

MAY—JUNE / VOL. 11, NO. 2

THE CAPE BUFFALO

By Rick Barongi, Curator of Mammals

The imposing black Cape buffalo with its massive curved horns is a familiar feature of the African savannah. Until recently, what little was known of the behavior of this species came from the inaccurate reports of the big game hunters. The two most prevalent misconceptions concern the Cape buffalo's ancestry and its nasty disposition.

Commonly confused with the domesticated Asiatic water buffalo, the Cape buffalo is an entirely different species with thicker horns, larger, shaggier ears and a broader muzzle. Numerous other anatomical and behavioral differences have evolved in the three million years since these two diverged from a common ancestor. Actually, the closest relative of the Cape buffalo (*Syncerus caffer caffer*) is the African dwarf forest buffalo (*Cyncerus caffer nanus*). The latter subspecies is much smaller than the former (800 lbs. vs. 1,800 lbs.), less social, and has reddish body hair. Both are currently exhibited at Metrozoo.

The Cape buffalo has unjustly acquired the reputation of being vicious and aggressive toward man and other animals. It's true that more big game hunters have lost their lives to African buffalos than any other game animal (with the possible exception of the river hippopotamus). However, these deaths were caused by the incompetence of the trophy hunter rather than the nature of the animal. Its ferocious reputation has largely developed from the tales of hunters who wounded animals and tried to follow them. Wounded buffalos do not flee, but circle back in their tracks and wait motionless in the bush to defend themselves. Other buffalos also come to the aid of a distressed companion, and have been observed actually goring lions.

When not being persecuted by man, the Cape buffalo is highly gregarious, calmly grazing on the African Plains or wallowing in mud amidst egrets and water birds. The buffalos are commonly seen with small brightly colored ox-peckers

or tick birds. Their symbiotic relationship helps to keep buffalos free of skin parasites and the birds well fed.

Congregations of over 2,000 animals have been observed in East and South Africa when the grass is green and plentiful. Typical herds are composed of 20 to 200 animals of all ages. Adult bulls sometimes stay with the herd, but their strongly developed dominance hierarchy results in a frequent turnover of herd bulls. In the wild, after the age of ten, males become progressively more infertile, so that there is less selective advantage in staying in a herd. Older males are generally found in small bachelor groups of two to five. Adult male buffalo have a heavy shield of horn, the boss, which covers the whole top of the head above the eyes. Females do not compete as seriously with one another and therefore have less impressive horns.

Female Cape buffalo become sexually mature at three to four years old. They give birth, after an eleven-month gestation, to a single calf that weighs between 80 and 100 lbs. The calf is relatively awkward and

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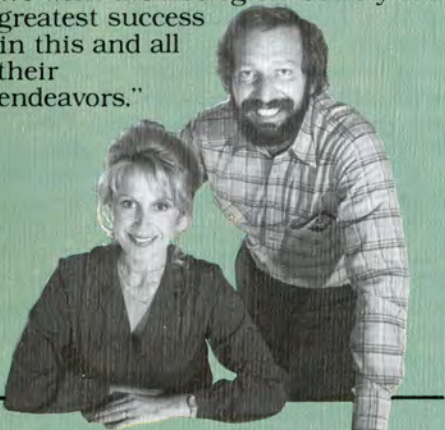
The Cape Buffalo exhibit at Metrozoo is sponsored by South Motors.

Thank You

Metrozoo has long cherished the dream of exhibiting koalas in Miami. A major contribution from the Dr. Herbert A. Wertheim Foundation has brought the zoo much closer to making this particular dream come true.

The koalas will be on permanent display beginning in 1986. Already a plot has been cleared beyond the exhibits open to the public, in preparation for the planting of a eucalyptus grove.

Thanks to the generosity of the Wertheim Foundation, Metrozoo will be the only zoo in the country besides San Diego and Los Angeles to exhibit the koala. Dr. Wertheim himself said, "The Foundation is very pleased to fund this project. We wish the Zoological Society the greatest success in this and all their endeavors."



Dr. Herbert Wertheim and his wife, Nicole, have been long-time supporters and frequent visitors to Metrozoo. Their generous contribution will make it possible for future visitors to see koalas on display at the zoo.

The Zoological Society, Metrozoo, and all the animal lovers of South Florida would like to express their sincere thanks for this precious gift.

A Dream Come True

Mr. Frank C. Baiamonte of American Bankers Insurance and current board member realizes his childhood dreams at the most recent visit of the Walt Disney Review at Metrozoo.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

M E S S A G E

If you've always dreamed of exploring Egyptian pyramids and treasures; of gazing at the mighty Amazon; of observing the unique wildlife of the Galapagos; capturing on film the magnificent animals of the African game preserves; then the Zoological Society's exciting 1985-86 travel program is right up your alley.

