



TOUCAN TALK

A Trip To The Zoo That Comes To You!



\$2

To look at animals. It's why we come to the zoo. There's nothing like watching real animals, and zoos are a unique environment for this activity. Modern zoos have opened a new kind of connection between humans and animals.

It's one thing to look at the animals. It's another to have them stare back. This is a magical zoo moment. It's like a small acknowledgment from nature and it incites the imagination. Whenever it happens to me, I want to believe that the animals are communicating with me. But what are they saying? My theory is that looking into the animals' eyes is something like looking at abstract art. You see what you want to see, and whatever you think you see, you see. Therefore, the animals are saying something; they're saying whatever we want to hear.

Professional animal managers, especially those that work with great apes, are trained never to give the animals a direct gaze. Eye-to-eye contact from within a social group is a gesture of dominance, a threat that can be extremely disturbing to the animal. Keepers, veterinarians, curators and maintenance workers are part of the social group. You and I are not. The animals react differently to those of us across the moat with our unpredictable patterns of sound and movement, fidgety offspring, colorful clothes and chemical scent. I am told that if they stare, it is as much out of curiosity as it is when we stare at them. They feel safe to watch us because they know the public is not part of their social structure.

Moated, barless, spacious, landscaped exhibits free the visitors and the animals alike, of visual barriers. In a modern zoo we can get a good long look at one another and ponder what it means to coexist on this little blue sphere. -by Barbara Brady, Toucan Talk Editor

For most primates, especially gorillas and chimps, direct eye contact is perceived as a threat. Orangutans, like "Jasper" our adult male, are more tolerant of a direct gaze. Unlike gorillas and chimps who live in large social groups, orangutans lead mostly solitary lives so they welcome such social contact when it comes along.

-Cover photo by Alex Worden

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Veterinary Notebook: Getting Creative

Since none of their patients can tell them what's the matter, veterinarians' jobs are tricky. At the zoo, the job is made even more challenging by the variety of species, physiologies, symptoms, conditions, and treatments. With the keepers as their "clients" providing notes and observations on behavior, diet and overall condition, zoo veterinarians bring education, training, skill and experience to their analysis of these wide-ranging variables. Sometimes, sheer creativity wins the day, as you'll read in these cases from Metrozoo Veterinarian Chris Miller's notebook.

The Case Of The Hypertense Gorilla

"Jimmie," our 29-year-old male gorilla (mate to "Josephine"), has a medical problem similar to a common human health problem: high blood pressure, or hypertension.

Hypertension refers to an increase in pressure within the blood vessels. It overworks the heart and can eventually lead to heart failure, weakened blood vessel walls, aortic ruptures, or stroke. With hypertension, the heart has a harder time pumping the blood to important organs such as kidneys, so it can also lead to kidney disease and failure.

In humans it is called "the silent killer" because you

will not know that you have the problem unless your blood pressure is measured. The same goes for gorillas. Jimmie is active and eats well, and without routine exams we wouldn't have known about his problem... until it was too late. He doesn't volunteer to have his blood pressure measured like people should. His condition was discovered during his February, 1994 physical. While his normal blood pressure should have been 120/80 (similar to a human), Jimmie's was up to 260/160. (All our other gorillas have normal blood pressure, by the way.)

Cardiologist Alan Schwartz volunteered to consult with us on Jimmie's case. He performed an electrocardiogram and an ultrasonic exam of his heart and aorta to assess the situation. Jimmie was found to have some heart enlargement, indicating that his high blood pressure was becoming a threat to his health.

Depending on how high your blood pressure is, and on other factors involving your health and living habits, treatment might involve modifying your diet, quitting smoking or avoiding alcoholic beverages, or reducing sources of stress in your routine. If these basic methods of control are not effective, or the hypertension is severe, antihypertensive drugs might be prescribed.

Since Jimmie is on a good diet and he doesn't smoke or drink, Dr. Schwartz and I have chosen to try one of the human antihypertensives on him. By treating Jimmie with a once-a-day pill in his breakfast banana, we hope to control his hypertension with minimum effect on his daily life. With good care and good luck, Jimmie will live with us at Metrozoo for many more years to come.

