

She may look like your pet kitten, but Kalahari, the Zoo's new black-footed cat, is far from domestic. African black-footed cats are smaller and fiercer than domestic cats. In fact, this pretty kitty is one of the smallest species of cat. Black-footed cats are usually 14.8-16 inches long, about 8.8 inches tall, and 3.3-4.4 pounds. They are nocturnal, hunting at night and sleeping during the day. This way, they



can avoid the hot sun in the dry, arid climate they inhabit in the southern part of Africa. Wild black-footed cats eat insects, rodents, small ground birds, and other animals. Kalahari dines on mice, fish, crickets, meal worms, and a special cat food made in the Zoo's commissary. "She really likes her mice," says Small Mammals Area Supervisor Nina Schaefer, who has tried feeding her carrots, unsuccessfully. Carrots were a favorite treat of Frankie, a black-footed cat that used to reside at the Zoo. Kalahari, who is 10 years old, came from the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, where she was part of a breeding program to help this endangered species. Now retired from breeding, she is the only black-footed cat at the Zoo. "We don't have the space to have another one," says Schaefer. "Black-footed cats are very solitary and territorial animals."



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