

# TOUCAN TALK

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM METROZOO AND ZSF!**



**GET THE BUZZ ON  
THE BIG BUG OUT!**

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Series: Amphitheater Staff**

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A BABY LECHWE**

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Cover: Baby Lechwe  
Photo by: Ricardo Stanoss

Editor

Elisabeth M. Koncza

Assistant Editor

Anthea Lavallee

Creative Director

Maribel Moure-Medina  
Moure Graphic Design, Inc.

Photos

Dolora Batchelor  
Barbara Crutchfield  
Ron Magill  
Maria Roberts  
Ricardo Stanoss

Contributors

Carla Baker  
Dolora Batchelor  
Steve Connors  
Mayra González Rey  
Eloisa King  
Susan Kong  
Carol Lang  
Huntley Miller  
Annmarie Morell  
Maria Roberts  
George Smith

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Zoological Society of Florida  
Glenn Ekey, Executive Director  
Edward Soto, President

Miami Metrozoo  
Eric Stephens, Director  
12400 SW 152nd Street  
Miami, FL 33177-1499  
Phone: (305) 255-5551  
Fax: (305) 255-7126  
www.zsf.org

Zoo Visitor Information  
(305) 251-0401

# Hand-Raising "Ballerina"

Story by Dolora Batchelor



Photo: Dolora Batchelor

**O**n September 24, "Tubbs," Metrozoo's oldest female Nile lechwe (*Kobus megaceros*), aged 14.5 years, gave birth to a calf. Tubbs had rejected several of her calves in the past, so it was important to carefully monitor the early mother-calf interactions. The first 24 hours are a critical bonding period during which the calf nurses on nutrient-rich milk containing essential antibodies.

The 10-pound female calf was born with tendon contracture, causing the tendons in the lower hind legs to tighten. As a result, her hooves were pulled backward forcing her to walk on her fetlocks. Two days later, she was able to stand on the tips of her hooves inspiring a fellow zookeeper, Antonio, to name her "Ballerina." Despite her disability, Ballerina was determined to keep up with her mother. Unfortunately, Tubbs was experiencing complications related to the birth and was observed rejecting her calf on several occasions. Whenever Ballerina attempted to nurse, Tubbs would walk away; although Tubbs groomed the calf, she also pulled out tufts of her hair.

While at times, Tubbs appeared to grow more alert and receptive to Ballerina's attempts to nurse, the detailed observations of a co-worker, Kristian, revealed that the calf had, in fact, been rejected. In the absence of adequate nourishment, Ballerina was attempting to

eat leaves, drink muddy water, and even nurse from another female. As a result, the Zoo's veterinarian, Dr. Chriss Miller, and the senior keeper, John Strickland, decided that Ballerina must be hand-raised. In the zoo hospital, it was discovered that Ballerina was suffering from an infected umbilicus and a 104-degree fever in addition to her tendon contracture. Dr. Miller administered much-needed fluids, antibiotics, and vitamins. The calf's blood was drawn for testing, and the umbilicus was cleaned and medicated. When Dr. Miller asked for a volunteer to raise the sick calf, I said "yes" without a moment's hesitation, assuming that this would involve only a few short days of a 4-hour feeding schedule. I failed to consider the extensive needs of six birds, two cats, one dog, a 6-year-old boy, and a husband already waiting at home. Talk about a tight schedule! Four years earlier, I had the experience of hand-raising a Nile lechwe and felt confident that I could handle the responsibility once again. I realized that Ballerina would be a challenge, since she was older and had formed at least a partial bond with her mother, but I was not discouraged by her physical disability. The tendon contracture did not appear to be much of a problem after Dr. Miller had applied support wraps to both hind legs; the purple tape on the outside made it look like Ballerina was wearing leg-warmers!

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Instructions, medications, a thermometer, syringes, formula, bottles, nipples, rolls of absorbent cotton, towels, rugs, and Ballerina were all sent home with me that evening. I was planning to settle in for the weekend, feed my family and pets, and then get down to hand-raising. The dining table was tipped on its side, rugs and towels were placed on the tile floor, and presto, a 3' X 5' contained space was created for Ballerina!

