

Alive



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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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CEO's Letter



One of the most rewarding ventures that the Zoological Society supports at the Milwaukee County Zoo is a program to help veterinarians and veterinary students get hands-on training. In the end, the animals get the benefit. That's because we help make sure the terrific medical knowledge that our Zoo's veterinary staff has developed is passed on to a new generation of animal-care specialists (page 20). We have done this for veterinary preceptors (students in their fourth year), veterinary residents (doctors who are trainees in zoological medicine) and pathology fellows (doctors who are trainees in exotic animal pathology). The programs are held in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wis.



Dr. Bert Davis and Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser are partners in a public-private partnership. (See page 16.)

Speaking as a trained veterinarian, I know the excitement and difficulties of caring for zoo animals. I also was a Smithsonian research fellow at the National Zoo and a preceptor at Zoo Atlanta. The unique thing about working as a resident or fellow in a zoo is that you are exposed to hundreds of diverse species of animals. Every day there's something new, challenging and exciting. Participating in a post-graduate program, like the ones at our Zoo, is extraordinarily valuable because you get the perspective not only of the veterinarians - Dr. Roberta Wallace and Dr. Vickie Clyde - but also of the veterinary technicians, the curators, the zookeepers and the numerous medical consultants the Zoo brings in, from dentists to psychiatrists.

What's also touching is to see the incredible bond that zookeepers form with the animals (see page 14). When veterinarians come to animal areas, the animals can get very nervous. Keepers, who have developed great trust with the animals, manage to calm them and divert their attention so the veterinary staff can do exams or treatments. It's great teamwork.

I think back to the first week I was at Zoo Atlanta. They were opening a new gorilla exhibit. It was hot, in the 90s, and the vegetation in the exhibit had not grown enough to provide shade, which the gorillas would seek in the wild. So the gorillas found a way to climb down into the exhibit's moat, which was shady and cooler. But then they couldn't get out. There was a mother and baby gorilla that the staff were particularly concerned about. So the veterinarians had to anesthetize most of the gorillas with darts so they could be carried out of the moat. The general curator, however, got the baby gorilla and put it in a knapsack and carried it out of the moat on his back. Keepers, curators and vet staff all worked together to deal with the emergency. This was etched in my mind ... and will be forever.

Seeing the gorillas from this perspective struck me with awe and helped cement my plans to work in a Zoo. That brings me to our story on the Zoo's six gorillas and the wonderful training and care that they get (page 4). The United Nations and other groups have declared 2009 as the Year of the Gorilla. These magnificent apes are so endangered that they may disappear from the wild in our lifetime (by the way ... we can never let that happen). That's why zoos and their conservation programs and species survival plans are so valuable to the future of the species.

Robert Davis
 Dr. Bert Davis
 Chief Executive Officer



Alive

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Meet gorilla keeper Claire Richard and learn how she enriches the lives of the Zoo's six gorillas

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WEB: zoosociety.org/ambassador

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Kids Alive 11-14 Spooky Halloween activities, meet a penguin zookeeper and get gift ideas for kids who sponsor animals at the Zoo.

Contributors See the insert in this *Alive* that includes Serengeti Circle and Platypus Society members.

WEB: Go to addresses next to each story for special extras on our Web site.

100 YEARS OF HELPING ANIMALS & THE ZOO

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE IS TURNING THE BIG 1-0-0!

Get the party started at our centennial kickoff on Saturday, January 9, 2010!

You're invited to the Zoological Society's birthday bash at the Zoo! This free, family-themed event will feature music, games and cake for everyone. Share your Zoological Society memories in a special guestbook, enjoy a "blast from the past" photo gallery in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place, create special birthday crafts and get ready for a few surprises.

Watch for event updates in your November Wild Things, in e-mail blasts and on our Web site, www.zoosociety.org. Centennial celebrations and events are on the docket throughout 2010!

BEARS HAVE BEEN POPULAR AT THE ZOO SINCE THEY WERE ON EXHIBIT AT THE OLD WASHINGTON PARK ZOO. FROM THE EARLY DAYS THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY HELPED ACQUIRE ANIMALS.



Milwaukee County Zoo archives

ON THE COVER: GENTOO PENGUINS. SEE PAGE 22.

WINDOW ON THE GORILLAS

2009: YEAR OF THE GORILLA

From the window, you can see two gorillas in the forest-themed exhibit. The larger, gray gorilla, Ngajji, sits in the fork of some logs. The smaller, all-black gorilla moves around the exhibit, holding and sometimes chewing a small branch. A young boy sees the gorilla walking toward the window and says, excitedly: "He's coming! He's going to bang on the glass with his stick." But the gorilla ignores both the window and the boy.

This scene from last July is a far cry from the 1970s, when Milwaukee's favorite gorilla, Samson, would charge visitors at his viewing window and sometimes pound on the glass. That may have entertained zoogoers, but it was not a good lifestyle for gorillas. Neither was Samson's size. Peaking at about 650 pounds,



Claire Richard

SPONSOR CASSIUS,
the oldest male gorilla (above),
this October through the
Zoological Society:
www.zoosociety.org/cassius.
The United Nations has
declared 2009 the Year
of the Gorilla (see page 7).

Samson was an attraction because he reminded people of their favorite movie ape, King Kong. Yet Samson, who sometimes ate meat and cheese rather than the mainly vegetarian diet of gorillas in the wild, was extremely overweight. Today, Cassius, the Milwaukee County Zoo's oldest male, weighs only about 450 pounds, more in the normal range for a western lowland gorilla.

The transformation of gorilla care at the Zoo came about as researchers studied gorillas in the wild. Gorillas eat mainly fruits, fiber and vegetables, they learned. Gorillas are seldom violent. Gorillas have their own culture and etiquette and preferred groupings. In 1992 the Zoo's gorillas got a beautiful new home in the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building. Its more natural setting was calming for the apes and gave the public a better understanding of gorilla habitat. In 1995 the Zoo started a new training program for gorillas after first trying it with their great-ape cousins, the bonobos. In 1996, Claire Richard became the primary gorilla keeper. She says she was intimidated at first to follow in the steps of longtime, dedicated gorilla keeper Sam LaMalfa, who retired. In the nearly 14 years that she has been gorilla caretaker, however, she has found new ways to enrich the apes' lives and improve their health.

"We don't want another Samson here," says Richard. "We want healthy gorillas. It was Samson's fifth heart attack that killed him. Gorillas, especially males, are prone to cardiac problems. Now we feed the gorillas vegetables and high-fiber diets. We make sure they move around and get exercise. And we do training so that we can monitor their health."

One type of training, called operant conditioning, slowly shapes animal behavior by rewarding the gorillas for every small step that leads to a desired behavior, such as turning their backs toward the keeper for health inspections. "They know some words for basic body parts, such as head, hand, shoulder, hip, leg, foot, back, chest, tummy, mouth, ears," says Richard. "They understand a lot of directional cues as well, such as: open, hold it, shift, stay, arms up."

This has led to a remarkable pioneering effort: The Zoo's gorillas have been trained to hold still – voluntarily – for ultrasound exams of their hearts. Says Richard: "I train them to hold their arms up and press their chest to the mesh. Then I use the ultrasound probe on their chests." Deputy Zoo Director Bruce Beehler credits Claire Richard with initiating this program, adding: "She co-authored and co-presented this groundbreaking work at the 2008 International Gorilla Conference in Orlando, Fla."

The other co-author was Leann Beehler, an ultrasound specialist who donates her time and equipment to the Zoo, and has trained Richard to use an ultrasound probe. "We believe the Milwaukee County Zoo was the first zoo to do scans on gorillas

and orangutans where the animals are awake, aware, unrestrained and unstressed," says Leann. Now many zoos are following suit, she says. "So many primates have developed fibrotic cardio-

myopathies (disease of the heart muscle) and died. Now we are able to catch it as it is happening and consult experts on what medications to place the animals on." The Zoo's current six gorillas (see Who's Who story on page 6) have pretty healthy hearts, she notes. But some previous gorillas and bonobos have died from heart disease.

Training gorillas to help with their own health care has challenges as well as rewards. "I really enjoy working with the gorillas," says Richard. "They're laid-back, like me. Our

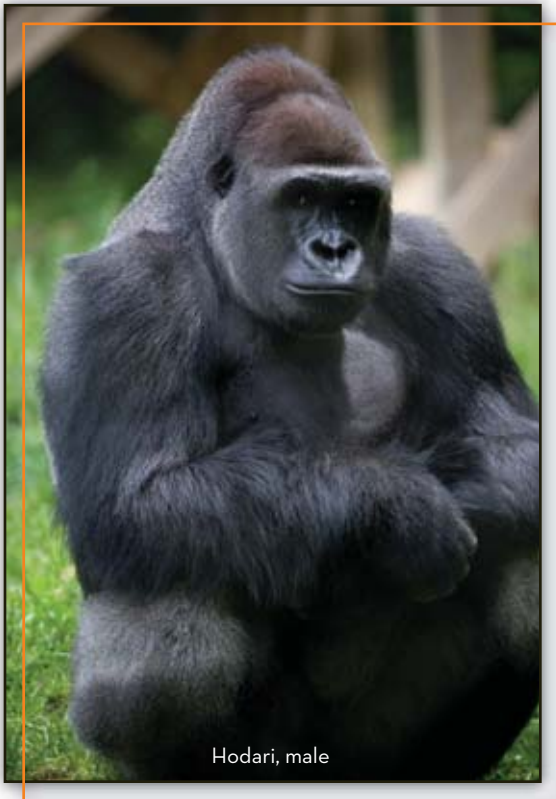
personalities mesh very well." Dr. Bruce Beehler agrees: "Claire has developed a special rapport with the animals. She is calm and patient when working with the gorillas, and they are relaxed and comfortable with her." Yet the gorilla is not as social with humans as is the bonobo. Training is voluntary; keepers use rewards such as food as an incentive. For bonobos, just interacting with the keeper can be a reward. Not so with the gorillas, which may ignore the keeper. "The girls," as Richard calls Femelle, Ngajji

Zookeeper Claire Richard gives Linda a drink



Femelle, oldest female and mate to Cassius





Hodari, male

and Linda, “have been harder to teach. The boys (Cassius, Maji Maji and Hodari) are more tactile, and they’re looking for attention from me. They were younger when we started, and they saw training more as a game. The girls were all in their 30s when we started. They were used to getting treats from keepers without having to do anything. So their attitude toward training was: ‘She’s making me work for my food.’ It took a long time for them to decide that training was a good thing.”

