

# Toucan Talk

November/December 1990  
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The newsletter of the Zoological Society of Florida  
a non-profit organization supporting Miami Metrozoo

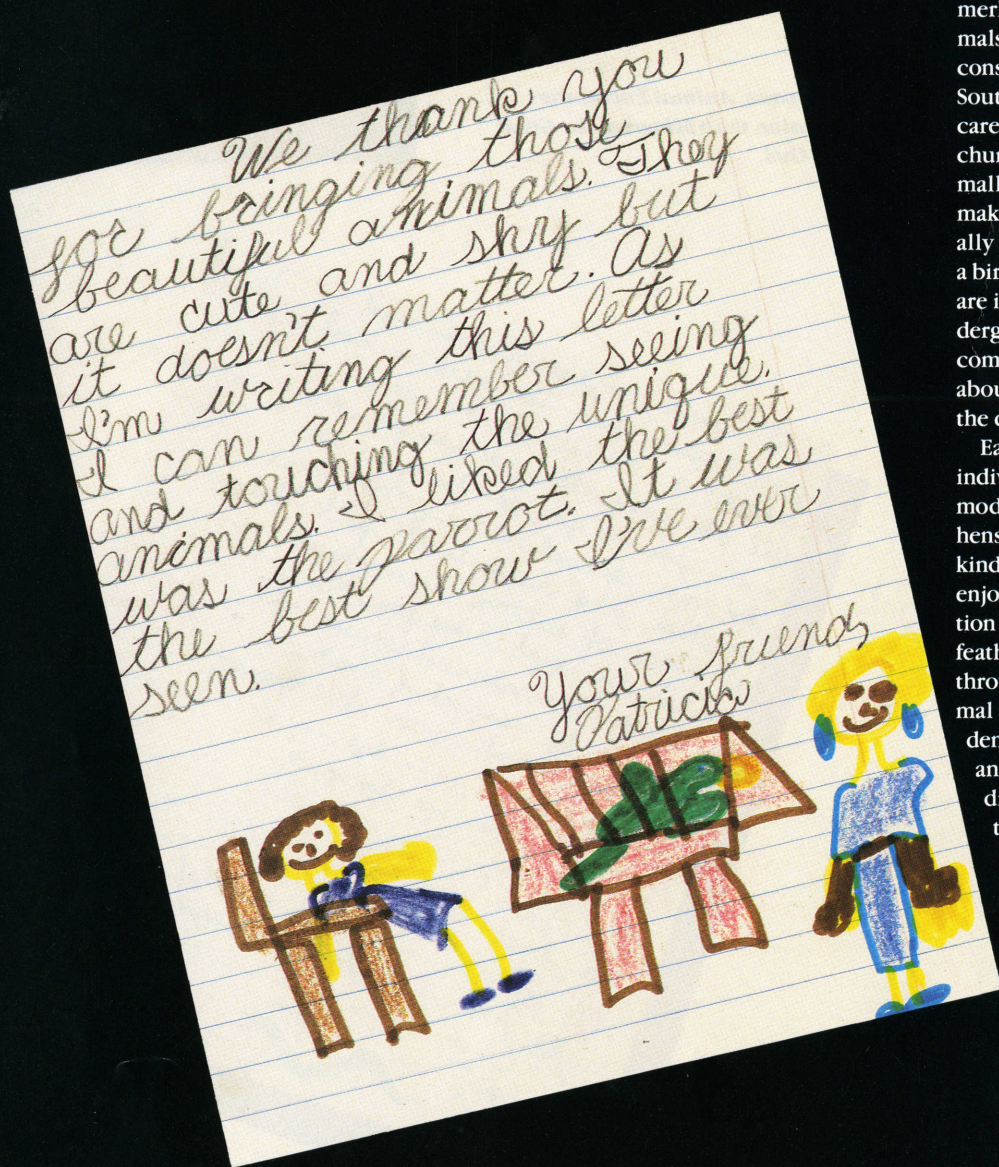
## Close Encounters of the Wild Kind!