A schedule of feedings every four hours would be established once the calf became accustomed to nursing from the bottle. After rejecting two short baby bottle nipples and several uncoordinated attempts at nursing, Ballerina finally accepted a narrow white nipple at 1:00 in the morning. Feeding times were set for 1:00 a.m., 5:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m. Her body temperature remained high, and diarrhea persisted until the entire course of antibiotic treatment had been administered, but the infected umbilicus healed within five days. Soon she was nursing like a pro, refusing only two feedings due to the unpredictable weather conditions associated with Hurricane Irene. I suspect that the changes in air pressure were responsible for the disruption in her routine since, once the hurricane passed, Ballerina resumed her normal feeding pattern. She even drank cool formula after a 14-hour power failure made it impossible to warm her milk. Ballerina was also learning to take the bottle from several people including my son, Adam.

We eventually relocated her to the garage where the concrete floors made it safer for her to walk. After her daytime feedings, Ballerina would often follow me out to the front yard where she would race around the fenced enclosure, kicking up her bandaged legs all the way! As it was becoming more difficult to contain her in the garage, we decided to move her back to the zoo.

At 24 days of age, Ballerina spent her first night in the zoo hospital. Although she refused several of the initial feedings from unfamiliar keepers, she is now comfortable accepting the bottle from Sandi Redlich, her new daytime caretaker on my days off. We are happy to report that she is gaining weight and walking well without her bandages. Ballerina's success is an excellent example of the benefits of human intervention. Although it has taken me a few days to adjust to sleeping a full seven hours at one time, hand-raising Ballerina will always be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

