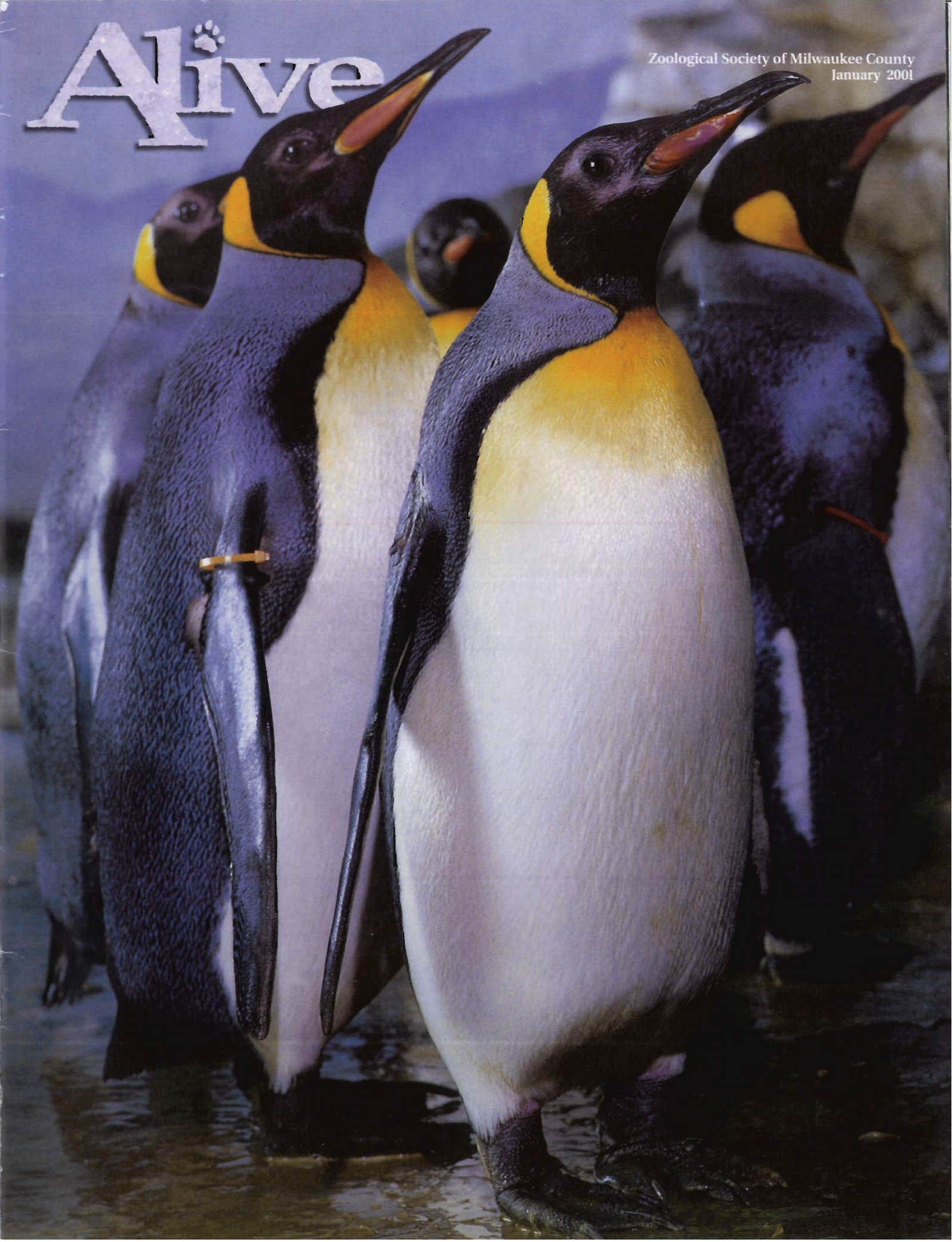


Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County
January 2001



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

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President's Letter



If you're complaining about the cold weather, take heart. We have an exhibit coming to the Zoo that will take you to a place where the average temperature is 71 degrees below zero and where winds blow up to 200 mph - all in the indoor comfort of the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building. Thanks to generous sponsorship from Firstar, the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County Zoo will host a fascinating, interactive exhibit on the Earth's southernmost continent, Antarctica, February 5 through May 6. The exhibit premieres to members February 3 and 4.

Then, this summer we plan to create an experience that will put you nose to nose with the Zoo's big cats. Our Big Cat Encounter invites you to step into the outdoor homes of the Zoo's African lions and cheetahs. It's an exciting opportunity to get within three inches of these handsome African hunters. To complete the Lion and Cheetah Big Cat Encounter by July, we need to raise \$160,000. We thank the many members and friends of the Zoological Society who already have contributed to our Annual Appeal. If you haven't yet contributed to Big Cat Encounter, please consider sending us your support in the envelope with this magazine.

Finally, I wanted to share with you some exciting news from the field. The Zoological Society is in its fourth year of its Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras*™ program, a five-year study aimed at conserving resident and migratory songbirds and their habitats. We're collecting some fascinating and exciting information about which birds are breeding at our study sites in Wisconsin and which birds are using the sites as migration stopovers. We've found that the study site in Pewaukee is locally important for many species of birds during spring and fall migration and is of nationwide importance as a migration stopover during fall for Tennessee warblers. The incredible number of Tennessee warblers banded on this site (375 to 885 per year!) makes it a major staging area for Tennessee warblers during fall migration.

We hope that by telling the story of birds and other animals - from Wisconsin to Antarctica - through stories in this magazine and exhibits at the Zoo, we are educating people about the importance of animals and the role all of us play in helping to save their habitats.

Gil Boese

Gil Boese, Ph.D., President
 Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

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features

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Part 2: The untold story of the Milwaukee County Zoo is how it cares for its elderly population, even when they can't be on exhibit. Learn about the Zoo's oldest denizens and how the staff looks always to what's best for the animals.



8 Life on the Ice

Special effects and spectacular photography provide a stunning introduction to Firstar's Antarctica, a free touring exhibit in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building at the Zoo. Puzzle at penguin life, unusual fossils and "cold science." Zoological Society members get a special premiere Feb. 3 and 4.

15 In Search of Secretive Cats

Milwaukee zookeeper Dawn Fleuchaus journeys to Mexico to study and track the reclusive jaguarundi and ocelot. The goal: to gather data on these endangered cats that will help conservationists protect them.

16 Journey to Childhood

Zuri, a 2-year-old bonobo rejected by his mom and his bonobo group, comes to Milwaukee for help. This is a remarkable story of how zookeepers, psychiatrists and even the animals have come to the aid of an emotionally disturbed toddler.