It's very early in the morning at Metrozoo and two volunteers exit the back door of the Society Membership/Administration building, carrying a selection of educational materials and a road map. Their first stop is the white van in the parking lot, with the message "Animal Encounters," sponsored by McDonald's printed boldly on the side. The van is further enhanced with a shadow painting of an African savannah, complete with silhouettes of animals that occupy that habitat.

With materials and travel instructions on board, the next stop is the Animal Resource Center (A.R.C., a small building, located behind the scenes). Here, several furred, clawed and feathered passengers, who will be part of the day's presentation, are put on board. With preparations completed, the specially trained volunteers who devote countless hours of time, boundless energy, and enthusiasm to this program, are ready to embark on another educational safari.

The Animal Encounters program, formerly called Outreach, takes small animals and a big message about conserving wildlife to every corner of South Florida. In visits to schools, day care centers, hospitals, nursing homes, churches, synagogues and shopping malls, the Animal Encounters crew makes it possible for everyone to actually touch a tortoise, pet a ferret, talk to a bird, and learn how important snakes are in the balance of nature. From kindergarten children to retirees, everyone comes away with some new knowledge about animals and a greater respect for the diversity of life on planet earth.

Each presentation is geared to the individual audience in order to accommodate different interest and comprehension levels. The pre-school, kindergarten, and first grade crowd enjoys "Animal Wrappings," a presentation which allows them to touch feathers, fur and scales. In second through fourth grade classrooms, "Animal Interrelationships" encourages students to explore the ways in which animals and men interrelate in their diverse environments. For students in the middle grades, available presentations include "Zoos" and "Conservation."







Volunteers Bill Liddle, Carli Liddle, Marianne Feland, and Marianna Beasley prepare to load their precious cargo on the Animal Encounters specialized van, donated by McDonald's.

Some special options are available for adults and older students. "Florida Endangered Species" uses animals and fascinating biofacts, such as turtle shells, a key deer skull, and confiscated products made from endangered animals to dramatically illustrate the peril of many native animals.

In "Calls of the Wild" the audience is treated to the sights and sounds of Metrozoo. Discussion of why animals make the sounds they do and the opportunity to test their listening skills draws the audience into active participation in this program.

These presentations are not lectures. They are designed to involve the audience in a "see me, touch me, hear me" manner. Our volunteers have discovered that small animals are the best teachers and the tactile experience serves to reinforce the conservation messages.

Animal Encounters is made possible through the generosity of McDonald's. Not only did they fund the purchase of the specialized van required for transporting the animals, they also helped develop and underwrote all of the educational materials which enhance the experience. We thank them for their vision and commitment to care for the "whole" community.

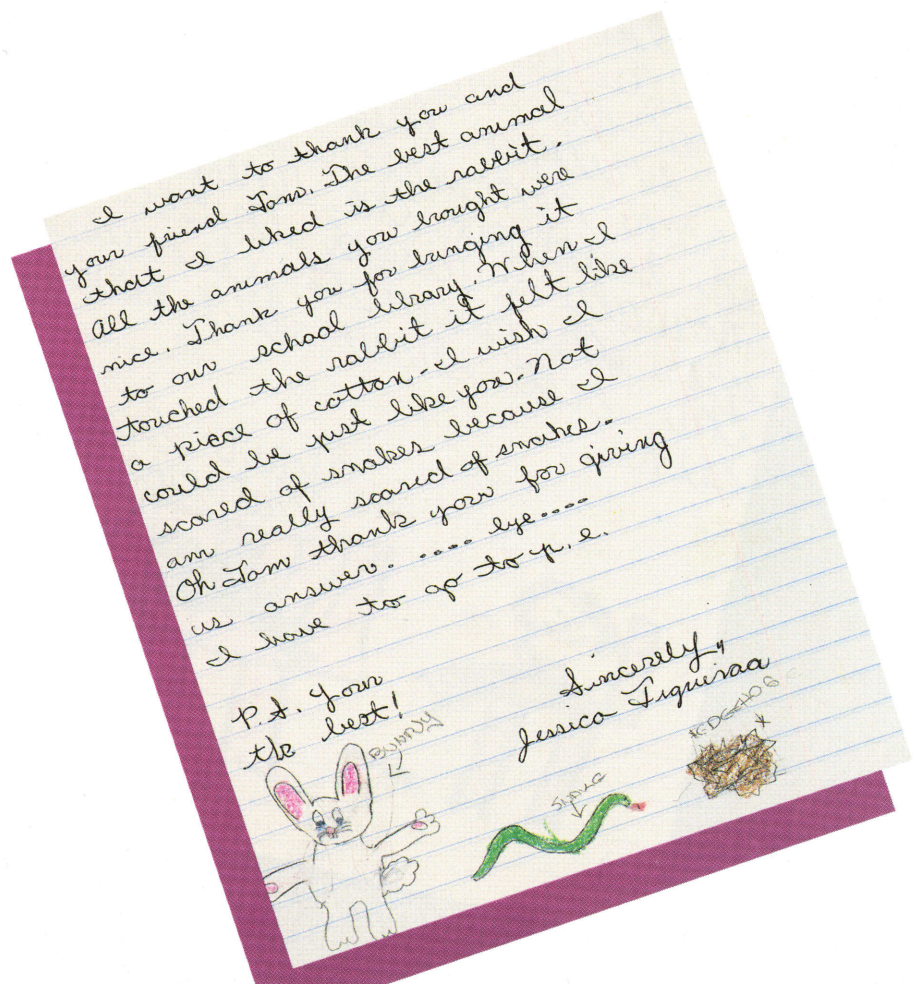
Special presentations can be developed to suit a particular need. Interested? Would you like to book a program? It's easy. Just call the Society office at 255-5551 and ask for the Animal Encounters Coordinator. The best days