Pick the destination of your dreams, then call Pat Superfine at the Development Office--255-5553 for more information and for a reservation form. But hurry--we are being flooded with responses and the trips are filling up rapidly.

JULY 28 (17 days) **KENYA** \$2,495
(FIU graduate credit available)

SEPT. 14 (15 days)
EGYPT/ISRAEL/NILE \$2,595
(In Jerusalem for Yom Kipper)

SEPT. 27 (14 days) **KENYA** \$2,595

NOV. 8 (10 days)
GALAPAGOS \$1,995

NOV. 22 (14 days) **KENYA** (\$2,595)

FEB. '86 (8 days) **AMAZON** (\$1,298)

Bon voyage!

Joseph E. Ferrer
Executive Director



African elephant with Mt. Kilimanjaro in the background. You can witness the trumpeting herds. Kenya Photo Mural



African lioness smiles for photo opportunities... possibly yours. Kenya Photo Mural

Society Welcomes State Legislators

The Zoological Society of Florida Board of Trustees and Board of Directors were on hand to welcome the Florida legislators and their families during the Sunday visit April 14th.



L. to R. Roger Carlton, Ron Esserman, Robert Paul, Marshall Harris, Lester Goldstein & State Representative Larry R. Hawkins.



Robert Yokel, Zoo Director and State Representative Larry R. Hawkins welcoming the state legislators and their families to Miami Metrozoo.



EDUCATION OUTLOOK

Horse Sense

By Diane Ledder,
Education Supervisor

Try something a little different for your next family outing: spend the day in the country visiting a working Arabian horse farm. Learn first-hand about the care, training and breeding of these beautiful animals. Informal presentations will be given by the ranch owners, veterinarian, and blacksmith.

A country-style chicken barbeque will be provided by the Fort Lauderdale Hog Roasting Association. It promises to be quite an outing, so join us for a day in the country on Saturday, June 1st, from 10 a.m. to late afternoon at the "Double S" Arabian Ranch. This trip is made possible by the generosity of the owners, who are also good friends of the Society.



Fees: Members: \$7.50--Children
\$15--Adults
Nonmembers: \$9--Children
\$18--Adults

Directions: Take Krome Avenue south to 232nd Street and turn right. Go to 192nd Avenue and turn left to 240th Street. The farm is on the corner of 240th Street & 192nd Avenue.

Classes For Children

Metrozoo-Inn

Experience the sights and sounds of the zoo after dark. Spend the evening with zookeepers who will show you the zoo as you're never seen it before. Bring your sleeping bag and a toothbrush: we'll supply dinner, breakfast and a great adventure.

May 17, June 14
5 P.M. Friday to 9 A.M. Saturday
\$17.50—Members/\$20—Nonmembers



Classes For Families

Breakfast With The Beasts

This is a unique opportunity to visit the zoo in the early morning hours. Breakfast overlooking the "African Plains" is followed by close-up visits with elephants, crocodiles and some of our newborn animals. Learn what and how our animals are fed... and bring your cameras!

Sunday-May 19, June 16 (Father's Day)
8 A.M. - 10 A.M.

\$8—Members/\$10—Nonmembers

Classes For Adults

Summer Lecture Series

We are beginning an adult lecture series to introduce the public to our professional zoo staff and their contributions to wildlife conservation.

Lecture 1:

Ron Magill, Assistant Curator of Reptiles, will provide an entertaining presentation on reptiles and their management in captivity.

Lecture 2:

Ron Johnson, Curator of Birds, will discuss his recent collecting trip to New Guinea and its implications for our aviary.

Lecture 3:

Rick Barongi, Curator of Mammals, will speak on his recent trip to Zaire and his work involving the conservation of the rare Okapi.

Each session will run from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. Join us for a glass of wine and some fascinating information.

June 5, 12 & 19 • 7 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

\$3—Members

\$5 per session—Nonmembers

Series of 3:

\$7—Members/\$12—Nonmembers

F.I.U. at Metrozoo

Due to increased demand, we have scheduled a special 8-week version of this popular course. Open to both graduate and undergraduate students, this comprehensive workshop introduces teachers to Metrozoo and assists them in developing interdisciplinary materials to be used in the classroom and at the zoo. "In Field Credit" is awarded in four disciplines for recertification. Registration is through F.I.U. only. For details call Dr. Ed Reichbnach at F.I.U., 554-2561.

May 9 through June 25 • Tues. & Thurs.