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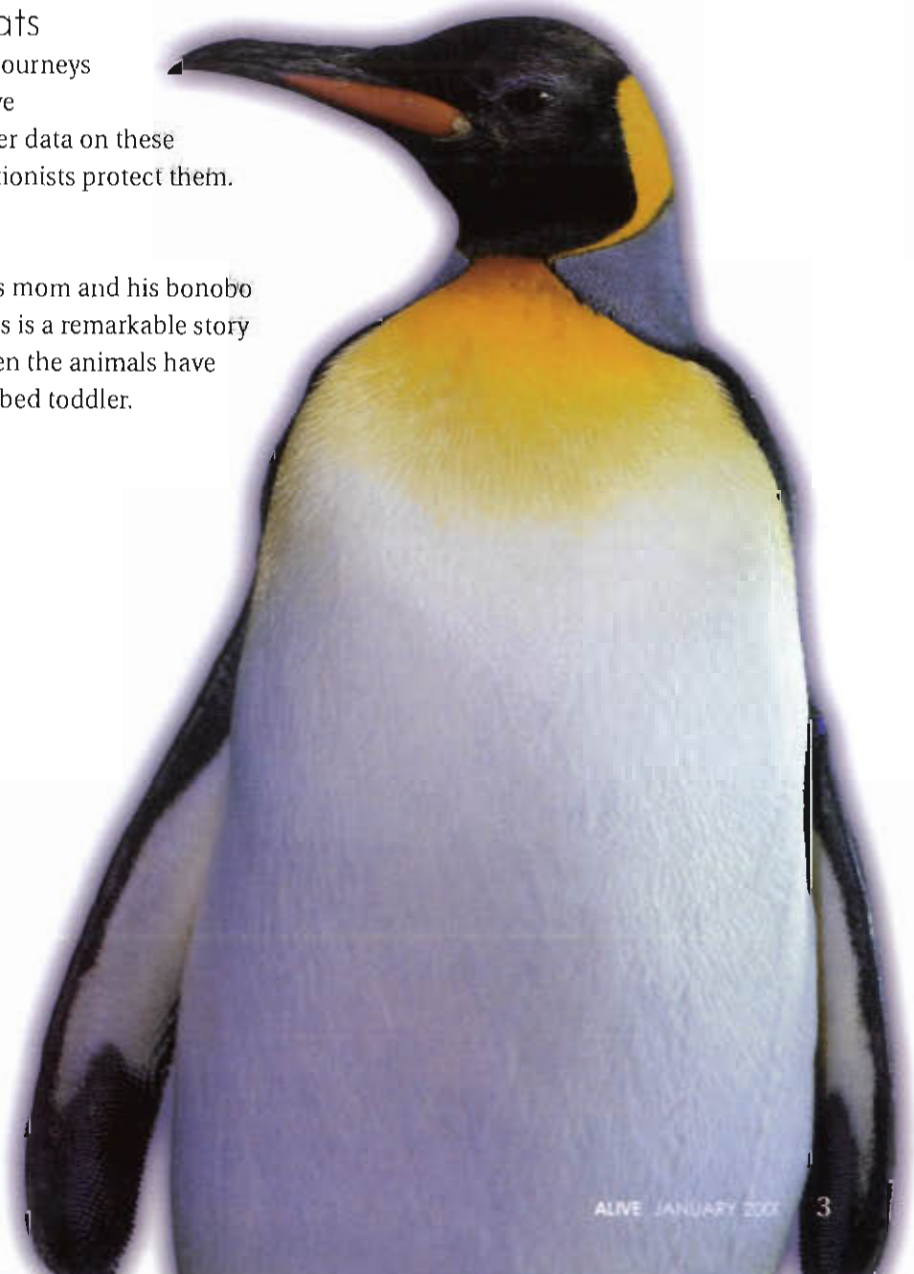
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King penguins at Milwaukee County Zoo
 (Colored bands on penguins' flippers are for identification.)



Aging Animals: *Quality of Life*

BY PAULA BROOKMIRE
SECOND OF A TWO-PART SERIES

If she were still in the heart of the Congo, where she was born, Kitty the bonobo would be dead. That's because she is blind, a little hard of hearing, subject to seizures, and easily disoriented. Nature is not kind to animals with such disabilities. Because Kitty is living at the Milwaukee County Zoo, however, she is now a half-century old and in good health.

That is the untold story of our Zoo. It is kind of a conservation nursing home for animals that have lived remarkably long lives. Some of them, like Kitty, can't even be on exhibit to Zoo visitors, which you might think is the main reason for having animals at the Zoo.

"I think it's a testament to the empathy and compassion of the Zoo," says bonobo zookeeper Barbara Bell. Exhibiting is not always our highest priority, she notes. In

the case of the Zoo's group of 13 bonobos, perhaps the most endangered of the great apes, every animal that is still alive means that the species is one step further away from extinction.

Kitty's story has several messages for American society, too. "She's a very active, useful member of the bonobo troop," says Bell. She has become a foster mother to Brian, a disturbed adolescent bonobo. "No matter what Brian is doing (and, of course, she can't see some of the odd things he does), Kitty showers unconditional love on Brian. It gives her a purpose. Families are richer when they have more generations living together. Kitty adds more texture, if you will, more depth and more wisdom to the troop."

Yes, Kitty needs special care, says Bell, but she is not only the oldest ape in our Zoo; she also is the oldest bonobo in captivity, or at least one of the two oldest. It's estimated that Kitty was born in 1950 or '51. Margrit, a bonobo at the Frankfurt zoo in Germany, is believed to have been born in 1951. Both females have provided important data on the endangered bonobo, which is related to the chimpanzee but a different species. Some chimps have lived into their 60s, but no one knows how long bonobos can live. Bonobos and chimps are about 98% genetically identical to humans and provide interesting comparisons. For example, there is no evidence yet that bonobos go into menopause.

Kitty's condition mirrors that of some elderly humans, too, notes Bell. "If we get her up early in the morning and get her in with the troop, she has a much richer day and is more social. She needs to mentally get in gear. If we don't do that, she tends to sleep in, skip breakfast, get disoriented, and the whole

day goes downhill. My old grandmother was like that. So are some Alzheimer's patients: They're better in the morning than the afternoon."

You can make a good case for why the Zoo would take care of blind Kitty. But what about blind Kinney Bear? Unlike Kitty, old Kinney the grizzly was not endangered and was not mentoring another bear. Yet for the last three or four years of his life he was allowed to live off exhibit so he didn't fall or collide with another bear. Some might think that the Zoo would have euthanized him because he was taking up space and resources and was not providing entertainment for zoogoers. Our Zoo doesn't do that, says veterinarian Vickie Clyde. "This is a very forward-thinking zoo."

Kinney Bear died last summer at age 38. "That's old for a bear," says Daron Graves, supervisor of the Zoo's North American area. Emma, another grizzly that died last summer at age 38, also had been living off exhibit because her arthritis made it hard for her to step up onto the ledges in her exhibit. Both Emma and Kinney Bear received special care, to make their meat more chewable, their water easy to get at, and their winter beds softer with extra hay.