Richard notes some of the successes: “Hodari and Cassius have been the most responsive to ultrasound training, but Maji was the first one to do an open-mouth exam so we could check his teeth. He even let me put a toothbrush in his mouth, not that I could brush his teeth with it. Maji also had a lot of fun chasing



Claire Richard uses an ultrasound probe on a gorilla.

the laser light I used as a target. He would try to catch the red dot. I could get him to move from one place to another by chasing the light. While Maji would look around for the light, the girls wouldn’t notice it unless it was right in front of them.”

The young males may be good learners, but they’re more likely to test their keeper. “That’s what

boys do,” Richard says. “I’ve seen it most with Maji, who’s 18. We have an understanding about where the lines are. He’ll test them every once in a while.” So will Cassius. The gorillas have been trained to shift from one area into another, but to avoid touching the door that goes between areas and not to sit in a doorway. So when Cassius is feeling testy, he might sit in a doorway or slam a door. Gorillas are strong. If Richard would try to close the door while a gorilla was

WHO’S WHO?

The Milwaukee County Zoo has six gorillas. How do you tell who’s who when you see a pair of gorillas on exhibit? Because they are usually in the same pairs, you can tell by comparing the two gorillas using the photos on these pages and the descriptions below.

CASSIUS (male), 23, and **FEMELLE** (female), 47: Cassius, at 450 pounds, is twice as big as Femelle, who’s 200 to 220 pounds. Cassius is a silverback, with dark hair on his arms and a gray area down his back and onto the backs of the legs. Femelle is rounder than Cassius and has white-gray sideburns.

MAJI MAJI, 18, and **HODARI**, 14 (both males): Both are silverbacks with dark hair on their arms and a gray area down their backs and onto the backs of their legs. While Hodari is younger, he is slightly larger, although they are close in size. Maji has a furrowed brow ridge, which gives him a more “serious” expression.

LINDA, 45, and **NGAJJI**, 43 (both females): Linda has long, black hair over all her body, and she is very small – kind of skinny all over. Ngajji is larger, all gray and has a reddish tint to the crest of her head. Ngajji has a more typical female gorilla build, with a smaller chest but a big belly. Her broken left middle finger can’t bend and sticks out.

Want more inside information?

Claire Richard talks about gorilla personalities, what they like to eat, how they play, how long they live, gorilla menopause, their memories and more. Go to www.zoosociety.org/gorillas.



Ngajji, female

holding the door on the other side of the wall from her, she could get hurt. "So I don't even play with the doors when they're on them." Cassius also might decide not to move at all. "If they want to eat, they have to shift from one place to another. If a gorilla doesn't move, he does not get fed. They know the rules. So if they're not shifting," she says, "they're just not hungry. We have food scattered in their yard and in the indoor exhibit. So it doesn't hurt them to miss a meal."

Back at the gorilla exhibit last July, families stop briefly to view gorillas Ngajji and Linda. No one knows the names of the gorillas on exhibit or whether they are males or females. So everyone refers to them as "he." "Look at his eyes," says a dad to his son, referring to Ngajji's habit of looking off to the side and then seeming to stare right at the visitors' window. The boy says: "He looks like King Kong." The dad starts talking about his memories of Samson the gorilla. (For memories of Samson from Sam LaMalfa, go to www.zoosociety.org/Samson.) They wander over to a bronze bust of Samson, displayed on a pedestal, and read about him. They try to figure out when he died. Samson was an estimated age 32 when he died in 1981. Would he have lived longer in today's world of ultrasounds and heart-healthy diets? Or would his heart problems still have caught up with him?

The shadow of Samson still casts its spell, but the lessons learned from Samson are benefitting today's gorillas. Claire Richard has made sure of that.

By Paula Brookmire



Linda, smallest female

ON THE BRINK

www.zoosociety.org/wildgorillas

TODAY, GORILLAS ARE BALANCED ON THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION.

All four subspecies of gorillas have been placed on endangered species lists, with three of these subspecies listed as "critically endangered." In the wild there are fewer than 100,000 western lowland gorillas, 3,000 eastern lowland gorillas, and 720 mountain gorillas. Cross river gorillas are the most endangered, with fewer than 300 left, according to the African Conservation Organization.

The United Nations, along with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and more than 100 zoos, has declared 2009 as The Year of the Gorilla. The U.N.'s gorilla-conservation group is called the Great Apes Survival Partnership. Among its many goals are establishing a database of gorilla information, educating the public about conservation, and teaching people who live near gorillas how to generate income without harming gorilla habitats. For example, they could raise other animals for food rather than killing gorillas for bushmeat.

Gorillas can be found in the wild only in Africa. They live in tropical and sub-tropical forests and mountainous areas of Uganda, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, and Nigeria.

Gorilla numbers have decreased because of habitat loss, civil unrest, and, most gruesome of all, poaching. In the 1960s and 1970s, poachers filled African markets with expensive gorilla trophies including hands, feet, skulls, and skins. In the last 30 years, anti-poaching patrols have been created in a number of national parks and the sale of gorilla products has been banned.

Today one of the most dangerous threats to gorillas is the destruction of the lush forests in which they live. Gorillas are displaced when their habitat is destroyed. Loggers have cut down forests to sell the wood. Miners have cleared the ground to mine for coltan, an ore that contains metals used in cell phones.

However, many groups champion gorilla conservation. The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, based in Atlanta, Georgia, was started by an American researcher named Dian Fossey who studied rare mountain gorillas. This foundation, which supports research in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, is dedicated to protecting gorillas in the wild as well as bringing awareness to gorilla conservation.

A London-based group called The Gorilla Organization believes that conservation and educational programs need to happen side by side. They fund several projects near gorilla habitats, such as western lowland gorilla conservation in Gabon, water collection in Rwanda, and farmer training in Kisoro District, Uganda.

Another group is the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP), based in Rwanda. It is a joint initiative of the World Wildlife Foundation, the African Wildlife Foundation, and Flora and Fauna International. The IGCP's goal is to help protect gorillas by encouraging a uniform approach to gorilla conservation throughout Africa.

For a list of books, movies and Web sites that provide more information on gorilla conservation efforts, please visit the Zoological Society's site, www.zoosociety.org/wildgorillas.

By Brianne Schwantes



Maji Maji, male

It's graduation day at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Parents are beaming. Teachers look proud. Cameras are flashing. The graduates, all fourth and fifth graders, are leafing through animal picture books and chatting about favorite Zoo critters. These pint-sized conservationists have just graduated from the Zoological Society's Animal Ambassador program. In 2009, this program celebrates its 20th anniversary of bringing the world of animals to metro-Milwaukee schools in urban neighborhoods.

Launched in 1989, Animal Ambassador is the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) longest-running education program. The ZSM wanted to connect elementary school children (most in fourth and fifth grades) attending schools in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods to the Zoo, says Mary Thiry, who was the ZSM's director of education when the program launched. Animal Ambassador proved popular with teachers

because it engaged kids for an entire semester, she explains. For many kids, this was their first chance to visit the Zoo.

Here's how the program works: First, teachers get special training from ZSM educators. School classes then come to the Zoo for a hands-on lesson about animal adaptations. In turn, a ZSM instructor visits each school to present an animal program, complete with a live animal such as a snake or a box turtle that kids can touch. Classes come back to the Zoo in early spring for a tour and program on endangered species. In May, they take a third trip to the Zoo for a formal graduation ceremony. Here, they're rewarded with animal-themed picture books and free Zoo passes so they can return with their families in the summer. (In 2001, Animal Ambassador expanded to reach second and third grades in several schools. The younger classes each come to the Zoo once in the fall and continue the program in the fourth grade.)

20 Years of Animal Ambassadors

Education



◀ Fourth-grader James Edwards shakes hands with U.S. Cellular® representative Kathy Hust at an Animal Ambassador graduation on May 28, 2009, at the Zoo. U.S. Cellular sponsors James' school, Barton Elementary in Milwaukee.

▼ Four boys from Barton Elementary School look at animal picture books during last May's graduation. From left are Sean Stephan, Dustin Rathell, James Edwards and Nequon Ivory.

Each of the Animal Ambassador schools has a Milwaukee-based sponsor such as a company, a foundation or an individual, who make it all possible. The idea is that sponsors can hang out with the kids, says Thiry. Sponsors are encouraged to visit schools and meet up with classes during Zoo trips. Kids create sponsor thank-you gifts such as quilts or animal-themed scrapbooks at the end of the program.

Karen Peck Katz, immediate past chair of the ZSM's Board of Directors, has sponsored a school since the program's beginning, first with the ZSM's Associate Board and then through her family's foundation, Peck Foundation, Milwaukee LTD. Every year, she encourages kids at her school to "pay her back" by inspiring friends and families to help save animals and the environment. "I love how the kids are so inquisitive," says Katz. "This is a great introduction and eye-opener for what is outside of their immediate world."