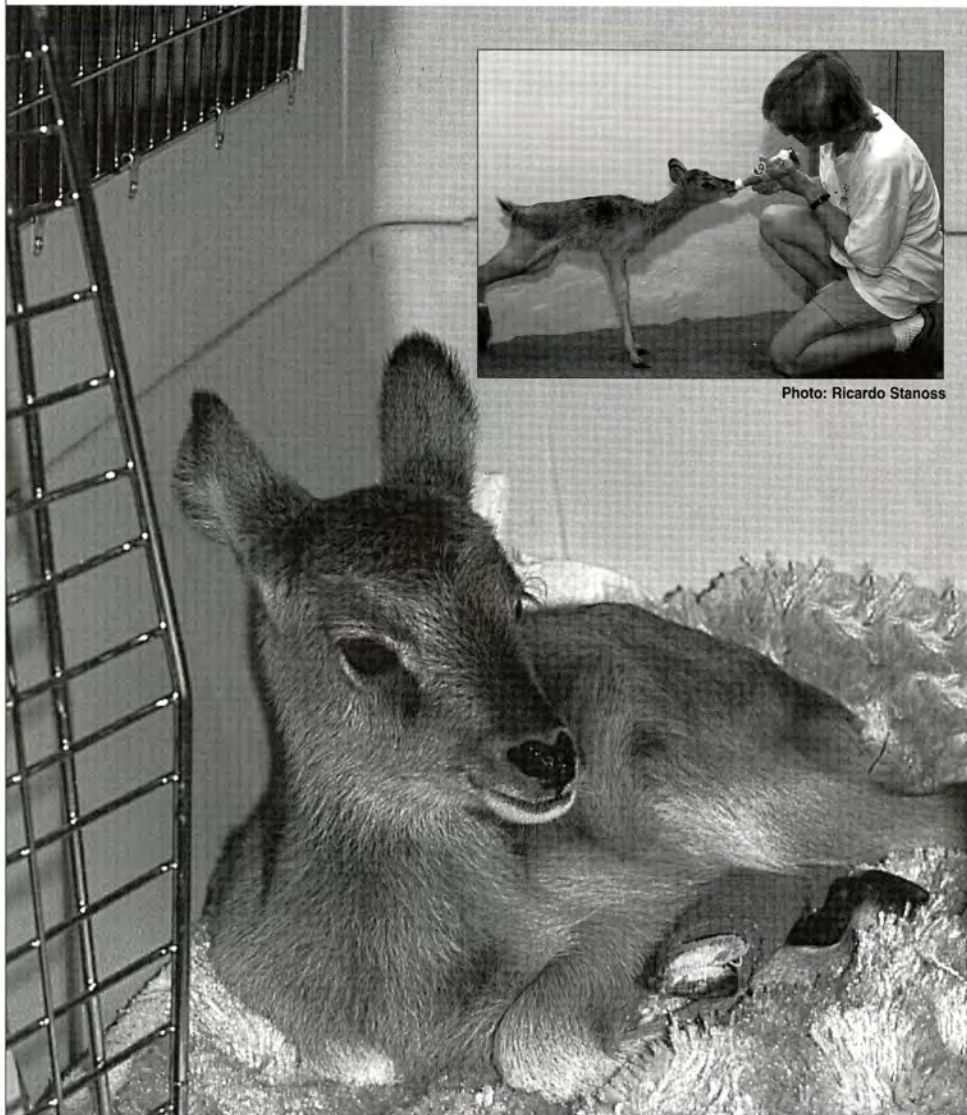


Photo: Dolores Batchelor

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

## STAFF PROFILE

## Jacky Shaw, Metrozoo's Veterinary Technician

Story by Anthea Lavalley

**A**lthough you may not see her outside feeding the animals or working on their exhibits, for 16 years Jacky Shaw has played a critical role in the maintenance of a healthy and happy animal population at Miami Metrozoo. Jacky works behind-the-scenes as a veterinary technician in the clinic and has devoted her professional life to the care of both domestic and exotic animals.

As a young child growing up in Liverpool, England, Jacky recognized an early interest in animal behavior and husbandry. She and her family spent a great deal of time visiting local farms and interacting with their animal residents. In college, Jacky gained formal training in the field of animal management and specialized in dairy farming techniques. After college, Jacky joined the English equivalent of the Peace Corps, known as the Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO). As a VSO participant Jacky spent two years in Jamaica where she shared her animal expertise with the local farming community.

After several years of transcontinental travel, Jacky ultimately settled in the United States and has lived in Miami for the last 20 years. Before joining the Metrozoo staff, Jacky worked as a technician in a veterinarian's office, specializing in the treatment of dogs, cats, and other common pets. However, in her search for new and enriching experiences, it was natural for Jacky to broaden her interest in animal care to include exotic as well as domestic species. It was this goal that motivated her to pursue a career opportunity in the animal clinic at Metrozoo. As a veterinary technician, Jacky appreciates the rare opportunities afforded by her job. She particularly enjoys observing the animals at close range during routine medical examinations. Of course, there are aspects of her work that are less pleasant. After a history of caring for a patient on such an individual level, it is always difficult to cope with the death of an old animal friend.

In their free time, Jacky and her husband, Peter, enjoy visiting with their three grown children. They also make time for horseback riding and often participate in local horse parades. They recently purchased a farm and are developing the land that will eventually become home to the Shaws and their extended animal family.

Jacky's main objective has always been to "have fun and appreciate what you've got." Based on this attitude and her remarkable achievements, it's safe to say that Jacky Shaw has realized her life's ambitions.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

**UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL**

**For Ages 7 & up**

Explore the miniature world of the microorganisms. In this program children will be able to gain a new perspective on the world around them through the lens of a microscope. You won't believe your eyes!

**Date:** Saturday, January 8, 2000  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** Members \$8.00 per person  
 Non-Members \$10.00 per person

**Pre-registration required**

**ZOO BABIES**

**For adults with children ages 3-5**  
 Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Metrozoo's family is growing fast, so come and meet some of our newest residents. Children will embark on a "safari" to discover zoo babies and learn about their family lives.