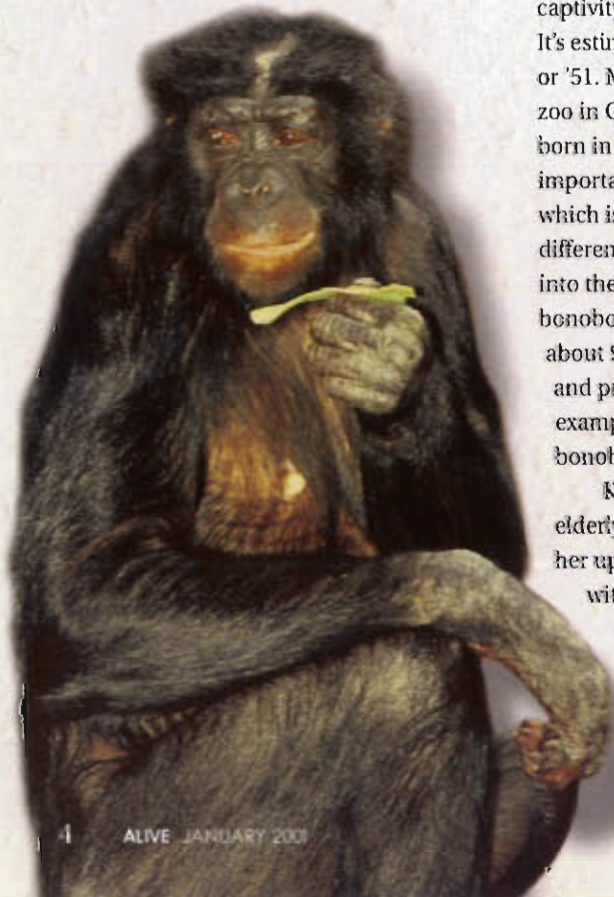
Femelle, the Zoo's oldest gorilla at age 38, also gets special care. She has high blood pressure and arthritis. "We've noticed in recent years that she has gotten a little bit of a hunchback," says Claire Richard, gorilla zookeeper. "She would get up in the morning and be stiff. To go outside, she would have to climb a ladder and she'd have a hard time pulling herself up. Her stiffness also made it difficult for her to breed with her mate, Cassius. She was put on Vioxx, an anti-inflammatory, for several months." Femelle got so much better that she was chasing Cassius, who's less than half her age but more than twice her 204

continued on page 6

Kitty, 50, may be the world's oldest bonobo.



Babe, 42, gets dietary supplements and special training to improve her life.



pounds. "So we reduced Vioxx and now use it only for flareups."

Says Clyde: "Femelle is walking much better; she's not hunched over in her back,

training sessions and routine checkups have allowed keepers to detect a "tummy-ache" early enough to change her diet before she gets too uncomfortable, says

Nicholson. "Our elephants are definitely up there in years. In captivity, there aren't that many in their 50s. As they get older, we anticipate more problems."

Kim Smith, curator of birds, knows the problems of a geriatric population. "We have a lot of birds that are aging. And we treat them very differently than young birds," she says. "There are things that we do not want to do to an older bird such

as perform medical procedures that will not immediately solve the problem at hand. A younger animal may receive a medical exam periodically to assess its general health. The stress of anesthesia and medical tests can kill an older animal. The vet staff and I usually decide if there is something that can be done to make the animal comfortable instead of a workup."

For example, a 21-year-old rockhopper penguin named Agripine has chronically bad feet. She has had several surgeries in the past, but these days the vets may try remedies ranging from antibiotics to little neoprene boots made from old wet suits.

"Almost our entire rockhopper penguin colony is basically geriatric," says Smith. "The rockhoppers' life span in captivity is 25 to 30. Our group of 10 ranges in age from 16 to 26. We had a 15-year-old rockhopper that was blind and had severe arthritis. Even with these conditions, we were able to allow her to live her life with the flock. She received children's ibuprofen

for the arthritis and was able to maintain independence despite the blindness. Each case is reviewed individually and we make the best possible decision to maintain the highest quality of life for the bird."

Quality of life is almost a mantra among our zookeepers. If an animal can still get up, walk around, and perform normal body functions, the Zoo staff will do all it can to keep it alive and pain-free. Even if an animal is showing its age – such as Rita the caribou, with her ragged coat and arthritic leg – it won't be put out of sight or "put down." To explain Rita's limp to curious zoogoers, keepers put up a sign.

"We're in the animal-saving business," says Daron Graves. "Vets and keepers go out of their way to make every effort to save animals."



Most of the Zoo's rockhopper penguin colony is geriatric.

and she's going up ladders much more easily."

Who knows, maybe Femelle, who's at the upper end of the average estimated life span for western lowland gorillas, might even be able to have another baby. Her last was in 1991. That would be good news for these endangered great apes. In 1996, which was the most recent estimate of their population, there were only about 111,000 western lowland gorillas in the world, says Jan Rafert, the Zoo's primate curator.

Keeping older animals comfortable yet active is important to their health. Lucy, 43, one of the Zoo's two African elephants, has stiffness from arthritis. Medication to help cartilage development seems to have helped her, says Dana Nicholson, pachyderms area supervisor. The special training that the elephants have been receiving for 5½ years keeps them active as they move from indoor to outdoor exhibits and lift a leg or a trunk so zookeepers can check their health.

Babe, 42, the other African elephant, is prone to colic and constipation. The

Zoo's Oldest

What was the oldest animal ever to live at the Milwaukee County Zoo? "Connie the Andean condor," says Kim Smith, curator of birds. "He was wild-caught in 1917 and arrived at the Washington Park Zoo April 22, 1922. Connie died Oct. 7, 1987. He was about 70 years old at the time and is still remembered fondly by many zookeepers. Connie is the second oldest Andean condor to have lived in captivity. A bird at the Moscow Zoo lived approximately 75 years."

See Kids Alive, page 11, for a list of our Zoo's current oldest animals.

Still, there comes a time when an animal's quality of life goes downhill rapidly. That's what happened last summer with both Kinney Bear and Emma. One day Kinney, with herniated disks in his back, and Emma, with almost no cartilage on her joints, could no longer get up. "You figure how tough bears are and how they hide their problems. So when they can't get up, something is seriously wrong," says Roberta Wallace, senior veterinarian. So she called a conference to discuss euthanasia.

"A decision that we ultimately face for every geriatric animal is: At what point has the animal's quality of life deteriorated to the point that it should be allowed to die," explains Bruce Beehler, deputy Zoo director. "That judgment is a collective one from all the staff who participate in the care of

this animal: vets, keepers, supervisors, curators. Euthanasia must be approved by both the deputy Zoo director and Zoo director after the recommendation is made. It is based on the animal's comfort, not the animal's appearance."

Clyde says the staff asks these questions about the animal: How much pain is it in? Does it still like to eat? Does it have difficulty sleeping? Does it still enjoy playing? Has its overall activity decreased? Can it take care of its daily needs? Does it enjoy interactions with other animals and keepers?

When a decision finally is made to put an animal out of its suffering, says Wallace, "it's hard on the veterinarians. A lot of times we've grown up with these animals, too, and worked to save them as



Katie the camel, 20, raised nine calves and now is retired from motherhood.

infants. We have to make the decision to put them to sleep and we're the ones to carry it out."

Adds Clyde: "We don't prolong things to make us feel better. The decision always revolves around what's best for the animal."



Rose Marie the mule deer, 19, is "on borrowed years, but she doesn't show any slowness or stiffness," says her keeper.


Explorers

well as krill, a small shrimplike animal, that are a feast for both penguins and the whales that migrate here every year from the north. Penguins are agile swimmers, but even they sometimes can't escape ambush by a leopard seal lurking at the ice's edge.