Thanks to financial support from sponsors such as Katz, the program grew from 7 schools in 1989 to 21 schools in the 2008-'09 school year, says James Mills, the ZSM's current director of education. Since 1989, about 25,000 students have gone through the program. If you estimate that each student spread the message of animal conservation to just three friends or family members, the number of people (including the students) reached by the program in the last 20 years climbs to about 100,000!

In the program's early years, Ambassador classes at the Zoo were taught in trailers and a small education complex in the Zoo's farm. Today, Ambassador groups enjoy the interactive Animal Adaptations Lab in the ZSM's state-of-the-art Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center at the Zoo. "Kids love touching the animal artifacts, computers and microscopes, things they might not have at home," notes Amy Mertins, who teaches the program at Fletcher Elementary, 9520 W. Allyn St. in Milwaukee. Interacting with animal experts is another treat for the students. Just ask them about ZSM educator Julie Pickard, who has managed the program for the last 10 years. "The students are always quite amazed

with her vast knowledge and barely allow her to leave the room without someone asking just one more important question," says Julene Flanagan, a teacher at Milwaukee's Story Elementary School, 3815 W. Kilbourn Ave., which has been an Animal Ambassador school since the early 1990s. (Whittier School in Waukesha and Milwaukee's Hawley Environmental School have also been in the program since 1992.)



(1) 2009: Sean Stephan from Barton Elementary takes a picture of a polar bear in March during his second Animal Ambassador trip to the Zoo. Students take photos for an annual Animal Ambassador newsletter called *Kids to Kids*. See Sean graduate (page 8).



(2) 2006: Deja Reese from Hawthorne Elementary School completes an activity sheet about animal skeletons in the ZSM's Animal Adaptations Lab. (3) 2003: Amy Sanquist works through a computer program on animals during an Animal Ambassador trip to the Zoo.



Kids who've gone through the program take the initiative to learn about the animals and careers in science, adds Flanagan. They check out animal books from the school library and look up information online. In recent years, the program has included brief tests given before students start the program and after they finish it to evaluate learning. (Ambassador curriculum matches science guidelines for Milwaukee Public Schools and the state of Wisconsin.) More than 80% of the students show growth in knowledge after completing the program, says ZSM education director James Mills.

The program also helps kids grow and develop as individuals. For example, it works to counter fears and misconceptions that some urban children have about wild animals. Students



are often afraid of being attacked by animals, says Mills. So children learn that people must treat animals with a healthy respect; that wild animals shouldn't be threatened or cornered. In fact, kids who've gone through the program treat each other, not just animals, with a bit more kindness. "It makes students a little bit more caring, a little bit more empathetic," says Fletcher School teacher Amy Mertins. Kiam, a fourth-grade student from Milwaukee's Barton Elementary, had this to say after completing the program in 2009: "I would like to tell other students to take care of our Earth so we can have a great environment."

It also helps kids celebrate their accomplishments. When Mertins' class was graduating from the program last May, a TV news team from Channel 6 showed up to cover the ceremony for that night's newscast. "The kids were excited that people wanted to see what they were doing," says Mertins. Thanks to dedicated educators, sponsors and the ZSM, the Animal Ambassador program could put generations of young animal lovers in the spotlight for the next 20 years.

By Julia Kolker



(1) 2006: ZSM educator Julie Pickard has managed the Animal Ambassador program for a decade. Here, she presents a T-shirt to a student. (2) 2004: A Time Warner Cable representative and ZSM educator Julie Pickard hold a colorful banner that students created as a sponsor gift. Time Warner Cable sponsored Milwaukee's Carson Elementary school.

"I would like to tell other students to take care of our Earth so we can have a great environment."
-Kiam

IMAGES OF SUCCESS: zoosociety.org/ambassador

What did Animal Ambassador programs look like in the last two decades? See an archive of Animal Ambassador photos online at www.zoosociety.org/ambassador. This site also features past *Alive* stories on the program and comments from Animal Ambassador kids over the years. If you're a Time Warner Cable subscriber, you can watch a video of the 2009 Animal Ambassador graduations on Channel 1111 (click the Milwaukee County Zoo "super category"). If your company or organization would like information about how to sponsor a school, please call Cassie Jeffery at (414) 258-2333. Schools join the program through invitation; for more information, please call the ZSM's education office at (414) 258-5058.

2008-2009 ANIMAL AMBASSADOR SCHOOLS AND SPONSORS:

SCHOOL	SPONSOR
Prince of Peace	Anonymous Family Foundation
La Causa Charter School	Antonia Foundation
Neeskara Elementary School	Arnow & Associates
Westside Academy II	Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation
Whittier Elementary School	Cooper Power Systems
Clemens Elementary School	Jerome and Dorothy Holz Family Foundation
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Story School	Joy Global Foundation, Inc.
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Hawley Environmental School	Peck Foundation, Milwaukee LTD.
Rawson Elementary School	PPG Industries Foundation
Barton Elementary School	U.S. Cellular®
Browning Elementary School	U.S. Cellular®
Fletcher Elementary School	Wells Fargo
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River Trail Elementary School	Zoological Society Associate Board
A. E. Burdick School	Zoological Society of Milwaukee
Alcott Elementary School	Zoological Society of Milwaukee
Twenty-First Street Elementary School	Zoological Society of Milwaukee

(3) 2000: A student holds a snake that a ZSM educator brought to Milwaukee's Pershing Elementary School. (4) 1994: Zoo Pride volunteer Gladys Harvey gives a Zoo tour to Ambassador students. (5) 1999: ZSM educator James Edwards brought a live snake to school for Ambassador students.

Kids Alive

AN UNUSUAL BIRTHDAY Gift

Erika Schlagenhauf, 11, and her mom, Christina (right), meet Dawn Wicker, a Zoo area supervisor who shows Erika a plush-toy red panda.



When Erika Schlagenhauf turned 10, she got a red panda named Genghis for her birthday. Genghis isn't a toy. He's a live red panda at the Milwaukee County Zoo. And Erika doesn't own him. She sponsors him. For her birthday gift, she asked friends to help her sponsor Genghis. Erika chose him because he looks "cuddly and exotic" (even though she knows he's a wild animal and she can't touch him). He has red fur, white eyebrows and a raccoon-like brown stripe that curves from his eyes to under his chin. Erika, who lives in Brookfield, visits him often at the Zoo. She feels like she's really making a difference and playing a role in his care.

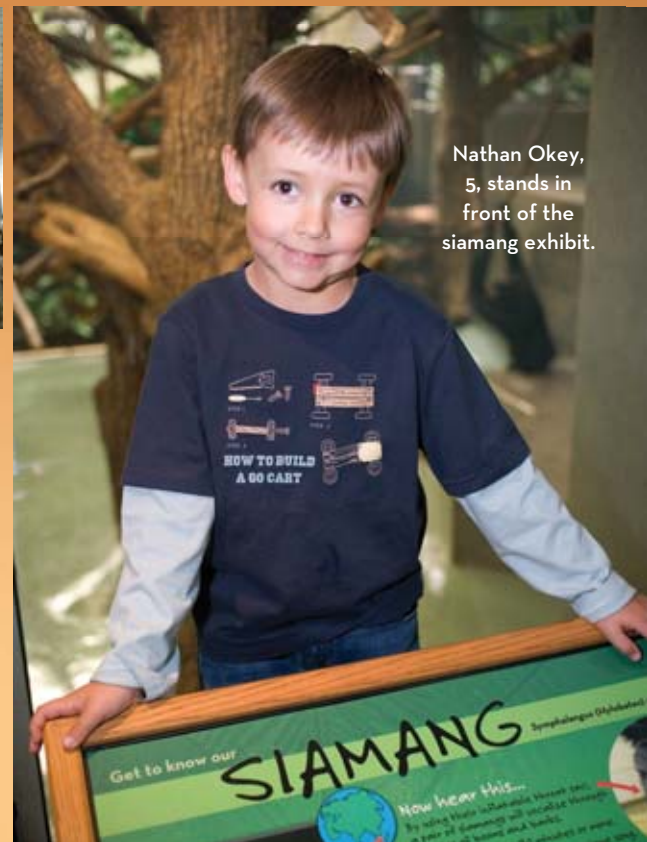
It's easy to sponsor an animal as a birthday gift. Just call Becky at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Sponsor an Animal program (414) 258-2333. For her 11th birthday, Erika again asked friends to sponsor Genghis for her birthday. With help from her mom, Christina, she sent out flyers telling friends how to send donations directly to the ZSM. That way, the ZSM can invite all the donors to Animal Safari. That's a special behind-the-scenes event every August. "A lot of the other parents thought that Erika's sponsorship of Genghis was the greatest idea because it wasn't just another Barbie," says Christina Schlagenhauf. She thinks people were more generous because they were excited to donate to a good cause.

When Nathan Okey, of Hartland, turned 5 years old, he also asked people to donate money to the ZSM instead of buying him birthday presents. Nathan always has a lot of fun visiting the Zoo. So he wanted to do something nice to help the animals. Nathan's only request was that he wanted to sponsor a boy animal...not a girl animal. He chose a male siamang (ape) named Sammy. Now, when Nathan comes to the Zoo, the first thing he does is visit Sammy. Nathan always says, "Hi, Sammy. How are you today?"