to call are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and we would be happy to bring our important animated conservation message right to your door! A small fee is charged to help defray the cost of operating the van and continued printing of materials.

In closing, we would like to share with you a glowing testimonial from one of our younger participants.



Sandy Savane, Animal Encounters Coordinator, with Minerva, the Great Horned Owl.





## Executive Vice President's Message...

With this issue of Toucan Talk, we stand on the threshold of a new fiscal year, one that promises to be rewarding and exciting as the Society's resources are increasingly committed to a broad range of programs that touch on virtually all areas of the zoo, including operations.

In addition to capital projects, one of our primary focuses will be enhancing and complementing the grounds to make them more visitor friendly. Metrozoo is a very large zoo and for seven or eight months during the year the weather is hot. Our amenities committee feels that we need more shade trees, more visitor's comfort stations, and some mini-exhibits interspersed within the larger exhibits. The appearance and comfort of the zoo is a primary ingredient of the visitor's experience and we want your enjoyment of the animals to be extended to include enjoyment of the park's natural garden setting. This ambitious project is part of our long-range

plan, and we hope to complete it over the next few years.

The cornerstone of the Zoological Society is community support and no measure of that patronage is more important than an increase in contributed funds. Last year was another banner year for the Society and with our increased commitments, we need you more than ever. Annual giving is the life blood of the Society, enabling us to carry out essential ongoing activities that help strengthen the zoo programs in awareness, education, and conservation.

Our Board continues its planning process to help Metrozoo move into the future with its key priorities in place. We thank each of you, our members, donors and friends for joining the Zoological Society's commitment to excellence. We look forward to continuing to work together in the year ahead for the achievement of the goals we all share for our beautiful Metrozoo.



## Thank You Carole Cotton and Happy Balloons!

The people have spoken, and we have listened. We asked our members what they would like to see when they visit Metrozoo. The people responded by asking for more shade and cold water. The Society will be directing its efforts in 1991 to add more amenities (such as rest areas, benches and shade trees) to our zoo making a trip through Africa (or Asia) more comfortable.

*Carole Cotton of Happy Balloons* has leapt to the forefront of our Amenities Campaign for 1991 by funding a new rest area with cold water and a paddle fan located opposite the African elephants – her favorite exhibit. Carole would also like to add educational graphics near her rest area so that people could be enlightened while they relax. Thank you Carole for your continued support.

For information about how you or your organization can participate in the 1991 Amenities Campaign, please call Linda Ingram in the Development Office at 255-5551.