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

\$35 plus F.I.U. tuition

Night Owls

Unwind after a busy week with an overnight adventure at the zoo. An all new program is taught by our zookeepers and includes great food and wine, plus a presentation by our veterinary staff.

June 7, 21, July 19

6 P.M. Friday to 9 A.M. Saturday

\$17.50—Members/\$20—Nonmembers

If you have not yet received a brochure of summer classes, including our series of summer camps, give us a call at 255-5551. You won't want to miss our most exciting summer yet!

Enroll Me In The Following Programs.

Programs _____

Session Dates _____

Program Fees \$ _____

Membership \$ _____
(If Desired)

Total \$ _____

CLASS REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____

Parent's Name _____

Student's Age _____ Grade _____

Member Nonmember

Membership entitles you to free admission to Metrozoo and 70 other zoos, special events and the Society's publications. Family \$35 / Dual \$25 / Individual \$15. Annual memberships are tax deductible. All registrations must be paid in advance. Refunds will be made up to 1 week prior to class starting date.

Mail to: **Education Dept. ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA**
12400 S.W. 152nd Street • Miami, Florida 33177

TOUCAN TIDBITS

Tiny Treasures

By Al Fontana
Assistant Director, Metrozoo

Throughout the zoo's winding walkway, there are open areas which the public uses to rest, play, admire the regional landscaping or observe small animal exhibits. In the original masterplan for the zoo, there are 25 of these open spaces. Some have already been completed: the big chickee or palm hut across from the orangutans, the sculptured camels across from the real ones, and the indigenous acacia tree and outlook post introducing the African Plains.



Several small animal exhibits are also being constructed and will cross your path during future visits. The marabou storks, long-legged scavengers, presently live on the paddock across from the gorillas. Their new display will be next to the impalas, along the path to the African Plains. Once the marabou storks are moved, their vacated paddock will house a new species arriving at Metrozoo--the Nyalala, a kind of antelope. Additional small animal exhibits are also being planned.

The generous funding for these exhibits comes from the Isadore Tendrich Memorial Fund and the Kevin Quick Memorial Fund. If you would like to start such a fund, in memory of someone you love, please contact the Society's development office at 255-5551.

Injured Wildlife HOTLINE

By Cindy Zeigler, Docent

The Society often receives frantic calls for help. People want to know what they should do with an injured animal or bird. Now you can call the Injured Wildlife Hotline--255-6059--which is manned by volunteer groups licensed to handle injured animals by the state and federal government. Until you can get their help, here are some tips on how to handle injured animals.

Small, harmless animals: The most important thing is to relieve as much stress as possible. This can be done by putting the animal in a cardboard box and keeping it in a quiet, shaded area.

Larger, potentially dangerous animals: If you find an injured fox, opossum or raccoon, leave it alone and call the hotline.

Baby birds: Try and return fledglings to the nest, if possible. It's not true that birds will reject their offspring if it is handled by a human. If you can't get the bird back into the nest, it's best to hand it over to the volunteers.

All animals are cared for by the volunteers, and by local veterinarians, until they can be released back into the wild.

New Reptile Quarters

By Ron Magill, Assistant Curator of Reptiles



Red eyed Tree Frog — Hoped-for addition to the collection.

Since the opening of Metrozoo back in 1980, the Reptile Department has operated out of the general curator's office and a small closet-like room in the administration building, due to constant budget limitations and other, more pressing, priorities.

Thanks to the generosity of the Zoological Society, Metrozoo's reptile collection is now housed in a trailer located between the Quarantine pens and the crocodile-breeding facility, away from the exhibit areas.



Leopard Gecko — One of the reptiles presently being bred at Metrozoo.

Metrozoo will specialize in the smaller Australian monitor lizards and will also be involved with some of the rarer, smaller island boas and pythons. Certain colorful and fascinating amphibians are also being considered.

All in all, the new trailer more than doubles the Reptile Department's working area and is a major step toward expanding & improving the reptile collection and its reproductive potential.



Membership Update

When Metrozoo's Preview Center opened in July, 1980, the Zoological Society had under 3,000 members. Less than five years later, we have blossomed into a strong force of 16,000 memberships, representing

nearly 40,000 people. Some of you have grown with us while others are just joining us now. We would like to bring you up to date on the advantages and responsibilities of being a member.

SUBJECT	DISCOUNT	REGULAR PRICE	YOUR PRICE
Admission	100%	\$4.50 / Adult \$2.00 / Child	FREE (Every time FREE You Visit)
Monorail	20%	\$2.90 / Adult \$1.90 / Child	\$2.35 / Adult \$1.50 / Child
Miniature Golf	20%	\$2.50 / Adult \$1.75 / Child	\$2.00 / Adult \$1.40 / Child
Adult Boat Rentals	20%	\$5.00 / 20 Min.	\$4.00 / 20 Min.