Erika's mom says sponsoring an animal is like "having a pet...a really cool exotic pet...that you don't have to clean up after." The ZSM's Sponsor an Animal program gives kids the chance to help support a Zoo animal for a year. Lots of animals are available for sponsorship in every part of the Zoo. There's Buddy, the playful North American river otter, and Roberto, the slithering red spitting cobra. When you sponsor an animal, your name will go on a donor board for a year in the Peck Welcome Center at the Zoo. You also will receive a certificate of sponsorship for your animal. For information on how you can sponsor an animal, please visit www.zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal/.



Siamangs at the Zoo.



Nathan Okey, 5, stands in front of the siamang exhibit.

By Brianne Schwantes

Make HALLOWEEN WILD



Wolves don't howl just at the moon. Howling can reveal their location, call a group together, or mark the group's territory.



Halloween animals seem spooky, right? Think of bats, wolves and spiders. But most of these animals aren't scary at all! For example, many people are afraid of being bitten by bats. They should worry more about being bitten by mosquitoes. The truth is that most bats are not dangerous. They are really helpful. Bats eat millions of insects each year – especially mosquitoes. Spiders are another animal that get a bad rap on Halloween. But spiders are good to have around your home. They eat all kinds of pesky bugs like flies and centipedes. Wolves howl to talk with each other, but the haunting call of the peacock may be spookier. Make your Halloween wild by doing the fun activities on these pages. Then come to the Milwaukee County Zoo to learn more about favorite Halloween animals such as bats, wolves, and spiders. And listen for the call of the peacocks. Go to www.zoosociety.org/kidsstuff for more kids' Halloween fun.

SPOOKY Crossword

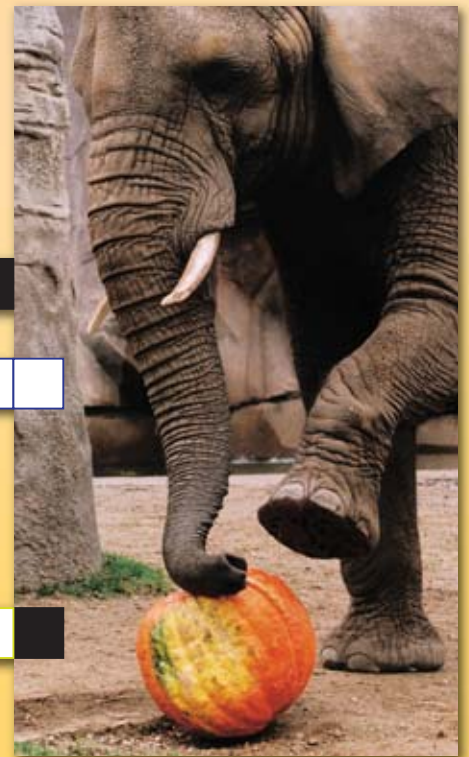
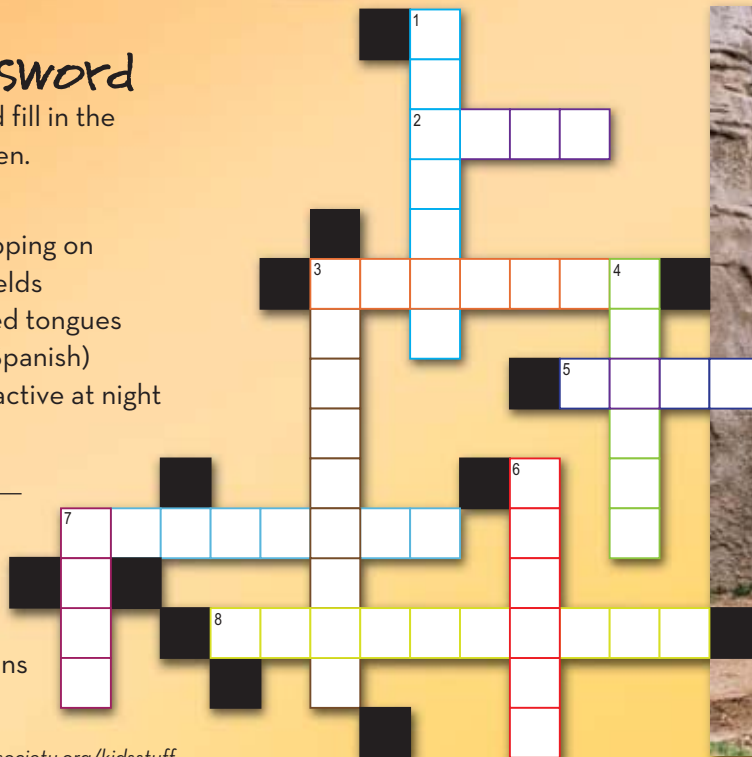
Answer the clues below and fill in the words that go with Halloween.

Down

1. What the elephant is stepping on
3. We frighten birds from fields
4. We have scales and forked tongues
6. Day of the _____ (Spanish)
7. Flying mammals that are active at night

Across

2. Howling at the _____
3. We spin webs
5. Spanish for "cat"
7. Don't let this feline cross your path
8. A ghostly machine that runs on rails at Halloween



For crossword answers, visit www.zoosociety.org/kidsstuff

Peacock Mask for Halloween

Did you know that only male peacocks have large and colorful tail feathers? The females are called peahens, and they have dark and short feathers. All the male tail feathers have spots that look like eyes (see peacock picture). With a parent's help, make this mask and dress as a colorful peacock for Halloween!

What you need:

6 ribbons (½ inch by 2 feet) in neon green and blues
2 pieces of green ribbon, each 2 feet long and ½ inch wide
Light blue and dark blue marking pens or colored pencils
One sheet each (8½ by 11 inches) of blue, green, orange construction paper
6 crepe-paper streamers (about 2 inches wide by 2 feet long), 2 blue, 2 green, 2 purple
Glue stick, Scissors, Pencil, Stapler

What to do:

- 1. STENCILS:** With a parent's permission, go to www.zoosociety.org/kidsstuff and print out the peacock mask stencil plus beak, feathers, and eyespot stencils. Use scissors to cut out all stencils along the bold lines.
- 2. MASK:** Place mask stencil on blue construction paper; trace it with a pencil and then cut out mask with scissors.
- 3. EYES:** Draw circles on your mask. Poke scissors through center of each circle and cut around lines.
- 4. BEAK:** Place beak stencil on orange paper; trace it with a pencil and then cut out beak.
- 5. FEATHERS:** Use stencils to draw several small and large "feathers" on green paper; cut them out. Glue them in different places on mask (see finished mask, below, for ideas).
- 6. EYESPOTS:** Use stencil to draw several eyespots on orange paper. With marking pens or colored pencils, color in light blue and dark blue circles inside orange eyespots. Cut out each eyespot. (see photo of peacock's eyespots).
- 7. TIES:** Staple one 2-foot green ribbon to each X spot on the mask. Use these ribbons to tie the mask onto your face.
- 8. TAIL FEATHERS:** At top of peacock mask, glue one end of each streamer and 6 remaining ribbons. Glue eyespots onto tops of streamers. Let glue dry. When you wear your mask, streamers and ribbons will trail behind you just like a real peacock's tail feathers (see photos above).



stock photo

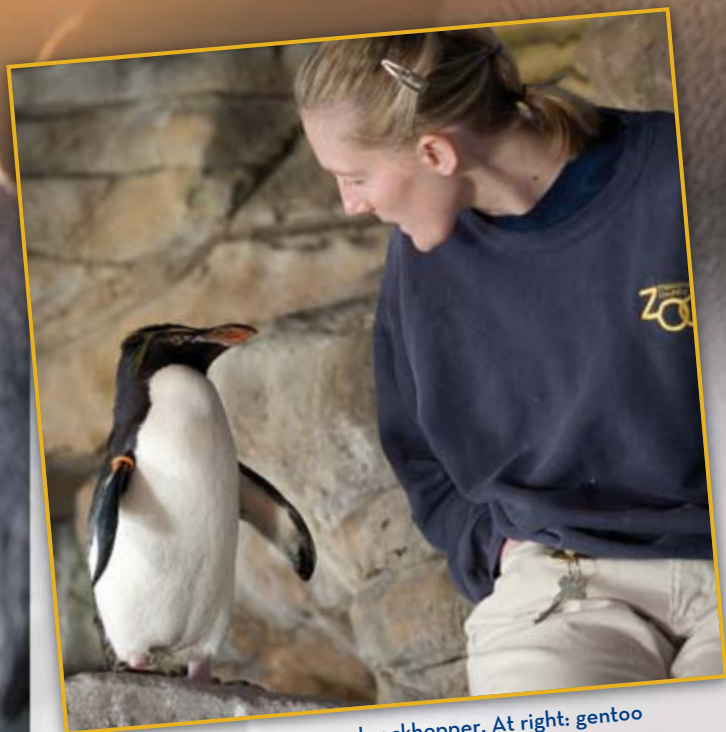
Animal Unscramble

The letters in **color** are scrambled. Unscramble them to find the name of an animal connected with Halloween.

1. There are about 40,000 known species of **EIRDSPS**. Seem like a lot? That may be only one-third of the **EIRDSPS** living on the planet!
2. The Goliath bird-eating **UNAATRTAL** is the world's largest species of spider. Each of its eight legs is 8 inches long!
3. **PRAVIME** bats at the Zoo drink about six tablespoons of blood each day, or three gallons a year.



SHE KNOWS HER PENGUINS



Caty Poggenburg and rockhopper. At right: gentoo



Caty also had to make sure that the gentoos would “play nice” with their new roommates. They share an exhibit with six new and eight resident rockhopper penguins. Would they fight, she wondered? For a few days she watched them very closely to make sure they didn’t. “The older rockhopper penguins liked to hang out in certain areas of their exhibit,” Caty says. “I was worried that the new gentoos and rockhoppers would try to steal their spots.” But the penguins “played nice” together right away – except for one gentoo.