## Officers and Directors Elected for New Fiscal Year

The results of the Board of Trustees election of the Board of Directors were made official at the Board meeting on September 19, 1990. Your Officers and Directors for fiscal year 1990-1991 are as follows:

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Robert Paul,  
President  
Sherrill Hudson,  
President Elect  
Frank C. Baiamonte,  
Vice President  
Ralph Morera,  
Treasurer  
John K. Little,  
Secretary  
Frank N. Hawkins, Jr.  
Recording Secretary  
Sanford B. Miot,  
Past President

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William Barkell  
C. Robert Black  
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Antonio Cabrera, Jr.  
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Lester Goldstein  
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Metrozoo Director  
Executive Vice President  
Joseph E. Ferrer



## Programs For Children

### A.I.R. Scouting Program

*Grades K-12*

This program is especially designed for scout groups and their leaders. Scouts learn about a variety of subjects including the purposes of modern zoos, the animals at Metrozoo, and what can be done to protect animals and their habitats. Participants receive the A.I.R. (Awareness, Interest, Respect) patch. Scout leaders, contact the education department to reserve space for your group.

*Dates:* Saturday mornings, September through June.

*Hours:* 9:00-11:00 A.M.

*Fee:* \$12.00 per person (1 chaperone per 8 scouts is free)

### Teacher Planning Day Mini Camps

*Grades 1-4*

On those days when students are out of school while teachers work, we are offering mini camps. Each one day session will focus on a topic, such as habitats, which the children will investigate through walking tours of the zoo, exhibits, films, stories, craft projects, and live animals. A fun-filled, educational day!

*Date:* Friday, November 9

*Hours:* 8:30 A.M.-3:30 P.M.

*Fee:* \$25.00 Members, \$30.00 Non-members

## Programs for Families

### Hooray for Herps!

*Ages 10 to Adult*

Do you think of snakes as slimey? Are you confused about turtles and tortoises? Did you ever wonder why lizards flick their tongues? All of these mysteries and many more will be solved in our Saturday Herpetology Workshop. Come out and meet some of the reptiles and amphibians (herps) we use in our programs and learn about these fascinating creatures.

*Date:* Saturday, November 17

*Hours:* 9:00 A.M.-12 Noon

*Fee:* \$5.00 Members, \$8.00 Non-members



## Come to the Fair!

Beneath the sprawling shade trees on the Miami Dade Community College Wolfson campus, the Zoological Society of Florida will, for the first time, help celebrate the International Year of Literacy by participating in Miami Dade's Seventh International Book Fair.

Over 140 authors from a variety of genres will come together on November 11 through November 18 in a spectacular gathering to read from and discuss their latest works as well as previous writings and works in progress.

The Zoological Society exhibit will be located in the paradisiacal land of "Children's Alley" where fair goers will find a potpourri of wonders to please even the youngest book lover.

Three presentations per day will be offered by our Animal Encounters program during the Street Fair to be held November 16, 17, and 18. Children and adults alike will have the opportunity to share in the experience of Avian Adventures, Snakes in the Balance of Nature and Florida's Wild Things, a glimpse of Florida's endangered species. The time and place for each of these presentations will be published in the International Book Fair program which will be available at the Fair.

The Street Fair will offer author presentations, special programs for children, demonstrations by gourmet writers, rare book exhibits, continuous music and great conversation. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have your favorite book inscribed by your favorite author is also available during the Street Fair. Literary personalities like Norman Mailer, Edward Albee, Leo Buscaglia, Alex Haley, Mario Vargas Llosa, Alice Walker, Guillermo Cabrera Infante, Gwendolyn Brooks, Garrison Keillor, and Armando Valladares have participated in past Book Fairs.

Our Society booth will have zoo books, t-shirts, book marks, posters and many of the items now available at our Toucan Trader gift shop. Opportunities for joining the Zoological Society will be explained by our volunteers to those attending the Fair.

Elephants and camel rides will give children and their parents an opportunity to touch and feel animals of the wild. The rides will be available at Children's Alley.

In Children's Alley, kids and adults as well can truly experience a magnificent land of wonder and amazement... won't you come and join us?



### Breakfast With the Beasts – Asian River Experience

If you have seen this new exhibit you know how terrific it is. If you haven't seen it yet, you are in for a rare treat! Come out to the zoo for a light breakfast and a guided tour of the new exhibit. We will give you the story behind the design and the animals that call it home!