Include the pertinent information concerning your membership names, address and type of membership on the lost card. There is a \$1.00 charge for the replacement of a lost card. This is a traditional donation to the zoo's Animal Clinic fund.

Why don't children get cards anymore?

We refined our membership system and save money with cards just being distributed to adults. If you have a family membership, the number of children included in your membership will be on the card in parenthesis. If your children come to the zoo without an adult, give them your card, but also have them bring a matching school or library I.D.

What should I do if I move?

Please send a forwarding address. This will insure proper transfer of our timely notices.

What if a visiting friend and I want to come to the zoo?

Your guest does need to purchase a ticket. However, guest passes are available at the Society's front booth, before the ticket gates, for the price of \$4.00/adult and \$1.50/child. This will save you time and money.

Enjoy your membership advantages, and help us to make your zoo going experience a pleasant one.

Questions Often Asked

When should I bring my membership card?

Every time you come to the zoo. You will not be admitted without it.



Will anyone check my card?

Yes. On weekdays the staff inside the booths and on weekends volunteers at the gate will check your card. Often you will be asked to show matching identification with confirmation of correct name, address and face. (Don't cheat your zoo ... keep your card for your own use!)

What do I do if I have lost or damaged my card?

Write a short note to the Membership Office at the Society, requesting a new card and explaining why.

THE CAPE BUFFALO

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clumsy at birth, but is in little danger from predators because the protective mother remains constantly by its side. Normally calves nurse with their heads between the mother's hind legs, unlike calves of domestic cattle which suckle from the side. Calves grow rapidly in their first year.

The herd's defense against predators is so formidable that lions usually succeed in killing only the older, solitary males. Maximum life expectancy of the Cape buffalo in the wild is estimated at 20 years, but zoo specimens have lived past 26 years of age.

The Cape buffalo population in East Africa was severely depleted in the early part of this century by rinderpest, a virus introduced by domestic cattle. It is only in the past 20 years that the buffalo can again be seen in the great herds that once dominated much of the African grasslands.



A Magic Carpet

A twelve-foot round Persian rug, depicting 250 wild animals in soft shades of gold and brown, provides a magnificent focal point for the lobby of the administration building at Metrozoo. Valued at more than \$50,000, the rug was donated to Metrozoo last year by FARSHID LIVIEM, president of Oriental Rug Wholesalers in Miami.

The rug, thought to be the largest round, virgin-wool Persian carpet in the world, was originally commissioned in 1975 for a proposed zoo in Iran. The zoo was never built, and the carpet was put up for auction in Europe. "When I saw the rug, I immediately thought of Miami Metrozoo," Liviem said, "because it is so



universally recognized as a model zoo. This treasure belongs in a zoo that is itself a work of art."

As with all genuine Oriental rugs, the zoo's is entirely handmade. Three artists from the city of Tabriz labored for seven years to complete it. Different varieties of birds are depicted at the perimeter of the rug, inside which images of lions, giraffes, baboons and other animals are interspersed with floral motifs. At the center of the rug, visitors to a zoo are shown admiring the animals.

Visitors to Metrozoo are invited to stop by and see the rug--please, just don't walk all over this work of art. It's too exquisite to step on.

Adopt An Animal

By Pat Superfine, Office of Development

"Adopt a tiger or an elephant?"

At Metrozoo, of course, where it belongs. All the animals at the zoo are up for adoption. When you adopt an animal you help to look after the cost of keeping it there.

For as little as \$25 or \$2,500, you can adopt an animal at the zoo. Gifts of \$200 or more entitle you to an engraved name plate, to be prominently displayed on the Commitment to Wildlife Board just as you enter the zoo.



**Are you crazy?
Where would I keep it?"**

Who is eligible to adopt an animal? Everyone--individuals, groups, organizations and schools. Adopting an animal also makes a special gift for the person who is difficult to please. The gift is doubly appreciated because it also supports the cause of wildlife preservation.

For details on the adopt-an-animal program, call 255-5551.

Executive Director: Joseph E. Ferrer

Editor: Mamta Chaudhry-Fryer

Design: Janicé McDougall



UPCOMING CONCERTS

May 26th • 2:00 P.M. **JUDY COLLINS**
Sponsored by Florida National Bank / Deerwood Village

June 1st • 12:00 Noon **FIFTH DIMENSION**
Sponsored by Norwegian Caribbean Lines

June 16th • 2:00 P.M. **HANSEL & RAOL**

June 30th • 12:00 Noon **DIZZY GILLESPIE**

12400 S.W. 152nd Street • Miami, Florida 33177

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