The Old Shell Game

"Patches" is a male Galápagos tortoise acquired by Metrozoo in 1981. He came here as an adult and his age is unknown.

Over ten years ago, Patches developed an ill-defined shell condition which causes the outer layers of the shell plates – called "scutes" – to chip and flake off. There usually is more than one cause for this condition including environment (high humidity, frequent rain, warm climate), nutrition and/or infection. Several of our tortoises have had this condition, but it usually affects only very small areas of the shell. Patches' shell, however, was extensively affected, causing almost a third of his upper shell – called the "carapace" – to be lost.

Since tortoises heal very, very slowly, it can take years to scar over a large shell defect. Tortoises with severe shell damage would probably die in the wild. At times like these, zoo veterinarians have to get creative.

Medical treatment of Patches' shell condition by the previous veterinary staff began with removal of the

continued on next page

Jimmie showed no symptoms of high blood pressure. His condition was discovered during a routine physical in February, 1994.

-photos on this spread by Alex Worden



infected shell and application of disinfectant to stop any secondary infections from bacteria or fungi. After the disease process was stopped, the shell defects had to be covered in some way to protect the underlying tissues. When the scutes flaked off, they left only unpigmented (clear), delicate layers of soft tissue to cover the bone of the shell. This left Patches vulnerable to infection of the bone and to severe damage from exposure to sun and the elements.

Patches has worn an epoxy-patched shell since the original repair was performed over a decade ago. The original epoxy was a light gray material developed to repair horses' cracked hooves. Some of the old scutes from Patches' original shell were incorporated into the patch to give it a slightly more natural appearance, but observant zoo visitors may have noticed Patches' gray

"seams" where the epoxy showed around the scutes.

It's a tribute to the veterinarian who did the original work that Patches' patch lasted so well. Still, over the years it slowly broke down until it was time



Patches, coming out of his newly refurbished shell.

for a new "shell job" this past July. After chipping and sanding off the old epoxy patch we saw that almost all the original defects had scarred over. Since very little pigment had grown in, leaving the scar vulnerable, it was felt to be in Patches' best interest to recover most of the scar with a new protective patch. The material we used this time was a special clay-like epoxy that was tinted before it cured for a more natural color.

Hopefully, this patch will last as long as the old one. Say "hi" to Patches in the tortoise yard on your way to the wart hogs next time you're in the zoo! ■

Metrozoo Internship Program

Very few people get to see what it is really like behind the scenes at the zoo. A lot of what happens is far from glamorous. But this past year three teenagers had the chance to be part of the zoo team and experience it for themselves.

Through the **Dade County Public School System** two types of zoo internships were offered to high school students: laboratory and executive internships. Lab internships involve designing a research project to obtain more information about the animals in our collection. The results of the research will be utilized by the zoo's animal science department in its management of animal exhibits. Executive internships allow students to work with administrators in a variety of areas including membership, community relations, fundraising, etc.

This year we were fortunate to have **Jason Jacob, Mike Rivera** and **Tina Schultz** working with us. Jason, 17, served as a lab intern studying the way in which two species – chimpanzees and gorillas – utilize their exhibits. He learned

about the long hours and patience needed to conduct behavioral research. At the same time he learned to appreciate each animal as an individual rather than as a specimen. Do you know how to tell "Samantha" and "Bubbles" apart? Jason now can easily recognize them, and he also has gained insights into their relationships with the rest of the chimp family members.

Mike, 17, worked on two projects for the Education Department. He developed a video presentation to teach volunteers about the zoo's animal collection and he collected information on a native snail found on zoo property.

Tina, 17, worked in Community Relations and Membership to develop a better understanding of visitor services. She created a slide presentation to introduce Metrozoo, its programs and facilities

to the community. She also served as a teen staff member at our Zoofari Summer Camp.

"Summer camp was an ideal opportunity to learn more about the zoo and have fun over the summer," she said. "Kids have such a passion for wildlife and I feel we should do our best to nurture that."