**Date:** Sunday, November 18

**Hours:** 8:00-10:00 A.M.

**Fee:** \$15.00 Members, \$20.00 Non-members  
(Children 5 and under, half-price)



*I wonder if it's too late to get her into a mini camp?*



*You can have breakfast at our place in November!*

### A Tisket, A Tasket, Weave Your Own Basket!

**Ages 10 to Adult**

Learn the basics of weaving baskets with natural materials in this Saturday workshop. We have the materials, experienced instructors, and instructions to take home for later. Bring your nimble fingers and join us – just in time for the holidays!

**Date:** Saturday, December 8

**Hours:** 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

**Fee:** \$10.00 Members, \$15.00 Non-members



*"Flora Gator" poses with some young Metrozoo visitors*

### Programs for Adults

#### Wildlife Conservation Seminars (WCS)

The WCS program is a series of informal presentations which focus on wildlife and conservation topics to promote public awareness of environmental problems and opportunities for action and involvement. Each 1½ hour program includes a presentation followed by a question and answer session and light refreshments in the comfort of our zoo classrooms.

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 The 3 R's: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse

There is a hole in the ozone layer; the rain forests are being destroyed; our air and water are being polluted! How can sorting our garbage and recycling cans, glass and paper help solve such serious environmental problems? Join us for the November WCS and find out. Susie Collins, Recycling Coordinator for North Miami Beach, will show us how to act locally to help solve global problems.

**Time:** 6:30-8:00 P.M.

**Fee:** \$10.00 Member, \$15.00 Non-member.

**Registration Policy:** Advance registration is required for all programs. Registration is by mail or telephone.

Program information may be obtained over the telephone, however a reservation in the program is contingent upon payment. Fees may be paid by check, money order, cash or Visa/Mastercard/American Express. A confirmation letter will be issued upon receipt of payment.

**Cancellations:** All fees are non-refundable. Cancellation notifications must be received at least 72 hours (3 business days) prior to the actual program date in order for credit to be accrued. Fees then may be transferred to another program. You may transfer to another program only once without losing your payment and the transfer must occur within 2 months.

## Register Here

Mail to: Education Department, Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 S.W. 152nd Street, Miami, Florida 33177 (305) 255-5551

Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Program(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Non Member  Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mastercard  Visa  Amer. Exp. Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

For Children's Programs, please complete the following:

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student's Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in school (as of Sept. '89) \_\_\_\_\_



# Travelogue 1991: Education Through Fascination



Our 1991 travel schedule offers a variety of destinations designed to introduce you to some of the planet's last pristine habitats. From our lodge at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro to a stilted camp in the Amazon river basin, each of our tours will allow you to experience the earth's natural jewels – its jungles as well as savannahs, deserts, and underwater treasures.

Each trip is fully escorted by trained naturalists familiar with the flora and fauna of the region. In addition to experiencing nature, each expedition also schedules time in some of the world's great cities, allowing you to take in theaters, museums and organized cultural tours wherever possible.

**AUSTRALIA:** 16 days, March 9 through March 23, 1991. Back by popular demand, experience Australia's national parks and cities from the Great Barrier Reef to Melbourne. \$3,995 per person

out of Miami. Optional extension to *New Zealand*: 8 days, return March 31, \$1,695 per person.

**KENYA SAFARI:** 12 days of the best game viewing in East Africa. You'll experience the annual migration in the Masai Mara, Samburu Game Reserve, Lake Nakuru and the Mt. Kenya Safari Club. An optional 8 day extension to *Amboseli National Park and Tanzania* will take you to one of Kenya's most beautiful parks, to the Serengeti during the annual migration and the Ngorongoro Crater, a true Eden. Our safari to Kenya departs July 12 and returns July 23, 1991, the per person price from Miami is \$3,250. Amboseli/Tanzania returns July 31 and is \$1,650 per person. For travelers who want to see another side of East Africa, the extension is also available as a 12-day tour, July 20-31 and the price round-trip from Miami is \$3,550.