“I noticed that there was one little guy who was smaller than the others. He seemed kind of shy. He wouldn’t come up and eat when all the others did. But now I realize he’s not shy but is actually a little troublemaker! At dinnertime, he will run over and grab some food and then run toward the rest of the penguins when they aren’t looking and push them all in the pool. Since he does this every time, you would think the other penguins would pay attention and watch out for him. But they don’t and he gets them every time!”

Caty enjoys all of the penguins, even if they are naughty. From childhood on, Caty has always liked trying to figure out why animals act a certain way. So she studied biology and animal behavior and graduated from the University of Minnesota.

When Caty Poggenburg looks at the penguins at the Milwaukee County Zoo, she doesn’t just see some noisy black and white birds. She sees a bunch of playful characters, each with its own cute little quirks. Caty knows them all really well. She can tell you that Bart is shy and Sammy is outgoing. Duncan squawks all the time and Maggie really likes silverside fish.

Caty knows these penguins because she has been a zookeeper in the Milwaukee County Zoo’s aviary since 2005. Caty takes care of all kinds of birds, including gentoo penguins, rockhopper penguins, flamingos, and even whooping cranes.

Last April six new gentoo penguins came to the Zoo. (See story on page 22.) Caty started to get to know them right away. “When I first met the new penguins, they were nervous. They didn’t want to eat any of the food I brought or come near me. So I just sat in their exhibit and let them get used to me. The next day a few of the new penguins were brave and came up to eat. By the third day everyone was used to me and their new home, and they were eating great.”

Today, Caty knows how to teach the Zoo’s penguins simple actions. She trains them to step on a scale to be weighed or hold still so she can trim their nails. “It’s really neat to see an animal learning,” she says. “I think my job is rewarding when the animals are finally able to do the behavior I’m training them for.” This fall and winter, stop by the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary and say hi to Caty’s penguin pals.

By Brianne Schwantes

GREENING THE ZOO

Outside, it's a chilly February morning, but in the Zoo's three greenhouses, it's summer. Flowers are blooming, seedlings are sprouting and a warm, tropical mist lingers in the air. For the appropriately named Tricia Summers, the Milwaukee County Zoo's greenhouse manager, it's always gardening season, even when all is bare and frozen on the Zoo's park-like grounds.

The greenhouses are home to more than 35,000 annuals, 1,000 perennials and hundreds of other plants for the 209-acre Zoo. Although the park blossoms with colorful flowers in spring, work in the greenhouses goes on year-round. The Zoo's garden scheme, for example, is planned a year or more in advance, says Summers. In August, she was starting plants for the following summer's flowerbeds. In February, she was potting flowers to be planted in spring. Plus, the greenhouses are home to plants used in animal exhibits and as decorations all year long.

"Without the greenhouses, we wouldn't be able to do it all," Summers says. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) donated a greenhouse to the Zoo in 1998. A third greenhouse was built in 2005 to create more space for tending plants. (The greenhouses, located on the south end of the Zoo, are off-limits to visitors except at special events like the Zoo's Behind the Scenes Weekend.)

The greenhouses are full of lovely vegetation, but not all plants grown here are purely decorative. Some plants act as food or enrichment treats for the animals, says Summers, who has a degree in botany from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Vianna, the aviary's rhinoceros hornbill, for instance, gets a weekly supply of coleus, bamboo or spider plants. "She feels better if she can shred or pick apart a plant," Summers explains. The whooping cranes, Torch and Tiki, destroyed grass in their outdoor enclosure until they were given coleus (bright annual plants) to play with. For Genghis the red panda, Summers grows bamboo that's a daily part of his diet.

Other plants create a more natural-looking environment in animal exhibits. "We want plants in exhibits to look more like

habitats in the wild," says Ann Hackbarth, one of the Zoo's two horticulturists (the other is Noah Huber). Huge ficus trees and fishtail palms are placed in the Apes of Africa's gorilla enclosure to give it a rain-forest look. Bromeliads and liriopie (green foliage) go in

the aviary's Jewel Box exhibit to create an atmosphere similar to the Central American habitats of resident birds such as honeycreepers and crimson-backed tanagers. It's natural for animals to dig, eat or destroy plants; so when greenery starts showing wear and tear, it goes back to the greenhouses for recycling. Creating new plants out of cuttings (tips of old plants) is a big part of Summers' job. Nearly every plant at the Zoo is reused in this way, which saves a lot of money on seeds and shipping.

Decorative plants perk up nearly all special events and exhibits in the park. Summers grows rosemary to make holiday arrangements for the Zoo's meals with Santa in December. Leafy ferns and kapok trees with stubby spikes created a prehistoric look in the Zoo's special summer exhibit on dinosaurs a few years ago. Bright-orange coleus grown for the ZSM's Zoo Ball 2009 reflected the black-tie fund-raiser's Brazilian carnival theme. And visitors are drawn to the park's elaborate 3-D animal topiaries and large flowerbeds with plants arranged to look like polar bears or other animals. "The greenhouses allow us to keep the Zoo beautiful and interesting," says Summers. A beautiful park inspires zoogoers to come back time and again.

By Julia Kolker



Tricia Summers tends to the cuttings of maple sugar hibiscus plants.

Greenhouse manager Tricia Summers prunes a tower of Baltic ivy.



GO ON A TOUR OF THE ZOO'S GREENHOUSES, FLOWERS AND TOPIARIES IN AN ONLINE SLIDESHOW: WWW.ZOOSOCIETY.ORG/ZOOFLOWERS.

Summers works in a greenhouse. Pink- and yellow-flowered Kalanchoe plants are in the foreground.



In the 1950s world of little boys playing cowboys and Indians, wholesome life on the farm, dogs that followed you to the school bus, Cub Scouts and the 4-H Club, an Illinois farm boy named Chuck grew up loving animals. He collected rabbits and raccoons, cared for Hereford cows and raised Suffolk sheep, and had his own black Shetland pony named Cricket. "I did the old cowboy thing and put my hands on her butt and jumped on. Of course, she was little."



It's fun to get nose to nose with giraffes on the Zoo's giraffe-feeding deck, open only in warm weather.

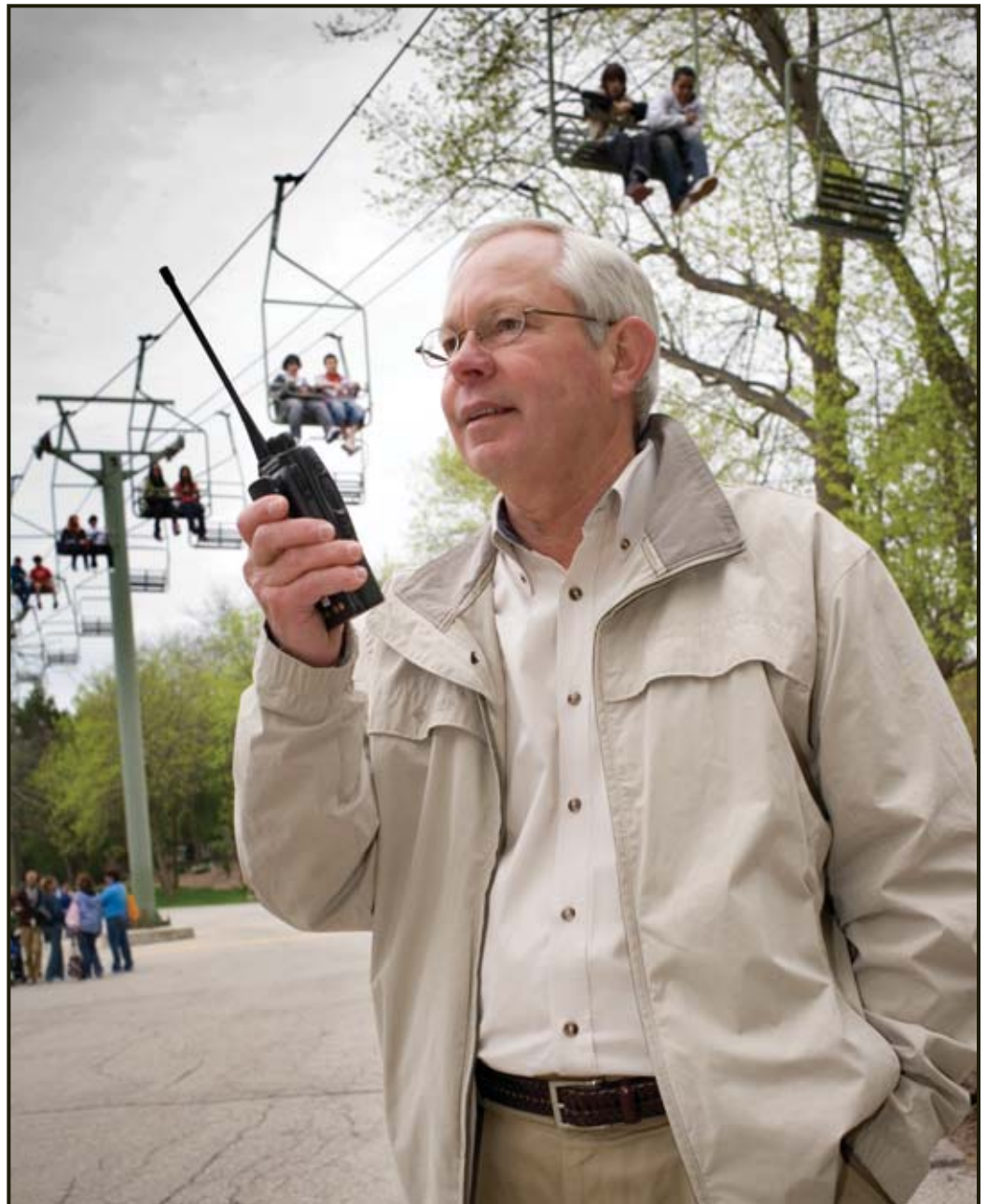
It was the idea of Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser to build the Sky Safari, sponsored by Kalahari Waterpark Resort, at the Zoo (below). "I saw sky safaris at other zoos and thought it would be a great addition to ours."