The final section of the exhibit looks at how humans have altered the landscape, especially as Antarctica has become a tourist site as well as a research center. We leave behind garbage that ranges from barrels of motor oil to discarded potato peels. There is no way to bury this refuse in the frozen ground, and it will never decay in the extreme cold. So the U.S. in 1990 devoted \$30 million to a four-year cleanup, and now monitors all disposal practices.

No one owns this vast continent. Few of us are likely to visit it in person. But Antarctica has much to tell zoogoers about the effects humans are having on the global environment, from garbage disposal to the growing hole in the ozone layer. One display brings up some of the scientific, political and economic choices that may shape our future.

The Zoological Society plans to offer school programs, training teachers through a curriculum packet on the exhibit's main themes. Children can touch dried sponges, starfish, scallops and clams and get involved in the interactive displays. The Society also will offer four Learning Zones to guide about 40 students at a time through the exhibit every weekday.

This is the last time the exhibit, which first went on display 10 years ago, will be presented to the public, Bill Maloney says. The Smithsonian Natural History Museum is working on an Antarctica exhibit that will replace this one. Maloney praised the Zoo and Zoological Society for bringing such natural history exhibits as last year's Hunters of the Sky and a previous year's bears exhibit to Milwaukee. More than 170,000 zoogoers are expected to tour Firstar's Antarctica. 

Antarctica always has been a source of intrigue for explorers, dating back to 1733 when Captain James Cook, the great British navigator, was the first to cross the Antarctic Circle. All he saw were large icebergs, yet he was convinced a huge continent was nearby. In 1820, Thaddeus von Belinghausen, a Russian explorer, recorded seeing an ice field covered by small hillocks. Three years later, James Weddell, a British sealer, tried to sail all the way to the South Pole but was forced to turn back as winter approached. In 1841, James Clark Ross, a British explorer who already had charted the magnetic North Pole, tried unsuccessfully to find the South Pole as well. But he did discover mountain ranges and volcanoes, convincing him that a South Pole actually existed.

The first man to set foot on Antarctica was Henryk Bull, a Norwegian hoping to find large herds of whales. He brought a small boat ashore in 1895. Three years later Belgian geographer Adrien de Gerlache led an international scientific team that charted much of the peninsula. But his boat became trapped in the winter ice and wasn't able to work free till a year later. By then one of his crew had died and another two had gone insane.

Among the most harrowing voyages, illustrated in a theater piece, is the attempt by Ernest Shackleton of Britain to cross the continent in 1916. His boat became trapped in ice and drifted helplessly all winter. His crew had to abandon ship when the boat sprung a leak. They watched in horror as their ship was crushed by moving ice and sank. The crew then rode across ice floes on whaling boats they'd salvaged. They made it to Elephant Island, where they finally were rescued 1½ years later.

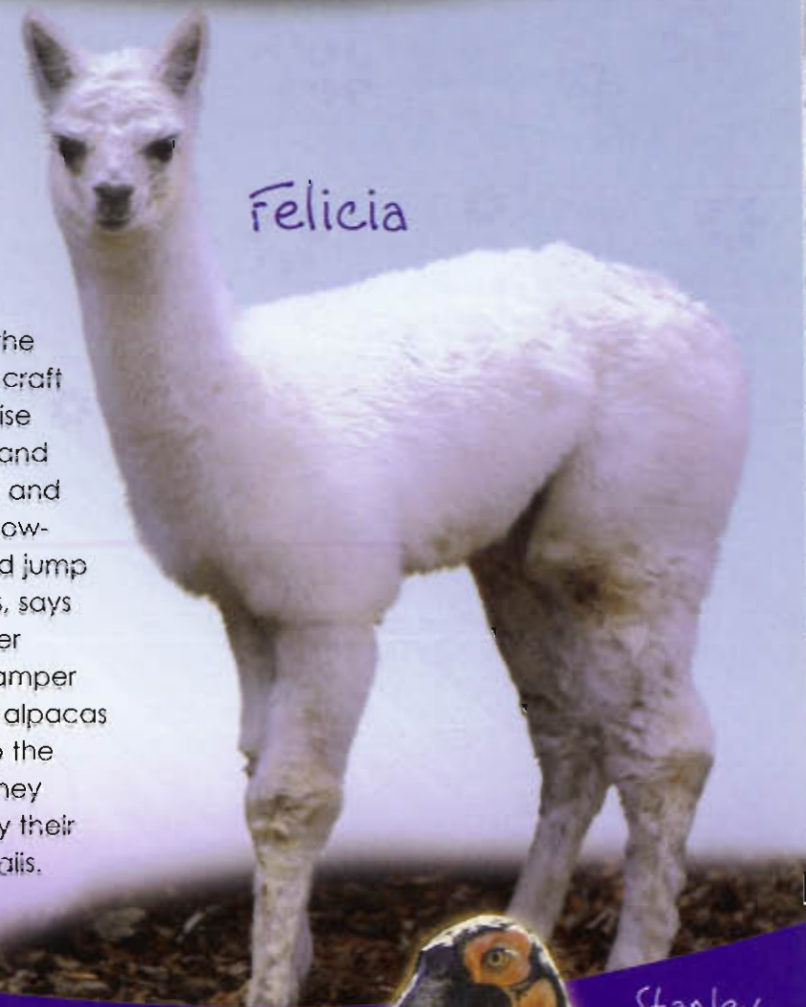
The race to find the South Pole began in 1911, when Roald Amundsen of Norway was the first to arrive. In 1929, U.S. explorer Richard E. Byrd became the first to fly over the South Pole. It wasn't until 1947 that the U.S. Navy sent a training mission to set up a base there, which soon housed 4,700 people.

In 1957-58, scientists proclaimed Antarctica the last unknown area of the Earth and established the International Geophysical Year (IGY), dedicated to its study. Twelve countries established more than 40 research stations. With the success of the IGY, scientists and their governments ratified a treaty in 1961, pledging to cooperate on antarctic research. More than 39 countries now have joined the treaty.



Alpacas love COLD

You'll never be cold with an alpaca around. Their fur can be spun into the warmest wool, then sewn into warm jackets and hats. At the Milwaukee County Zoo the alpacas are sheared every other year. Volunteers then craft their wool into beautiful clothes that are sold to help raise money to improve our Zoo. Alpacas are fun to watch, and they stay outside in winter. Come to the Zoo in January and you'll have the treat of seeing Felicia, a 3-month-old snow-white Alpaca born on Oct. 4, 2000. She loves to run and jump in the South American Exhibit and is playful and curious, says her zookeeper, Bob Haffmann. It's amazing to watch her bounce among the rocks, then turn on a dime and scamper back to the ground. Her skill in climbing is why alpacas are so important to the people native to the Andes Mountains in South America. They rely on these graceful animals to carry their heavy packs along steep mountain trails.



Felicia



Delihla



Onassis



Stanley

Zoo's oldest animals

Kids, want a great school project? Here's a list you won't find anywhere else: the Milwaukee County Zoo's oldest animals (based on average life span) and their ages. See the story on page 4 to learn how our Zoo treats aging animals, and you can do a report.