**AMAZON:** Only a four hour flight from Miami but a world away, the Peruvian Amazon still holds treasures waiting to be discovered. Our 7-day exploration will take you on boat and on foot to experience the fragile power of the rain forest. A 6-day extension to *Cuzco and Macchu Picchu*, the "lost city of the Incas," provides a fascinating contrast high in the Andes. Departing September 28 and returning October 4, the Amazon expedition's price per person is \$1,598. The extension is \$698 and returns October 10.

**INDIA:** 15 days of tigers and temples! You will view tigers, rhinos, bears, and a myriad of other species in three national parks from a jeep or the back of an elephant. In addition to fine game viewing, we'll visit *Old and New Delhi and the Taj Mahal*. A 7 day extension to *Nepal* will take you to *Tiger Tops in Chitwan National Park*. You will also journey to *Pokhara*, one of the loveliest spots in the Himalayas, and marvel at the background of snow clad peaks and ice fed lakes and rivers. Become immersed in India's natural and cultural wonders October 11, returning October 25, 1991. Per person price from Miami is \$3,895. The extension to Nepal returns November 1 and is \$2,395 per person.

**GALAPAGOS:** Separated from the mainland thousands of years ago, the wildlife of the Galapagos adapted to their isolated environment in many unique ways. As you cruise between islands, you will have the chance to swim with sea lions and stroll among giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, land iguanas, and fascinate to the riches of Darwin's "enchanted islands." Our tour will also take you to Ecuador to experience its natural treasures and culture. 10 days in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands departs November 17 and returns November 26, 1991. Price per person is \$2,895 out of Miami.

All prices include round-trip airfare from Miami. If any of our destinations spark your travel bug, please call the travel coordinator at 255-5551 for more detailed itineraries.



# Exciting "Developments" for Campaign 1990-1991...

## Metrozoo Specialty Checks Pay Off

Let's face it – nobody likes to pay bills! Sometimes writing out those checks is a painful experience. We can't do anything about your obligations, but we can make it a little more pleasant by offering a scenic and beautiful check to ease the pain. A selection of Metrozoo's very own wild-life photographs has been converted into a series of check designs. Society members can order a box of 200 for \$15.95; the general public can order 200 checks for \$19.95. For more information call 1-800-367-4369 or stop by the Society office or gift shop for a brochure.

## A Buck-A-Tux for the Zoological Society

Mel and Irene Kessler, owners of *gingiss formalwear stores* throughout South Florida – and the proud sponsors of our baby bronze elephant "ginger" – have offered to donate one dollar for every tuxedo they rent between October 1, 1990 and September 30, 1991 to the Zoological Society of Florida. Spread the word to all your friends and neighbors who will need to rent a tuxedo for that very special affair, *gingiss formalwear* through the buck-a-tux program, is helping the Society and Metrozoo!

## Long Distance Calls Add Up

Forget the advertising feud between ATT and Sprint. Through our association with ATC Long Distance, the Society has a unique opportunity to raise money. All it takes to participate is to switch your long distance service to ATC. Then, every time you make a long distance call, a percentage of the costs will be given to the Society. This fund raising program won't cost you a cent, in fact, you could save money with ATC's long distance rates. Call 1-800-741-ASSN for more details, or stop by the Society office for a brochure and more information.

## A Few Stars of Animal Encounters



SYDNEY, *Umbrella Cockatoo*

*From the psittacine family – relative of parrots. Sydney is the only bird in the ARC who likes to be touched (gently, please). She enjoys people and is becoming more vocal as she gets older.*

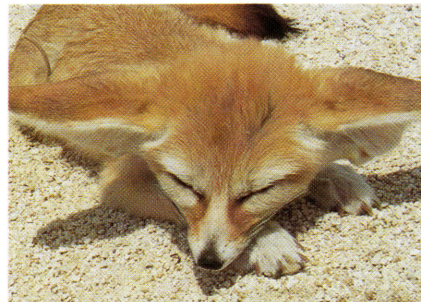


MOE, *East African Hedgehog*

*Moe is one of three in the ARC, but the only adult. Hedgehogs have quills on much of their bodies, but cannot shoot or launch them.*

DOOGIE, *Fennec Fox*

*From North Africa and Arabia, the original "desert fox." In the wild, fennec foxes dig down in the sand to escape the intense heat of the desert. The large ears also serve as a cooling mechanism.*



## Run for Your Life... Jungle Jog Is Coming!!!

On Sunday, January 13, 1991 at 8:00 A.M., the 9th Annual Jungle Jog will burst out of the starting gate at Metrozoo.