**Date:** Saturday, February 5, 2000  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** Members \$10.00 per adult with one child, additional child \$4.00  
 Non-Members \$15.00 per adult with one child, additional child \$4.00

**Pre-registration required**

**BIG CATS IN THE CITY**

**For Ages 7 and up**

You'll be seeing spots and stripes when you venture through the zoo to see tigers, lions, clouded leopards and servals. Learn what these cats like to eat, how they live and how much they have in common with our house cats. We'll also meet some "cat" keepers as they share their experiences working with felines.

**Date:** Saturday, January 29, 2000  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** Members \$8.00 per person  
 Non-Members \$10.00 per person

**Pre-registration required**

**"WILD NIGHTS" AT METROZOO**

**For Families, Children (6 and older)**

Be our guest for one of the wildest adventures in town! We'll start out with a pizza dinner and orientation, then it's off on a behind-the-scenes flashlight safari. The zoo is totally different at night, so you'll need to use all of your senses to take in the experience. Bring your best walking shoes and a spirit of adventure. We'll bring the pizza and animals. An adventure to be shared by the whole family!

**DATES(S):**  
 Wednesday, January 19, 2000  
 Wednesday, February 23, 2000

**ALL TIMES:** 6:00p.m.-9:00p.m.

**COST:** Members \$20.00 per person  
 Non-Members \$25.00 per person

**TOUCAN TALK'S ANIMAL SERIES CONTEST QUESTION**

In each of the past 6 issues of *Toucan Talk*, we featured a different Metrozoo animal. Based on the information presented in each article, you can answer this contest question and win a special "Behind-the-Scenes Tour" with Metrozoo's Ron Magill. In the event that we receive more than one correct answer, the winner will be chosen by random selection from among the correct submissions.

**"What is the sum total of all of these animals' gestation/incubation periods?"**

Please send your responses to: Animal Series Contest c/o Zoological Society of Florida 12400 SW 152 Street Miami, FL 33177-1499



Addax- Photo: Stan Osolinski



Sloth bear- Photo: Ron Magill



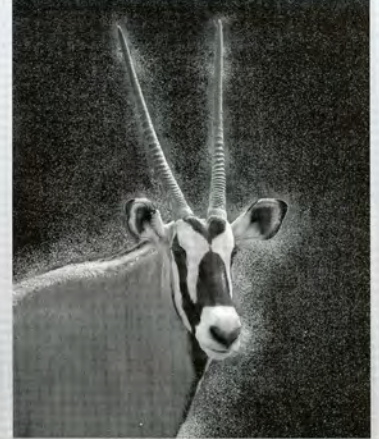
Crowned crane- Photo:Ricardo Stanoss



Elephant- Photo: Carmen Fernandez



Yellow-backed duiker- Photo: Ron Magill



Gemsbok- Photo:Ricardo Stanoss

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Space is limited for all our education programs...so call (305) 255-5551 and register early to secure your spot.

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 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I'm a Member: Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ I'm not a Member \_\_\_\_\_  
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# ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA 1998-1999 ANNUAL REPORT



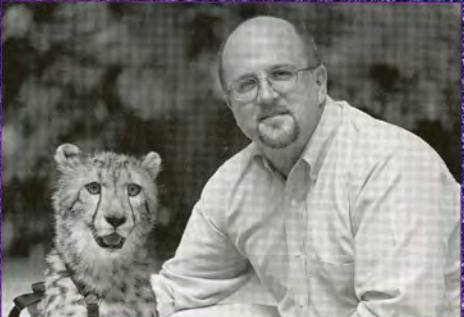
**Travel & Leisure Family magazine** named Miami Metrozoo as one of the nation's **Top Ten Zoos!** Members of the Zoological Society of Florida knew it all the time, but now the whole world knows it.