AFRICAN WATERHOLE: Nonamee, female zebra: 26

AQUATIC & REPTILE CENTER: Onassis, Amazon River tortoise: 60 (est.); Male blood python: 35

AUSTRALIA: Tanami (male) & Temo (female), emus: 29

BIRDS: Stanley, African ground hornbill: 32 (est.); Female cinereous vulture: 34 (est.); Delihla, rockhopper penguin: 26

FELINES: Valera, jaguar: 18; Sheena, Siberian tiger: 14; Sabu, snow leopard: 14

NORTH AMERICA: Rose Marie, mule deer: 19

PACHYDERMS: Mongo, Malayan tapir: 32; Babe: 42, & Lucy: 43, elephants; Malinde, female giraffe: 16

PRIMATES: Kitty, may be world's oldest bonobo: 50 (est.); Femelle, gorilla: 38; Dick, orangutan: 33

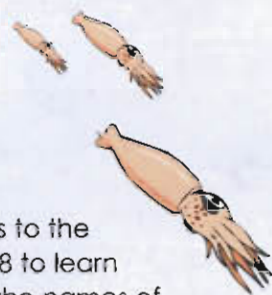
SMALL MAMMALS: Ding, Indian fruit bat: 17; Female vampire bat: 24

WINTER QUARTERS: Katie the camel: 20; Squirt, capybara (off exhibit): 12



Antarctica Word Search

This February, Firstar's Antarctica, a fantastic touring exhibit, comes to the Milwaukee County Zoo for four months. See the story on page 8 to learn more about this fun exhibit. Then play this word search. Circle the names of these antarctic predators and their prey in the columns of letters below. Words may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal.



G T L I N I U G N E P
W W E L G D E B N I I
E E O R C A W H A L E
D L P G H W K L K A A
D A A N C S D R T U L
E H R D A R I C R K B
L W D D L L S A C S A
L E S O L A S B E A T
S U E V E R X M U O R
E L A T Q Z Y T Q O O
A B L A L H S I F W S
L R E I N D D I U Q S

WORD LIST

PREDATOR	PREY
WEDDELL SEAL	FISH
BLUE WHALE	KRILL
LEOPARD SEAL	ALBATROSS
ORCA WHALE	SQUID
SKUA	PENGUIN



Maze © 2001 by Sharon Edmondson

Antarctica Maze

This Adelie penguin misses its friends. Help it move through the continent of Antarctica to find them.

Arctic Quest

At the Zoo's Small Mammals Building, you can find a bird with distinctive white plumage that lives in the Arctic tundra. This bird is active during the day and nests on the ground or on rocks. Write the bird's name here.

Answer to Nocturnal Quest, Oct. 2000:

Nocturnal animals on the night side of the Zoo's Small Mammals Building are the African black-footed cat, bushbaby (mohol galago), chevrotain, douroucouli, fat-tailed dwarf lemur, fennec fox, fruit bats (Ruwenzori and straw-colored), kinkajou, kowari, masked palm civet, springhaas, sugar glider, and vampire bat. The tayra, which is active day and night, and the black and white ruffed lemur, which is nocturnal and crepuscular (active at dusk and dawn), are on the day-side area.

(Look for the answer in your April 2001 issue of Alive.)



Antarctic Animal Facts

Adelie penguin

Adelie penguins live on the cold continent of Antarctica. Their feathered bill, very dense feathers, and blubber (fat) make them better equipped than other penguins for extreme cold. They're short (about 2 feet tall) and weigh less than 10 pounds. These black and white birds are known for their white eye ring. In summer (our winter), they live in large colonies. Females lay one or two eggs in pebble nests on the beach. In winter, Adelies stay at sea, resting on icebergs. They eat about 5 pounds of small fish a day.

King penguin

King penguins (below right) can dive 200 feet below the subantarctic waters in which they live! Of the 18 species of penguins, kings are second largest. They grow up to 3 feet tall and average about 26 pounds, but they are still second to the emperor penguin in size. Kings feed on small fish and squid. They have silvery-gray backs with blackish-brown heads decorated with striking ear patches. The female lays one egg every two years. The male keeps it warm by placing it on his feet and covering it with a fold of his skin.

Skua

With strong talons, a hooked beak, powerful wings and screeching noises, the fierce skua has been nicknamed the antarctic eagle. The agile and swift skua actually looks like a cross between a seagull and a hawk. It has a brownish body and large white wing patches. Clever skuas nest near such birds as penguins, petrels and terns. Then skuas steal the eggs and young of these birds to feed their own chicks.

Weddell seal

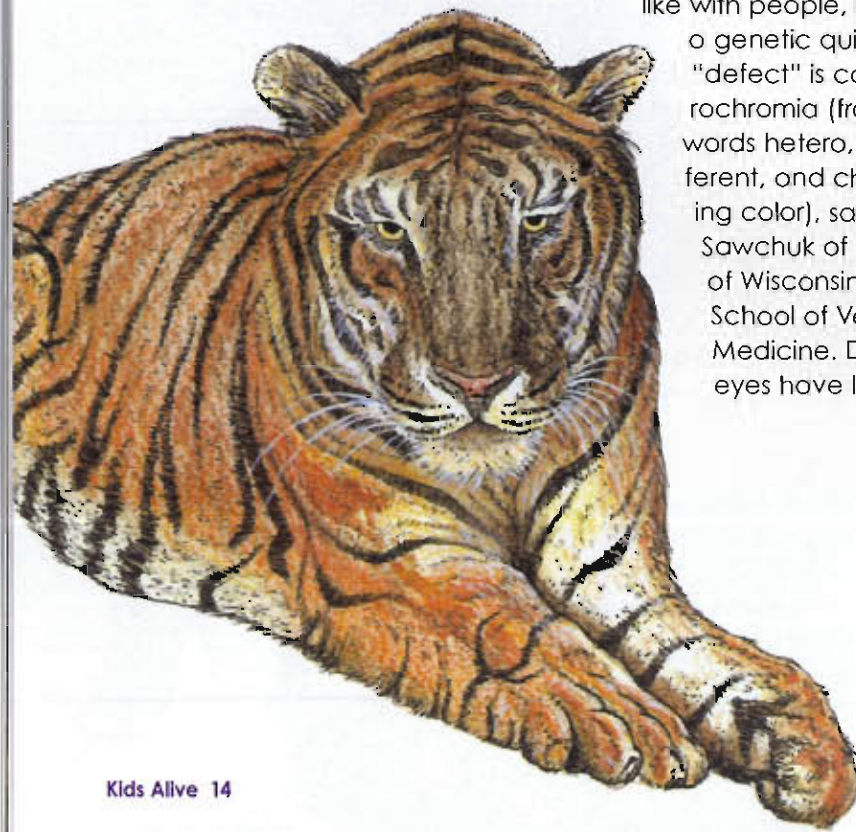
Imagine an air-breathing animal spending a whole winter under ice. To survive near the Antarctica coast, that's what Weddell seals do. They make breathing holes in the ice by gnawing with their teeth. This huge, earless seal feeds on fish and other ocean life. It can grow up to 10 feet long and 880 pounds. Females are larger than males. They need lots of fat to protect them from the severe cold. These blotchy looking gray seals live alone or in groups. They can stay under water without air for more than 43 minutes.