Who's Running the Zoo?

That bit of nostalgia from the adult Chuck makes it easy to understand why Chuck Wikenhauser loves his job as director of the Milwaukee County Zoo. He's back on the farm. The Zoo has its own working dairy farm plus horses, rabbits, raccoons, ponies and 2,300-plus animals from African apes to Central American jaguars. It gets better. There are also rides, animal shows, musical presentations, special holiday events and more. "My grandkids think I own the Zoo," says Wikenhauser. "I have a merry-go-round and I have a train." What could be better?

Ah, yes, if only he didn't face those nagging problems: half-foot-high piles of budgets on his desk, hours and hours at the computer, not enough time to actually be around the animals, a staff of 130 to manage (which balloons to 470 in summer), government bureaucracy and a board of politicians to answer to (the Zoo is run by Milwaukee County), and continual crises – from animals that get sick to the periodic confused zoogoer who claims his car was stolen. ("We've never had a car stolen from the Zoo," says Wikenhauser. "We always guide them one parking lot to the left, and they find the car.")

Animal crises can take up time. When Zero the polar bear fell into a net in his moat in 2008 and refused to come out, it made international news. "We had helicopters flying overhead



and reporters calling constantly.” It wasn’t Zero’s fault he slipped (some swear the female polar bear nudged him), and Wikenhauser has a fondness for the bear. “Zero and I have the same length of service at the Zoo. I was appointed in October 1989, although I didn’t start work till January 1990. Zero was born in December 1989. So we’ve both been here about 20 years.”

In those two decades, he has seen dramatic changes. “We’ve spent \$75 million improving the Zoo.” That includes projects built through two capital campaigns – from ape and feline facilities to a new hospital and new education building – plus other projects along the way. (See page 18 story.) Always planning for new projects, such as expanding the hippo exhibit and remodeling the Humboldt penguin exhibit this year, adds to the challenge.

Despite the volume of work, the Zoo is a rewarding place to work, he says. “One of the things that makes it easy to be here is the community. People in the Milwaukee area love the Zoo. They always say to me, ‘We’re in the top 10, aren’t we?’ even though there is no list like that. We have more than 500 active volunteers, too, through the Zoological Society’s Zoo Pride auxiliary. Also, it’s beautiful here – in summer and winter.”

He notes that the zoological gardens truly are gardens, with flower displays, animals designed in flowers, topiaries, butterfly gardens, plants grown to enhance exhibits, three greenhouses and more (see story on page 15).

Then there are the animal births. It’s exciting to get a call, as he did last April, about the birth of a Guam kingfisher chick. These are some of the most endangered birds in the world, and our Zoo has had success with breeding kingfishers and raising the chicks (see page 23). Wikenhauser visited the chick on May 15 and congratulated aviary zookeeper Bryan Kwiatkowski on helping raise the bird (see photo on page 18).

The staff are a big part of the Zoo’s success, Wikenhauser adds. “I was in the Aquatic & Reptile Center, giving someone a tour, and I wanted them to understand how passionate our staff are.” We ran into zookeeper Chad Pappas, who, as a special project, raises baby ornate box turtles at the Zoo for Wisconsin’s Department of Natural Resources. When these endangered turtles are big enough to survive on their own, Pappas and the DNR release them back into the wild. Pappas started describing the project to the visitor, and his enthusiasm was bubbling over. The visitor was impressed. (For more information on the box-turtle “Head Start” project, go to www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/Projects.php).

Many Zoo staff participate in field conservation projects, from saving frogs and iguanas to studying penguins and whooping crane exam techniques. Even in their daily jobs, their dedication shows, Wikenhauser says. Take Carol Kagy, area supervisor for the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary. She helps care for the Humboldt penguins, the first animal exhibit zoogoers encounter.

“She’s out there day after day answering the same questions, and she never loses her enthusiasm.”

There are many ways to measure success, Wikenhauser adds. The Zoo regularly gets 1.3 million visitors a year, which for years has made it the largest single-venue attraction in Wisconsin. Sometimes it’s just one visitor who sticks in your memory, however. “In summer 2007 a 10-year-old boy who was at the Zoo with his mom and grandmother stopped me to ask where to find a particular animal. It was obvious he had an attention-deficit problem because



Wikenhauser has attended every Zoo Ball since 1990. Here he and his wife, Trish, pretend to hitch a ride on a bus to Belize for Zoo Ball 2005, themed Runaway to Belize. Above: Guess which horse is the Zoo director’s favorite?

he couldn’t focus a lot. He had a list of all the animals he wanted to see. He was so eager. I gave him directions, but I also gave him a Zoo hat. In summer 2008 the family came back and the boy was still wearing the hat I gave him. And he had another list of animals to visit. That summer I gave him a couple of peacock feathers. I hope I see him again.”

Another measure of success is respect from your colleagues. When Milwaukee was chosen to host the 2008 convention of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), there was some skepticism, Wikenhauser notes. “They were pleasantly surprised with the city, the convention center and the Zoo.” Almost 1,800 attendees visited the Zoo. “They were surprised at the size and beauty of the grounds and that we had these great woods. They were envious of our Animal

Health Center and that we had it built and up and running within 14 months (it opened in 2003). They were impressed with the eight-classroom school (opened in 2004). They liked how close you could get to the animals in our new giraffe and feline facilities.”

A few months before the convention, the Zoo had passed its inspection (done every five years) to earn accreditation from AZA. Winning both the accreditation and praise from colleagues, he says, made for “a very proud time here.”

A Tour for Kids

Why is the Zoo so important to children? “It’s their introduction to live animals,” says Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser. “This is a secure, comfortable and nourishing place that they get familiar with. They get hooked on animals. As they get older, you teach them respect for animals, and eventually they develop a conservation ethic.” Children as young as age 2 can take the Zoological Society’s education classes and summer camps. “You can tell by their popularity that the classes are good,” he adds. “The children keep wanting to come back.”

So what are his favorite spots for kids at the Zoo? To view and print out the Zoo director’s tour of the Zoo, go to www.zoosociety.org/kidszootour. For more information about Zoological Society classes, for individuals as well as school groups, go to www.zoosociety.org/education.



Right: Zookeeper Bryan Kwiatkowski shows Wikenhauser a 25-day-old Guam kingfisher chick on May 15. The birth of this highly endangered bird brings hope to conservationists who want to bring back this bird that is extinct in the wild and preserved mainly in zoos.

Below: "I have apples, but they're not for the giraffes," Maeson Wilda, 4 (right), tells the Zoo director on the giraffe deck last May. "They're my snack."



For more photos of the Zoo director, go to www.zoosociety.org/zoodirector.

So what does it take to be a zoo director? "Patience," says Wikenhauser, "especially when you're dealing with the government." For example, it took several years of go-rounds with fluctuating federal government regulations to get Viaje the bonobo to Milwaukee from a private zoo in Mexico. Last May Wikenhauser was faced with a directive from Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker to cut back staff hours by five hours a week for the rest of 2009, basically a 12% pay cut. "Chuck looked very sad when he had to announce that to the staff," notes Alex Waier, the Zoo's bird curator. In June, implementation of the directive was postponed indefinitely. Says Wikenhauser: "We worked out a savings plan that achieved the needed financial goals while not compromising animal care, the visitor experience, contractual obligations or revenue production." Still, the proposed cut caused a lot of trauma, especially since many staff put in hours on their own time to help ill animals.

Wikenhauser says he is very thankful that the Zoological Society has provided thousands of dollars over the years to allow Zoo staff many opportunities for professional development such as participating in conservation projects and attending conferences. That's part of what makes the public-private partnership between Milwaukee County and the private, non-profit Zoological Society of Milwaukee so successful, he adds. "We truly have the same goals: to make the best Zoo that we can, to support conservation and to educate people. We have the best education programming out there as far as cultural institutions in Milwaukee."

It doesn't take much to see that Chuck Wikenhauser likes his job. From graduating with a BS in zoology (University of Illinois – Champaign-Urbana campus), to starting out as a zookeeper, to being director at three smaller zoos, to managing our Zoo, to leading about 15 safaris, he has pursued his dream of working with animals. It's a world of life and death, with sorrow amid the joys. The death of Lucy the elephant in 2006 is a poignant memory. Lucy had lived at the Zoo for about 40 years. When she became ill, she lay down and couldn't get up. To survive, she needed to get up and move. "It was a heroic effort by everyone," recalls Wikenhauser. "We lifted her up twice, once with a crane. I was even helping pull on the ropes. The third and final time, we made the decision to let her go. It was very sad.