In the future, we hope to open our doors to other interns interested in the zoo field. Students may check with their school counselors to learn more about internship opportunities at Metrozoo. ■

by Damien Kong, Education Specialist



Tina Schultz (front left) was in our intern program and part of our camp staff too. Our other Zoofari Camp counselors were (top) Cristina Nelson, Damien Kong, and Robin Adams (bottom) Tina, Ingrid Merry, Debbie Badillo and David Schultz.

-photo by Barbara Crutchfield

BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

May 21 - July 14, 1994

Gerenuk
Litocranius walleri
Female May 21

Impala
Aepyceros melampus
Female May 29
Female June 1
Male June 2
Female June 17

Malayan sun bear
Helarctos malayanus
Male June 8

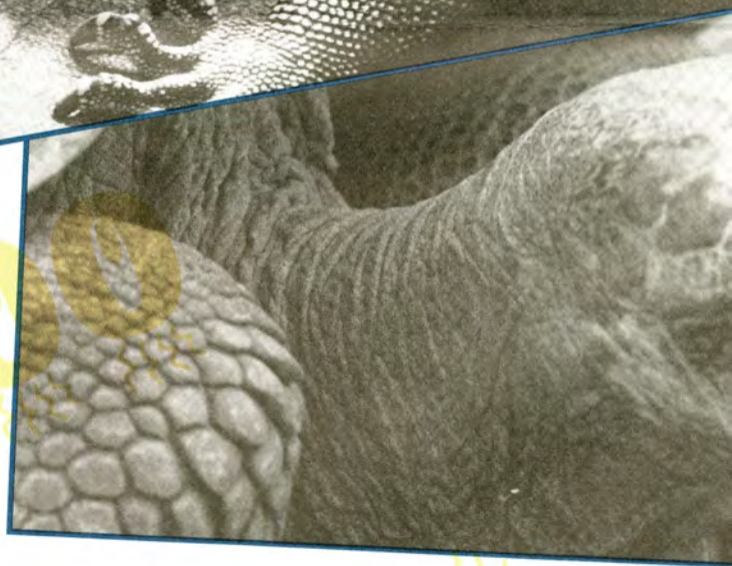
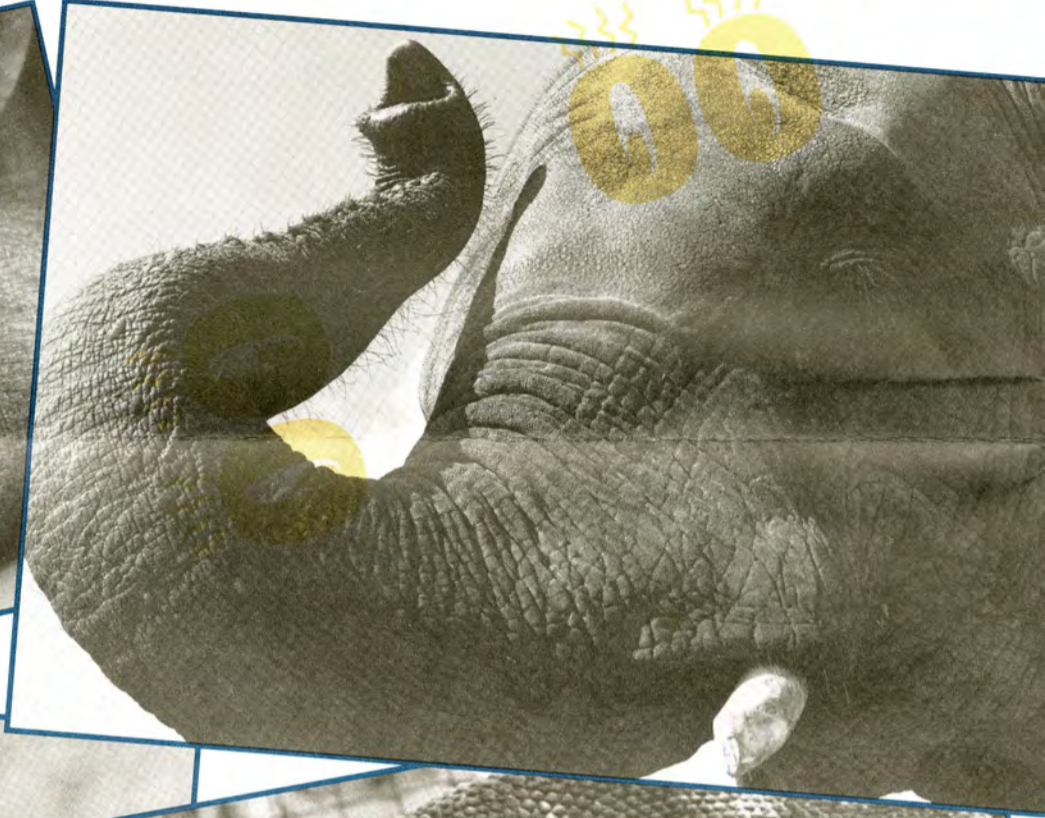
African spurred tortoise
Geochelone sulcata
27 hatched May 28-June 19
Sexes undetermined