Q I am deeply concerned about tigers. Many are extinct and others are endangered. They kill tigers illegally. I think tigers should be in zoos because that's the only way they will be protected. How can we make donations to help the Zoo and protect tigers? – Amanda Bronikowski, 7th grade, Greenfield

A You can sponsor Kajmak (pronounced Ki-mack) the Siberian tiger at the Milwaukee County Zoo for \$25. As an animal sponsor, you get information about tigers, your name on a sponsor board at the Zoo, an invitation to a behind-the-scenes event at the Zoo in summer and other benefits. For information about how to help tigers



worldwide, the Internet is a good source. Check out the Web sites for the Tiger Foundation, www.tigerfdn.com, or the World Wildlife Foundation, www.wwf.org.

Q Do penguins have teeth? – Stephanie Koenig, age 7, Oak Creek

A No, says Kim Smith, the Zoo's curator of birds. "Penguins are birds, and one of the characteristics of birds is that they do not have teeth. The penguin beak is very strong with small sharp grooves in the sides of the beak that assist with catching fish."

Q Why do some cats have two different colored eyes? Do monkeys see in colors? – Julio Westermann, 9, Waterford

A Valerie Werner of the Zoo's Feline Building replies: "Just like with people, it can be a genetic quirk." This "defect" is called heterochromia (from the Greek words hetero, meaning different, and chromo, meaning color), says Dr. Sandi Sawchuk of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. Different color eyes have little effect on

an animal's sight. This condition occurs more often in animals with lighter hair color, such as partially white pet cats, Siamese cats, and dogs such as Dolmofians, huskies and malamutes. While we don't know for sure if monkeys see in color, behavioral studies suggest that some monkeys have a well-developed ability to see color. "Lemurs, tarsiers, and owl monkeys would be less likely to see in vivid color, because they are more night active," says Mark, a primate zookeeper. Monkeys active during the day would have better success finding food and avoiding predators if they could see color.

Q Do penguins sleep standing up or lying down? – Alyson Denman, age 6, Waterford

A "Usually we see our birds sleeping lying down, but occasionally a bird will 'nap' standing up," says Kim Smith, curator of birds.

Kids! Send us your animal questions. Remember to include your first & last name, age, phone and full address.



In Search of Secretive Cats

BY KATHY MANGOLD

As a zookeeper in the Small Mammals Building at the Milwaukee County Zoo, Dawn Fleuchaus sees wild animals every day. But when she ventured into the wild on an expedition to study and track the reclusive jaguarundi and ocelot (two animals not found at our zoo), she didn't know if she would even catch a glimpse of these wild cats.

"Expedition leaders said you could spend your whole life there and never know the cats are there," Fleuchaus said. The cats' reticent nature plays a factor in why their populations are declining. The ongoing study, led by researchers from the Dallas Zoo, took place in Tamaulipas, Mexico. Its goal is to gather data on the cats for a database that will provide information for conservationists on these cats that are endangered in the United States. A \$1,600 Field Research Grant from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee – the Society awards keeper research grants up to \$2,500 annually – enabled Fleuchaus to participate in October 2000. Fleuchaus has an enduring interest in cats. She spent five years as the feline keeper at the Racine Zoo.

Habitat loss is a big reason the cat population is declining. Ranchers clear wooded areas for pasture land, and other landowners burn forests of mesquite trees and sell the charcoal for cooking. The cats – and their damaged habitat – aren't taken into consideration. Fleuchaus is heartened by what one rancher is doing to raise awareness, however. For the last decade, rancher-turned-field biologist Arturo Caso has collared, tracked and studied the jaguarundi and ocelots that live on his 4,500-acre ranch. "It's good to see Arturo using his property and time to do field research," she said. "It will help encourage people to do conservation in their own country."

Every day during the two-week study, the group set and monitored 33 traps. They were able to trap two ocelots, which are nocturnal and somewhat larger than jaguarundi, which are about the size



With a grant from the Zoological Society, zookeeper Dawn Fleuchaus joined a team of researchers in Tamaulipas, Mexico, to gather data on jaguarundis and ocelots for a database that will provide information for conservationists on these cats that are endangered in the United States. Here, Fleuchaus uses string to tie a radio collar onto a young ocelot. As the cat grows, the collar will drop off and not injure it.



Small Mammals zookeeper Dawn Fleuchaus puts pine boughs into the snowy owl exhibit to make the perching area more comfortable. While in Mexico, Fleuchaus also gathered data on birds of prey native to Mexico. Little information is available on native birds of prey.

of bobcats and active during the day. They also trapped one jaguarundi, among other non-study animals. They performed measurements, took blood and fecal samples, and put radio collars on the cats. Monitoring of their habitat use tells how much home range they need and could be used in helping find habitats for cats that need to be relocated. In their spare time, the group also took measurements on native birds of prey, for which little data is available.

"Observing animals in nature gave me more insight into how to make the animals' lives in captivity more enriching and naturalistic," Fleuchaus said. "Because I've now been to Mexico and know what the Central American jungle looks like, I'm hoping to use that information to make our Central and South American animal exhibits more naturalistic here at the Zoo."

While Fleuchaus considered the study a success, she had her share of hazards to write home about. Armies of fire ants devoured some of the chickens used as bait in the traps. Multitudes of ticks swarmed across the researchers' pant legs, and they had to carry rolls of duct tape to rid themselves of the bugs. Tropical storm Keith touched ashore 60 miles from the ranch, and the researchers had to stay indoors behind boarded-up windows for a day. The group was unable to locate the cats for a time after the storm; the severe weather may have forced the animals farther inland. The storm also ushered in cooler weather. A sudden dip from 95 to 40 degrees killed off hundreds of migratory birds.

The experience served as an awakening for Fleuchaus, accustomed to feeding and caring for small mammals at the Zoo without many obstacles. "People in the field work so hard to obtain simple weights and measurements," she said. "It made me more appreciative of how readily you can come to a zoo and experience animals."



Journey to Childhood

BY PAULA BROOKMIRE

This is the story of a 2-year-old that early on was rejected by his teenage mom. Then he developed respiratory problems and was removed from what was basically his extended family for a few months for medical treatment. When he returned to the family group, he was not accepted. He was behind developmentally. Then he came to Milwaukee for help. Here he found

"He's also learning that it's a really nice thing to be touched."

Barbara Bell on Zuri

patient teachers, psychiatric care, a new home and a long-lost relative.

This is not the story of a human child. The 2-year-old in question is Zuri, a young bonobo that has been adopted by the Milwaukee County Zoo's bonobo group. In the wild the highly endangered bonobo, one of the four great apes, lives only in Africa's Democratic Republic of Congo. Milwaukee has one of the largest captive populations of bonobos, a group of 13.