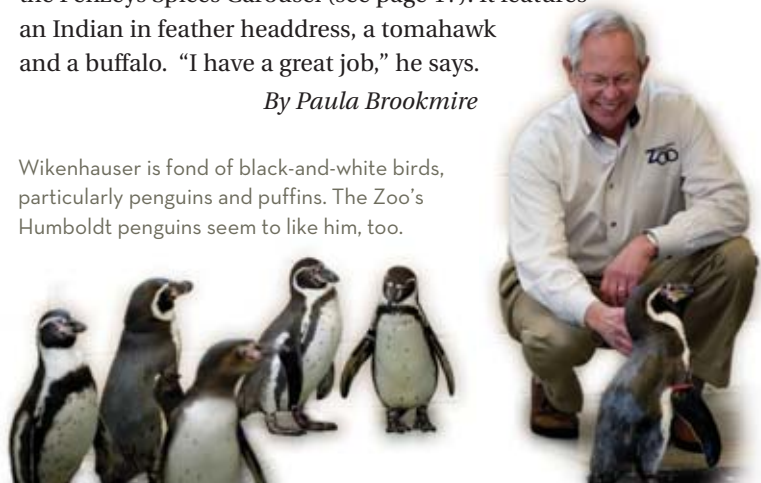
We never get used to losing an animal."

But, then, Chuck learned that as a boy. When his elderly dog Ted, the one that used to follow him to the school bus, got cancer, Chuck helped make the decision to euthanize him and put him out of his suffering. Today, when seriously ill Zoo animals are obviously in pain, he still helps make that decision – along with veterinary staff, curators, and zookeepers. "I sign every euthanasia form," he notes. He does so, he says, knowing that his staff are excellent at caring for aging and ill animals, and that they've done everything they could to help the animal.

Accepting the cycle of birth and death is part of farm life and of zoo life. There will always be new animals born and new children to enjoy the animals. "Part of our mission statement says the Zoo will be a place of personal renewal and enjoyment," notes the Zoo director. The farm boy Chuck Wikenhauser, who still likes the world of cowboys and Indians, points out his favorite horse on the Penzeys Spices Carousel (see page 17). It features an Indian in feather headdress, a tomahawk and a buffalo. "I have a great job," he says.

By Paula Brookmire

Wikenhauser is fond of black-and-white birds, particularly penguins and puffins. The Zoo's Humboldt penguins seem to like him, too.



Always Something New

The Zoo keeps changing. Improvements during the last two decades or so were accomplished through two capital campaigns as well as special projects. The first \$26 million campaign included:

- the Peck Welcome Center, 1988
- the new Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary, 1991
- Apes of Africa, 1992
- a remodeled Primates of the World building, 1993
- the new Aquatic & Reptile Center, 1995
- the Wong Family Pheasantry, 1998

The second capital campaign, completed in 2008, changed more than 25% of the Zoo through these nine projects:

- the U.S. Bank Gathering Place, 2008
- MillerCoors Giraffe Experience, 2006
- Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country, 2005
- Northwestern Mutual Family Farm, 2005
- Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center, 2004
- new Animal Health Center, 2003
- remodeled Macaque Island, 2002
- new Lakeview Place Restaurant, 2002
- Holz Family Impala Country, 2001

Special projects included:

- Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building
- Temple Monkeys of Tikal spider monkey exhibit indoors and out
- Idabel Wilmot Borchert Flamingo Exhibit and Overlook
- several new decks, including the Derse Foundation migratory bird deck, warthog deck, and Koala Walkabout deck
- renovation of every restroom plus new restrooms
- a remodeled Dall sheep exhibit
- a sky glider ride
- a train station and a covered carousel
- Dohmen Family Foundation Hippo Home



MAP: PINK RECTANGLE IS 2009 STUDY SITE.

WEB: zoosociety.org/2009springtrip

Below right: Students take notes during a training session at base camp before practicing their new skills in the field.



Dr. Gay Reinartz teaches students about random data sampling, using the ground as a "blackboard."

Photos provided by Dr. Gay Reinartz

April 27, 2009: Report from the field (Congo) by Dr. Gay Reinartz:

We are back after six days of covering a long distance (four transect planes) – walking and hacking through the forest for at least 10 hours per day. I have never seen so much swamp and liana in my life! We are intact but dirty and skinnier... I have had enough dried fish and rice to last me a lifetime. Our team did bump into a bonobo hot spot where we counted about 34 nests on one transect, but they were about as far away as one could get from major hunting activities. We encountered four hunters in six days, all carrying quivers of poison arrows en route to their camps.

Bonobos, those rare great apes that are so close genetically to humans, still face threats from human hunting and habitat infringement. Yet these endangered creatures that live only in the Democratic Republic of Congo have a new group of supporters in their homeland, thanks to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM).

Dr. Gay Reinartz, the ZSM's conservation coordinator and director of the ZSM's Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative,* returned from her latest trip to the Congo last May. Usually the staff works in the Salonga National Park at the ZSM research station, Etate. On this trip Dr. Reinartz and the ZSM team traveled to an area about 350 kilometers northeast of Etate to collaborate with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) to survey an area between the Maringa and Lomako Rivers in the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba management area (green area on map). "AWF invited us to the forests where they work, to train 20 people in how to monitor bonobo populations and participate in bonobo surveys," says Dr. Reinartz. The work was funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fund for Great Apes, and the ZSM and AWF provided matching funds. "AWF is doing large-scale land inventories to create a land-use management plan that – we hope – will include bonobo conservation. Our role was to determine whether bonobos are present, where they live, and their status. This area is not a protected area like the Salonga. It is community-owned forest that local communities designate as a hunting reserve – where hunting



is legal, but not for protected species like the bonobo or elephant. It gives us an opportunity to compare bonobo populations in the Salonga to those outside of protected areas."

The amount of hunting in the study site surprised them all. They found evidence of bonobos, in some cases large nest groups – but most of it was distant from human settlements. "In some areas in Congo where bonobos are not hunted, bonobos coexist closely with humans, but this was not the case in much of this area," says Dr. Reinartz. "We have to complete our data analyses before a full picture emerges about the bonobos' distribution. However, traditional taboos against hunting bonobos are breaking down throughout the country."

The community-owned forest is about 1,900 square kilometers (pink area within green section on map). The trainees – 18 men and two women – were representatives from local communities that owned the forest and who were selected by their leaders. "This training was a huge deal to these people," says Dr. Reinartz. "The trainees ranged in capacity from professional hunters to college-educated teachers." In their 2½ months of training in March, April and May, they learned how to identify bonobo nests and food remains, how to use a compass and a Global Positioning System, and how to collect scientific data. "Our goal was to train two survey teams that would be able to work independently, and the trainees exceeded our expectations." They became so accomplished that they finished a portion of the survey in August after the ZSM team left. "It's been one of my most rewarding undertakings," she says. Each trainee earned a certificate of accomplishment at the end of training.

*For a more detailed report on this project, plus photos and more "Notes From the Field," go to www.zoosociety.org/2009springtrip.

New Generation of Vets

new generation

Cassie the cow had a swollen foot. Lauren, a Diana monkey, had a toothache. And Rahna the giraffe had a pimple on her nose. Enter Dr. Dominique Keller. It was her first month on the job as a veterinary resident at the Milwaukee County Zoo, and this was her "patient" list. The animals got proper testing and treatment. Dr. Keller got a chance to adapt her skills to the incredible variety of species at the Zoo.

Funded in part by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (with \$23,670 in 2007-'08), the Zoo's three-year residency attracts young veterinarians who want to specialize in zoological medicine. This post-graduate program, offered in partnership with the



Left: Dr. Gretchen Cole, who completed her three-year vet residency at the Zoo last summer, lifted an anesthetized lemur to take an X-ray. Right: Dr. Cole views a radiograph of the lemur.



University of Wisconsin-Madison and the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wis., lets residents spend three to four months at the Zoo each year and focus on coursework, exotic pet medicine and research the rest of the year (see page 2).

Why do a residency at the Zoo? "I like the diversity," says Dr. Keller, who earned a veterinary degree from Texas A&M University in 2007 and began the residency July 2008. (She also

has a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology.) "Every day,

we see five to six animals." For Dr. Gretchen Cole, who completed the program last July, a typical day at the Zoo included anesthetizing animals as different as a lemur and a Nicobar pigeon (see photos above). The lemur was tested for several ailments (it had inflammatory bowel disease and kidney disease, which were treated successfully with medication); the bird underwent a checkup before transferring to a different zoo. A bird functions very differently from a primate, says Dr. Cole; so vet residents must learn the physiology of many animals.

Zoo veterinary residents face a very steep learning curve because there are few known techniques to diagnose and treat exotic species, says Dr. Keller. For example, Dr. Cole once performed a joint tap on a yellow-footed tortoise called Baskin Robbins, who had a lesion on his shoulder. This means she used a needle to draw fluid from the tortoise's shoulder and then analyzed the fluid for clues to his condition. "I didn't know you could do that on a tortoise," says Cole. It turned out that the ball of the tortoise's shoulder joint had broken off, which caused pain when he moved. In February 2008, Baskin Robbins had surgery

Veterinary resident Dr. Dominique Keller (right) examined a goat last December at the Milwaukee County Zoo with the help of farm attendant Patti Sadowski.



at the UW-Madison veterinary school and can now move without pain. Another first-time task for Dr. Cole was doing a neo-natal exam on a baby Baird's tapir called Chac.

Treating large animals such as tapirs takes a lot of planning and people. "One of the biggest points I learned here is how the veterinary team works within the Zoo and coordinates with outside professionals," says Dr. Cole. Last summer, she helped conduct a reproductive checkup on the Zoo's female black rhino, Mimi. Months beforehand, Zoo staff worked to schedule a reproductive specialist from Ohio to fly in for the exam. The vet team also wanted to check Mimi's teeth while she was under anesthesia; so they made sure Dr. John Scheels, a Wauwatosa dentist who for years has volunteered regularly to work on Zoo animals, was available. Other people needed for the procedure were Zoo veterinarians, anesthesiologists from UW-Madison veterinary school, veterinary technicians, zookeepers and Zoo curators.