Indian muntjac
Mutiacus muntjak vaginalis
Male July 4

Caribbean flamingo
Phoenicopterus ruber
Sex undetermined June 17

Scarlet ibis
Eudocimus ruber
Sex undetermined July 11

Here's Looking



Come and see for yo

g At You, Kid!



photos by Rick McCauley and Alex Worden

yourself at Metrozoo.



Metrozoo Lionized in "Lion King"

6 Those of you that have seen "The Lion King" may have noticed a resemblance to some of our Metrozoo residents because, in a sense, they helped inspire the characters. In January 1992, we hosted 60 Disney animators for two days. Their purpose was to sketch some of our animals as models for the project. As you watch the credits at the end of the film, check out the "Special Thanks to... Metrozoo, Miami, Florida." The sketches on this page were done by the artists to thank us for our hospitality. by Ron Magill, Communications Director

Education Programs

Habitat Sampler Field Trips For Families

Immerse yourself in South Florida habitats on these special family field trips. This fall, excursions visit the Everglades. Through talks and hands-on activities, you learn how our local wildlife issues are connected to global conservation concerns. We provide transportation, beverages and a fantastic picnic setting. You bring your own lunch (packed in recyclable containers, please!).

Saturday, September 24
or Saturday, October 8
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Fee per person: Adult Member, \$15; Non-member, \$20, Children (12 and under): Member, \$8; Non-member, \$10

Grandparents Day Discovery Room For Families

Show them how much you love 'em by taking 'em to the zoo for Grandparents Day! For the occasion, we turn our classroom near the zoo entrance into a Discovery Room

full of hands-on exhibits for you to explore together. There you'll find skins, skulls, books and more - and touching is encouraged!

You can also find out about expanding your wildlife family through our Adopt-an-Animal Program.

Sunday, September 11
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Free with zoo admission

Breakfast with the Beasts For Families

If an early bird gets the worm, what do early risin' zoo members get? Breakfast with the Beasts! We serve you a continental breakfast followed by a special behind-the-scenes look at exotic animal care. A few animal guests may even join us for breakfast. It's a great way to start your zoo day!

Session FAST-A: Saturday, September 17
Session FAST-B: Saturday, October 8
Session FAST-C: Saturday, November 12
7:30 - 9 a.m.

Fee per person: (includes breakfast and zoo admission) Adults: Member, \$10; Non-member, \$15
Children (12 and under): Member, \$6; Non-member, \$8

Columbus Day Camp Ages 6-10 (Grades 1-4)

Dade County Schools may be out, but classes are "in" at the zoo. Spend your school holiday with our "wild bunch" learning about the amazing residents of the zoo. This one-day safari includes live animal

demonstrations, exhibit visits, crafts and snacks.

Monday, October 10
9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Fee per child: Member, \$30; Non-member, \$37

Zoo Slumber Party Ages 10 to Adult

Be our guest for the wildest sleep-over in town! Our air-conditioned classrooms are your "base camp" for dinner and orientation, then it's off on a flashlight safari. The zoo seems totally different at night: you'll need to use all your senses to take in the experience. You bring your sleeping bag and a spirit of adventure. We provide the pizza, breakfast, movies and animals.