When Zuri first came to our Zoo last April, he, like all newly arrived animals, was put in quarantine for about a month. This is to make sure the animal is healthy. For bonobos, which are highly social animals that don't like to be separated from their group, this isolation normally is very difficult. But Zuri didn't show any agitation. "There's something really wrong when an infant doesn't fuss after sitting alone for hours," says bonobo zookeeper Barbara Bell. "Zuri had an apathy about him, he had abnormal play behavior, and he was showing stereotypic behaviors of an emotionally disturbed toddler: rocking and blanket sucking."

So the Zoo called in psychiatrist Harry Prosen, director of psychiatry at the Medical

College of Wisconsin, who is psychiatrist to Brian, an 11-year-old emotionally disturbed bonobo at our Zoo. Prosen brought along a retired child psychiatrist from Denver, Hank Copolillo, who was here to speak at the Medical College. For years Copolillo had worked with severely disturbed children at a large pediatric institution. "He gave us some good comparisons to human developmental problems, for example to the kids in Romanian orphanages who got only one hour of human contact a day," says Bell. "They get depressed and withdrawn when they get too much stimulation at once. Likewise, Zuri becomes withdrawn when overstimulated. He suffers from mental overload because he can absorb only so much so fast."

The psychiatrists helped zookeepers develop a strategy for working with Zuri, says Bell. "The highest priority was that Zuri constantly be with another bonobo." To reduce stimulation, Zuri often was paired with only one or two bonobos at a time. Bell hoped that one of the bonobo moms would adopt him.

"My first choice," says Bell, "was to try 33-year-old Laura because she had successfully adopted another bonobo infant in the past and she has had seven babies, including Zanga Mokila, born two years ago. But it was sad to see how developmentally deprived Zuri was. Laura would outstretch her arms to him, and he would just sit there and suck on his blanket. He didn't understand how to follow a mother figure. Although Laura tried very hard to get

Zuri to join her family unit, Zuri just sat there and seemed clueless as to what he should be doing. Also, Zuri couldn't read the complicated social dynamics of Laura's family. Both Laura and Zuri were exhausted after 24 hours. So we removed Zuri.

"Then we tried 27-year-old Lody, who is a compassionate, intuitive male who has become a father figure to Brian. Lody just



Linda, a 45-year-old bonobo that was not allowed to care for most of her 12 babies, has adopted 2-year-old Zuri and dotes on him.

melts with kids. He picked up baby Zuri and cared for him. Within 48 hours of being in with Lody, Zuri was starting to allow Lody to cradle him and rock him. There were times when I asked both of them to move, and Lody would stop and think, and then go back and get Zuri's blanket. That shows a higher level of intelligence and compassion.

He knew the baby would fuss without his blanket."

Other bonobos took turns caring for Zuri. Maringa, the 27-year-old matriarch of the group who is still caring for her 1-year-old baby, Zomi, picked up Zuri and carried him around for three weeks. So did 8-year-old Ana Neema. "We had our babysitting network for a while, so no one got burned out," says Bell.

"Finally, one day last summer, Linda, who's 45 and tough as nails, just picked up Zuri and kept him. That's been six months now. Linda was not one of our first choices to go in with Zuri. Putting her in with him happened by accident. Otherwise every move has been calculated. I had started rewarding the adults to 'go get Zuri.' Linda was not part of this initial training, but she saw the food rewards, and she's very food-motivated. One day she just picked up Zuri. Now she guards him with her life. She is an incredibly strong-willed animal, and she seldom puts him down. Having a baby gives her some status, when the other powerful females around her have babies. Maringa has Zomi and Laura has Zanga."

There's something special about the bond Linda has formed with Zuri. Linda, who came to Milwaukee in 1995, first arrived in the United States in 1962 from Antwerp, Belgium, probably the first female bonobo here. She went to the San Diego Zoo to mate with a bonobo named Kakowet, an English spelling of the French word cacahuete, which means peanuts. Explains Bell: "Linda has had 12 babies, but she's been allowed to mother-rear only two. Thirty-five years ago many zoos pulled infants from animals, thinking that the animals were too precious to let the mothers raise them. So Linda finally has a baby all her own. What's unique is that Linda is Zuri's real great-grandmother."

How is Zuri doing now? Because he can play with the younger Zomi and Zanga, Zuri is seeing normal infant play behavior, says Bell. "He's getting to do the type of play a 1-year-old does with others. So we're patching in his developmental deficits. He will catch up rapidly now.

"Zuri's whole integration and education process has been very labor-intensive," she adds. "It takes hours and hours of thought. First you have to identify his developmental needs. Then we have to select the bonobos in the troop that will provide the appropriate social interactions to help him catch up. Primate curator Jan Rafert and I talked with chimp people all over the country who had worked with orphan great apes and had done integrations."

Their efforts have paid off, she says. "Zuri has learned how to be a bonobo.

His following response is excellent now. At first, when the troop moved, he just sat there. I retrieved him four times when he got lost or left behind in the outdoor yard. Because he had been in a nursery for months and was used to having zookeepers pick him up, he didn't learn to follow the group. Since Linda has taken over his care, he has not been left behind. He's also learning that it's a really nice thing to be touched. He used to stay alone for a long time. I'd say he's getting more and more normal. It's really a nice thing to see."

Taking on another emotionally disturbed bonobo was a challenge for our Zoo, but getting Zuri at an earlier age than Brian was when he came to Milwaukee was a real plus, says Bell. So the decision to accept Zuri was an easy one. "There are so few bonobos that I feel we have to salvage any we can. Our goal is not only to preserve the species genetically, but also to preserve their culture. Zuri now has a chance to be a functional male in the world."

Bonobos at our Zoo

MARINGA, 27, "queen" of the Zoo's bonobos, loves to groom (pick through the hair of) her friends. Maringa and Linda are the leaders of the bonobo group.

LINDA, 45, has diabetes. With training, she has learned to take daily medicines. She has seven living offspring and is great-grandmother to Zuri.

KITTY, 50, is one of the two oldest captive bonobos in the world. She is blind and hard of hearing.

LAURA, 33, Linda's daughter, gave birth to Zanga Mokila in January 1999.

LODY, 27, the oldest male and the primary breeding male, has become a father figure to Brian.

BRIAN, 11, came to Milwaukee with emotional problems because he was traumatized by his father (not at our Zoo). Training and psychiatric help have calmed him.

MURPH, 10, is the son of Laura and a male from another animal center.

MAKANZA, 6, was adopted by Laura after his mother died.

LOMAKO, 16, the son of Lody and Maringa, is the fastest learner and most enthusiastic of the group.

ANA NEEMA, 8, arrived in Milwaukee July 1999 from Georgia State University's language research center in Decatur, Ga.

ZANGA MOKILA, 2, was born Jan. 10, 1999, to Laura.

ZOMI, 1, was born July 17, 1999, to Maringa, then 26. Zomi is the Lingala (a Congolese language) word for 10.

ZURI, 2, was born June 10, 1998, in San Diego. He arrived here April 5, 2000. He was adopted by Linda last summer.

The Zoo's bonobo population as of December 2000: 13

There's something special about the bond Linda has formed with Zuri.