Together, the team created a plan that would cause the rhino the least amount of stress. For example, the veterinarians stored their gear in the rhino barn the night before the procedure so they wouldn't make a lot of noise in the morning. Strange noises can agitate these animals, says Dr. Cole. Every member of the team had an assigned role, and Dr. Cole's was to induce and control anesthesia. "The principles of anesthesia are the same for all mammals, but the logistics of managing a 2,500-pound rhino are different from a 200-gram bat," she says.

Residents work closely with the Zoo's two veterinarians, Dr. Roberta Wallace and Dr. Vickie Clyde throughout their time at the Zoo. Learning from these professionals is a big benefit of the program, says Dr. Keller. "There's nothing like doing an anesthesia procedure with someone who's done it many times before." The veterinarians learn from the residents, too. Says Dr. Clyde: "Through the residency program, the Zoo gets to work with some of the most outstanding young veterinarians who bring new ideas and techniques." Dr. Wallace notes that the program also lets the Zoo maintain a close relationship with colleagues at the UW-Madison veterinary school and the International Crane Foundation.

These relationships can help uncover new ways to treat animals. Last winter, the Zoo's aging African black-footed cat, Kalahari, developed chronic renal failure (this means her kidneys were no longer working properly). As a consequence, the 16-year-old cat also became anemic, meaning her red blood cell count was too low. This made her weak and lethargic. Dr. Keller and Zoo veterinarians consulted with experts at UW-Madison, who suggested using a new hormone-replacement medication called Darbepoetin. This medication had probably never before been used in a black-footed cat, says Dr. Keller, but the treatment improved Kalahari's anemia, which made her feel better. She was doing well for her age at press time.

The black-footed cat was one of about 80 animals Dr. Keller treated during her first three months at the Zoo. Both she and Dr. Cole hope this program will give them a boost in the competitive zoo-veterinarian field. (The Zoo's veterinary resident program is one of only 17 such accredited zoological medicine training programs in North America, and there are fewer than 150 zoo veterinarian positions in the U.S.) Dr. Keller once studied tree kangaroos in Australia and wants to combine her research and medical interests. Dr. Cole, who earned her veterinary degree from Kansas State University, has studied wildlife management in Kenya and anesthetized wildlife for medical exams in South Africa. Doing a veterinary residency at the Zoo is

a privilege thanks to the talented professionals and great facilities, both women say. This program will help them join the next generation of veterinarians who could save animals – in zoos and in the wild.

By Julia Kolker

+ Care for a Wolf

The reign of Nijiji the timber wolf had ended. For years, Nijiji had been the leader of the Milwaukee County Zoo's five-member wolf pack. One night last March, however, 10-year-old Nijiji was attacked and severely bitten by the other wolves. This is a natural behavior for wolves in the wild, says Peggy Callahan of the Wildlife Science Center in Minnesota, where the Zoo's wolves (all siblings) were born. Nearly 60 percent of all wolves are killed by their pack, she estimates. "This is how they handle illness and age."



Nijiji was brought to the Zoo's Animal Health Center with wounds to his neck and chest, liver

Above: Zoogoers almost never get to see the empathy and care that Zoo staff provide ill animals. In this rare photo, a seriously injured Nijiji the wolf is comforted by Celi Jeske (left), supervisor of the Animal Health Center, and wolf-team zookeeper Laurie Talakowski, who worked with Nijiji for 10 years.

damage and a broken rib. In the following days, Nijiji underwent several radiographs, anesthesia for medical exams, wound care and frequent bandage changes. The Zoo's extensive wolf training and socialization program was invaluable for Nijiji's follow-up care, says Dr. Vickie Clyde, one of the Zoo's veterinarians. Zookeepers rarely touch wild animals unless they're checking for health problems. For 10 years, however, since the wolves were cubs, a group of zookeepers called the wolf team has been training the animals to accept medical treatment and interact with humans when necessary. Thanks to this training, wolf team keepers such as Laurie Talakowski (see photo) could safely go into Nijiji's hospital enclosure to give him medication, and the veterinary staff could give him fluids and antibiotics through an IV. Without socialization, "very few animals would allow us to do all this intravenous treatment," adds Dr. Clyde. During the two weeks Nijiji was in the hospital, the treatments were working; and his wounds were healing and he started eating again. Then, unexpectedly, he suffered a heart attack and died on March 17.

His death was hard to handle for the wolf team and veterinarians. Nijiji's case was one of the more intensive the Animal Health Center has ever handled, says Dr. Clyde. The level of care Nijiji received is a testament to the devotion and skill of the Zoo's staff.



Sea Horses

Long-snouted sea horses arrived: September 4, 2008

Northern sea horses arrived: March 19, 2009

Australia Building

In the animal kingdom, females always give birth to the babies, right? Wrong! Sea horses, sea dragons, and pipefish are the only fishes in which the males become pregnant, not the females. However, the Milwaukee County Zoo's long-snouted sea horses (*Hippocampus reidi*) and northern, or lined, sea horses (*Hippocampus erectus*) won't be giving birth anytime soon because the Zoo doesn't plan to breed them. You can visit the sea horses in their aquarium in the Australia Building. There are also two long-snouted sea horses off exhibit at the Aquatic & Reptile Center. If you look carefully at sea horses, you can tell the difference between males and females because the males have a special pouch on their stomach below the chest area. This pouch is used to incubate their young. When it is time to reproduce, the female sea horse deposits her eggs into the pouch, where they are fertilized by the male sea horse. The male sea horse is pregnant for three weeks before giving birth to a litter of up to 200 tiny baby sea horses, called "fry." Pictured (left) is a long-snouted sea horse in the Australia Building. This jet black and pink-speckled female spends most of her time clinging to sea grass with her prehensile tail.



Gentoo Penguins

Arrived: April 14, 2009

Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary

The Zoo's six new gentoo penguins love the water. They are in and out of their pool all day long. After they finish swimming, they will burst up out of the water and land on their feet on the rockwork. "The new gentoos are very social and curious," says Caty Poggenburg, a zookeeper in the aviary. "They always want to play with the hose when I am washing down the exhibit. And they love to steal the cleaning brush whenever I bring it into the room." (See *Kids Alive* story on page 14.) You can see the energetic gentoo penguins in the aviary's indoor penguin exhibit, which they share with 14 rockhopper penguins. You can tell the rockhoppers because they have spiky yellow feathers on their heads (see small photo). The gentoos have thin yellow beaks and a wide white patch on their heads that makes them look like they're wearing ear muffs. In the wild, gentoos live on the Antarctic Peninsula and the subantarctic islands (such as the Falkland Islands), where temperatures range from a low of 20 degrees in winter to a high of 72 in summer. The exhibit is kept at about 40 degrees, the average of summer and winter temperatures in their wild habitat. Gentoos have the longest tails of any penguin species. The tail swishes from side to side as they walk. This is probably how they got their Latin name, *pygoscelis*, which means brush-tailed.





Guam Kingfisher

Hatched: April 20, 2009
Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary

Jem is a fitting name for the Milwaukee County Zoo's new Guam kingfisher. These extremely rare birds can be tricky to breed and hand-rear, but Jem was easy to handle as a chick – “a true ‘gem,’” says aviary area supervisor Carol Kagy. Guam kingfishers were decimated by brown snakes that were accidentally brought to their native Pacific island of Guam during World War II in the wheel wells of military aircraft. (The snakes also wiped out Guam rails, another endangered bird on exhibit at the Zoo.) By the 1980s, fewer than 30 kingfishers were found in the wild. The birds would have become extinct if zoos hadn't initiated a captive breeding program with the goal of reintroducing them to their native environment. Today, thanks to the efforts of conservationists, 114 Guam kingfishers exist in the world, most in zoos.

Several kingfishers have been introduced to snake-free enclosures on Guam, and conservationists hope to release more birds on off-shore islands free of snakes. Our Zoo has been a leader in breeding these rare birds – chicks have hatched successfully in 1995, 2006, 2007 and again in 2009 (we also have the oldest Guam kingfisher in captivity, a 21-year-old male). As in the past, hatching and rearing Jem was a team effort by aviary staff, who worked

extra hours to care for her. They kept a log of the chick's development, tracking milestones such as feathers coming in and fledging. (Kingfisher parents are encouraged to rear their own chicks when they've established a strong bond.) Jem will be off exhibit until she can join a breeding program at a different institution; so this photo and one on page 18 is the only way you can see her. But you can see Dylan, a Guam kingfisher hatched in 2007, in the aviary's Guam exhibit.

Mandrill

Arrived: December 29, 2008
Primates of the World

Leroy, the Milwaukee County Zoo's new mandrill, was a blur of color in his exhibit last summer. It wasn't just his natural hues, although mandrills are famous for their blue, red and purple faces and pink rumps. It was also that Leroy really liked to explore his outdoor enclosure, which is full of lush greenery. In the cold-weather season, Leroy, who came from the Pittsburgh Zoo, shares an indoor enclosure with Princess, the Zoo's resident female mandrill. It's easy to tell the two apart – Princess is smaller and darker. Scientists suspect that male mandrills rely on their “makeup” to attract mates. The colors also help them keep track of each other in the lush green of the rain forests of their native western central Africa. Mandrills live in colonies of 20 to 50 members and spend much of their time foraging for food. They can store up to a stomach-load of food in their huge cheek pouches! Males ward off predators such as leopards by flashing their long canine teeth. Another “go away” technique is violently beating the ground with their fists. Some people think mandrills look threatening, but they're actually fairly shy and reclusive animals. They're vulnerable in the wild because of illegal logging, the bush-meat trade and because they're killed for raiding farm crops. At the Zoo, keepers hope Leroy and Princess will breed and produce offspring.



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