** By special request, we've added an "adults only" evening for the adventurous kid in all of us.

OVER-A: Adults age 21 and up, Friday, September 30
OVER-B: Parents and kids, Saturday, October 1
OVER-C: Age 8-10, Friday, October 14
6:30 p.m. Friday to 8:00 a.m. Saturday

Fee per person: Member, \$20; Non-member \$27

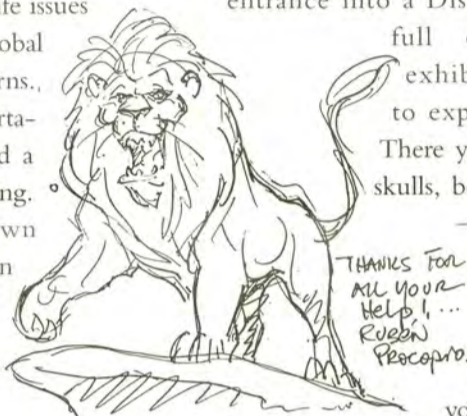
Morning Out With Mommy

Ages 3-5 accompanied by a parent

Spend some quality time with Mommy at the zoo. Explore the world of "animal wrappers" in this two-part series on fur, feathers, and scales. Each session includes a classroom visit from some gentle creatures and a visit to a zoo exhibit. Program fee covers an adult/child pair.

Series MOM-A: Tuesday/Saturday, October 4 and 8
Series MOM-B: Wednesday/Sunday, October 5 and 9
9:30 - 11 a.m.

Cost per parent-child pair: Member, \$20; Non-member, \$25 ■



Registration Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
 I am a Member: Membership # _____ I am not a Member
For children's programs, complete the following:
Parent's or Guardian's Name: _____
Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
Method of Payment (Please do not send cash.)
 Check American Express MasterCard Visa
Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____
Customer Signature: _____

Session	Name of Participant	Age/Grade	Fee
TOTAL:			\$

Mail this completed order form with your payment to Education Department, Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, FL 33177-1499.



Sociable Plover: Such A Summer!

Hello, zoo fans. Ever hear the expression "a little bird told me"? Well, when you turn to this space to read the latest twitter on fundraising for Metrozoo, you know it's just literally true! After all, as you recall, I was named for a winged creature: *Chettusia gregaria*, the sociable plover.

I've been flying about all summer, with barely enough time to catch my breath... there's so much going on. First and foremost, my dear com-"patriot" the **American Bald Eagle** was taken off the endangered species list. Miami can take special pride in this "raptor"-ous event since the first captive hatching in 50 years took place at Crandon Zoo in 1973.



The fine "folkes" at **Folke Peterson Foundation** demonstrated that the cherished friends of Metrozoo are hardly endangered themselves. In addition to their great generosity in '93, they announced a major gift that will – be still, my beating heart – help rebuild the aviary.



In July the 1994 slate of candidates for the ZSF Board of Directors was announced: **Sandy Batchelor, Romero Britto, Eric Buermann, Lynn Cambest, Kerry Clemmons, Joe Dibenedetto, William Gallwey, Michael Greif, Licia Hill, Dan Licciardi, Larry Mulkey, Allan Pekar, Sam Verdeja, Andrew Weinstein** are nominated. Secret ballots are still out as we go to press, but we'll be sure to announce our 1994-95 Directors in the next *Toucan Talk*. (Are you

**Did you know that
the first captive
hatching in 50 years
of an American Bald
Eagle took place at
Crandon Zoo in 1973?**

confused about the difference between a Trustee and a Director? I was once, too, but here's how it works: *Trustees* contribute or raise major donations and can serve on committees like our Development Committee, Marketing Committee, and so forth. The Trustees annually elect the Board of *Directors* which is our policy-making, governing body. If you're interested in becoming a *Trustee*, we'd love to talk to you. Call the Development Department at 305-255-5551.)



Speaking of our too, too terrific Trustees, they showed continuing devotion by renewing their annual dues, which provide vital regular support for our work on behalf of the zoo. We flutter approvingly around the ever-supportive **Donald Burgess of Florida International Bank, Buff March, Brian Keeley of Baptist Hospital of Miami and John Sumberg of Rubin Baum Levin Constant Friedman & Bilzin.** And we welcome **Rosy Cancela, and Andrea Mustelier of First Union National Bank,** to the flock.