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Demoiselle Cranes

Arrived: August 24, 2000
Wong Family Pheasantry

Niles and Daphne, the two demoiselle cranes added to the Wong Family Pheasantry last summer from the Vilas County Zoo in Madison, are "tops" in terms of elegance, says zookeeper Craig Pelke. They're a bit smaller than Wisconsin's sandhill cranes, and the demoiselles are far more colorful, with gray bodies, long showy white plumes on their head and neck, and blue and black faces. In the wild, they spend summers in central Asia and migrate to either India or the Middle East, where they're often hunted. They enjoy searching for insects in the soil. In their secluded exhibit next to the aviary, they often can be seen doing courtship displays. This pair is so close that they get very upset if any attempt is made to separate them. Pelke still recalls the fuss they made when separated just long enough for a health exam. This happy couple already has raised one chick at a previous zoo home. You can view them outdoors summer or winter, weather permitting.



Texas Blind Salamander

Arrived: Oct. 19, 2000
Aquatic & Reptile Center

This ghostly white creature may look strangely like a space alien, with its odd-shaped head, translucent skin, external red gills and long spindly legs. But it's actually a cave creature from Texas. Its eyes, useless in the subterranean grottos that this salamander calls home, have turned to little dark spots embedded in its skin. It relies on vibrations and chemical cues to know what's going on around it, says Craig Berg, aquarium/reptile curator. It weighs much less than an ounce, grows to about 4 inches long and could live as long as 12 years. Its Zoo diet is frozen fish food similar to the small crustaceans it eats in caves. The salamanders live in only one underground aquifer. Should a drought hit Texas, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service worries that the aquifers might be pumped dry to feed the human demand for fresh water. So the service has asked several zoos, including Milwaukee's, to keep some of the salamanders to reintroduce to the caves after a drought.



Six Inca Terns

Born: May 17 & 24, June 24 & 29, August 21 & 26, 2000
Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary

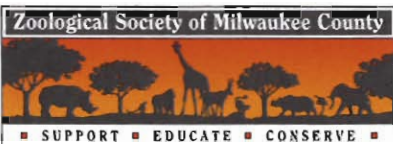
These bold birds are very popular with Zoo visitors because they'll fly right above your head in the aviary's Wetlands walk-through exhibit, calling out with squeaks that sound more like a maniacal laugh. Inca terns are very agile fliers and can be difficult for zookeepers to capture for routine medical exams. They live off the coasts of Chile and Peru in South America, and fish in the sea for their food. At birth, they are covered with white down, and their parents care for them for several months. Their first adult set of feathers is chocolate brown. As they mature, the terns become a beautiful slate gray with bright red legs and beaks adorned with feathers that look just like a white handlebar mustache. At left is one of the babies.

Red Kangaroo

Born: March and July 2000
Australia Building

For months, all you could see was what looked like a silly rabbit with big brown eyes peeking out of its mommy's pouch. Two kangaroo joeys were only about the size of a quarter at birth, but scampered up to their mother's pouch to spend the next six months nursing on mom's milk while growing up safely tucked away from the world. Now, both joeys have emerged as bundles of energy so lively that zookeepers had a hard time catching them to check their health. Once grown, they'll be able to jump as far as 16 feet. Of all the animals in the Zoo, the kangaroo seems among the most contented, says Daron Graves, supervisor of the Australia and North American areas. They can be outdoors whenever they like, and they're so relaxed they simply dig holes and lay in the sun. Hunters might be pursuing them if they lived in their native Australia. But here, Graves says, "life must be good and easy for them."





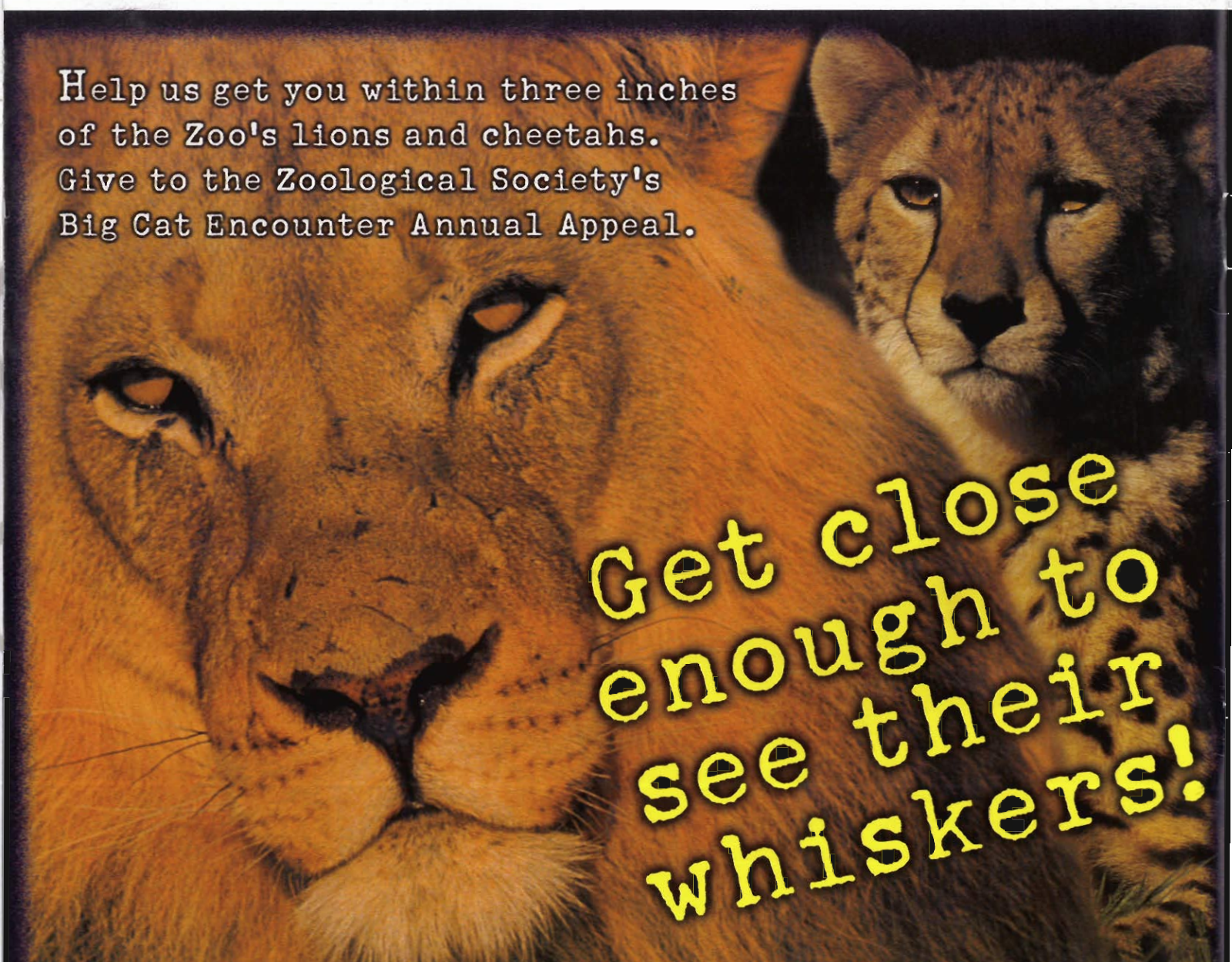
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