Jungle Jog, the first date on the Zoological Society's calendar of special events, is both a state sanctioned 5 mile championship run and a 2 mile fitness walk for everyone.

We urge you and your family to join us for Jungle Jog for your health and fitness and because the proceeds from this event support the development of your zoo.

The entry fee for Jungle Jog is \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 on race day. The first 2,000 participants receive commemorative t-shirts and all runners and walkers enjoy free refreshments and admission to Metrozoo for the day.

Please mail Jungle Jog application forms to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of applications requested \_\_\_\_\_

Send to the Zoological Society of Florida  
c/o Jungle Jog or pick up an application  
at the Zoological Society Membership/  
Administration building at Miami  
Metrozoo.



## Toucan Trader's Choice

Holidays at Metrozoo are the most exciting time for the staff of the Zoological Society gift shops, and this year will be no exception. In the past, Society members have avoided crowded shopping malls and browsed through the exotic treasures that Toucan Trader as well as the ParrotDise Boutique (at Parrot Jungle) have to offer.

Many gift ideas abound which are unique and exciting. Do you have a special friend, family member, or business associate who is an adoptive friend of one of our animals? Have you considered a gift that will give lasting thoughts of their special interest? A soft, cuddly plush animal is a daily reminder, and something warm to touch.

Perhaps you would prefer something more sophisticated, an Arthur Court creation. His designs vividly capture the beauty of nature in his heavy, polished, cast metal collection. He has combined practicality and art in his pieces such as the elephant charger plate, koala nut dish, and cheese spreader.

We also have sleek, contemporary crystal sculptures, each personally

signed by Swedish artist Mat Jonasson. Hand painted African animals from the William Holden Wildlife Foundation are also available.

Our new poster and greeting card art is exceptional. Vivid color and dramatic graphics are irresistible, especially to the collector. As a final touch, wrap your treasure in a Laura Regan art gift bag.

These are just a few gift ideas which you can find in our gift shops by being a privileged Society member. Remember to present your membership card when making a purchase to receive your 10% discount.



## Holiday Shopping Made Easy – Over 200 Animals to Befriend!!!

The holidays are just around the corner and we're sure you have been wondering what extraordinary gift you could give this year that would show that "someone special" just how unique they are.

May we suggest you choose an animal through the Zoological Society's Befriend an Animal program? For your distinctive friend or family member, we will send a certificate (suitable for framing), a fact sheet on the subject animal, a ZooBook on the animal (or related species) and a gift card. You can even shop by telephone and charge your gift by calling Libby Pearce in the development department, 255-5551.

We have ducks for your "ducky" friends, koalas for someone warm and fuzzy, lions for the lion-hearted on your list, even an Edward's fig parrot for the Edward in your life. Pictured here is a young Grevy zebra that can be befriended at a special holiday rate of \$100, which also includes a photograph. Call today to guarantee delivery by Christmas or Hanukkah.

## A Reminder . . .

Our goal is to offer you the best service possible. In order to do this, we need your help. The following policies and procedures must be observed at all times:

- **Your card *must be presented* for free admission to Metrozoo, reciprocal zoos, and all discounted attractions.**
- **Please have identification ready to present with your card.**
- **Your membership card is non-transferable.**

**PLEASE DO NOT FORGET YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD** – you cannot enter the zoo without it.

Due to the rising costs of paper, processing and manpower, effective November 1, 1990, it will be necessary to charge \$3.00 per adult for each receipt voucher if you forget your card.

These policies are designed to protect your membership from abuse and to facilitate your entry into the zoo. We thank you for your cooperation.

### Zoological Society of Florida

12400 S.W. 152nd Street  
Miami, Florida 33177-1499  
(305) 255-5551

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Permit No. 4358  
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**Become a volunteer at Metrozoo!**

**Call 255-5551 for details.**