And did we pack 'em in at Zoofari Camp! A fab 500 campers joined us this summer. Outfitting them gorgeously were **Greg Tucker of U.S. Service Industries** and **Ed Markoff from DER Enterprises,** who graciously donated summer camp T-shirts for '94. ■

Gotta fly!

Sociable Plover

Sociable Plover

Higher Education At The Zoo

Every year for the past 13 years, *Florida International University* has presented a graduate level course for teachers called *FIU At The Zoo*. Following the success of the 1994 summer session, *FIU Associate Professor Edward Reichbach, Ed.D.* commented "Of everyone who participates, the strongest supporters have been the people who work at Metrozoo. They have encouraged teachers with information and given their time to help them develop projects and games that the teachers will eventually use in the classroom. Without the Park Rangers, who are most helpful after hours; the animal science staff headed by **Bill Zeigler,** who present topics and answer questions; and **Nancy Hotchkiss** and

Damien Kong of the Education Department, who provide support and manage logistics, our courses would never have succeeded."



Students of FIU At The Zoo are challenged to be as creative as possible in developing science education games. This takeoff on the popular TV game show is just one example.

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Zoo Visitor Information

305-251-0400



Calendar Of Zoo Events

The Good News Continues...

The Dade County Legislative Delegation was the force behind a \$2.5 million grant awarded to Metro-zoo through the State of Florida's 1993-94 budget. The funds will support Hurricane Andrew recovery and rebuilding through a cooperative effort between the State of Florida, Metro Dade County Park and Recreation Department, and the Zoological Society of Florida.

Thursday, September 29

Walls of the Wild Event

Sponsored by the Omni Colonnade and Manny Soto

6-9 p.m. at the Omni Colonnade

This cocktail buffet is a media kick-off event to celebrate the unveiling of our Walls of the Wild project. To find out more, call the Development Department at 305-255-5551.

Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16

International Rainforest Week Celebration

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the zoo

Free with zoo admission

All around the zoo, we're celebrating International

Rainforest Week. You'll find a face-painting station, art projects to help create a rainforest in our classrooms, special amphitheater programs, and tropical treasure hunts around the animal exhibits. For more information, call 305-255-5551.

Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16

1st Annual Wildlife Art Awareness Weekend

Sponsored by the South Florida Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the zoo

If you are a wildlife artist interested in sharing your art with zoo visitors, call Patty Leon-Singer at 305-253-6151 for details about this upcoming event. ■

MetroBoo!

Howl with us at the zoo for our second annual MetroBoo!, a day of fun and surprises including face-painting, costume contests, puzzles, and treasure hunts. These treats await the little Lion Kings, Aladdins, Princess Jasmins and Barneys who visit the zoo. MetroBoo! is free with zoo admission! Call us at 305-255-5551 for details.

Saturday, October 29

Sunday, October 30

2nd Annual MetroBoo! at Metrozoo

Free with zoo admission (Which means that zoo members - as always - are admitted free!)

South Florida's best Halloween party includes dozens of activities designed for children 12 and under to enjoy. A detailed schedule will be presented at the gate the day of the event, but here's a preview:

Trick or Treating 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Treats for kids at stations around the zoo.

Costume Contest

Trick-or-Treaters can enter and win great prizes!

Face Painting 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fabulous stripes, spots and whiskers bring out the animal in your kids. Located at the Zebrazaar.

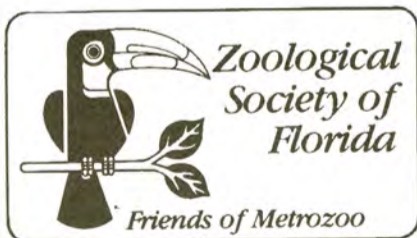
Activities Station 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

You'll find everything necessary to embark on a zoo scavenger hunt at our activity station in the zoo classroom. ■

MetroBoo! schedule is subject to change.

Metrozoo is the place to be on Halloween weekend. We'll have scavenger hunts, face painting, costume contests, treats and more.

-photo by Rick McCauley



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