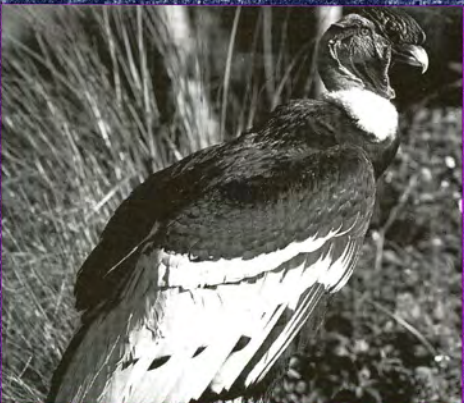
**The 1999 Big Bug Out At Metrozoo**  
Celebrating the world of insects



**Advancing Conservation Education**  
at Miami Metrozoo



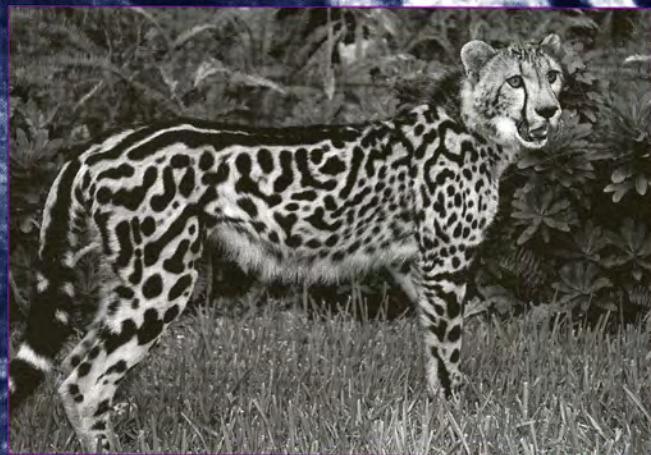
**Eric Stephens** Named Director of Miami Metrozoo



**Andean Condors** get new exhibit and much applause—their offsprings are part of an effort to re-establish this threatened species in its native Andean habitat.



**ZSF Volunteers** donate 26,993 hours to Metrozoo in 1998-99



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Lewis M. & Esta B. Riss  
Kathleen Rhoad  
Mr. and Mrs. Jay R. Rhoads  
Michael Robert  
Leonard C. Roberts & Elaine Klein  
Thomas O. & Mildred F. Roberts  
Betty B. & Mack A. Roper  
Norman S. Rosen  
Beverly R. Rosenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald S. Rosenberg  
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Alan S. & Joni F. Routman  
Richard & Cessy Rubinson  
Earl & Mary Jane Rubley  
Elizabeth & Don Russo  
Murry H. Sill & Ricky Schechtman  
Laurence & Barbara Schroeder  
Helen A. & Jeffrey Shapiro  
Andrea H. & Greg Sharp  
Phil Sitton  
Earl H. Smith, III  
John V. & Francesca S. Sootin  
Robert P. & Susan A. Soper  
Comm. Katy Sorenson & Dr. Janis Dzelzkalns  
George L. & Joyce Spelios  
Merrett R. Stierheim & Judy Cannon Stierheim  
Barbara J. Stabley  
Barbara A. & John V. Starr, Jr.  
Rodney W. & Ann M. Sturm  
Richard Taylor  
Elana Teune  
Lewis W. & Virginia Thomson  
Roger W. & Jo-Ann B. Titley  
United Technologies  
Elizabeth Van Buskirk  
George R. & Jeanne A. Van Wyck  
Barbara Wall  
Royal Webster & Ana Maria Davide-Webster  
Oscar White  
Ward & Betty C. Whitten  
Chris Wiener & Christine Connor  
William Wiener  
Debbie & John Williams  
Donald D. & Rick B. Wilson  
Joan B. & David E. Wilson, Jr.  
H. E. & Marilyn P. Wine  
Janee S. & Jeffry Winkelman  
Carlos & Meredith Wolf  
Sharon L. Wolfe & Stephen T. Maher  
Lloyd & Rae Susan Wruble  
Catherine A. Young  
Ivonne Zamora



\* This listing includes donations of \$250 and over received by the Zoological Society of Florida between October 1, 1998 and September 30, 1999. Should your records differ from ours, we welcome the opportunity to make a correction; please call us at (305) 255-5551.



**Zoological Society & Miami-Dade County Partnership Agreement signed a Historic Milestone**  
 (left to right) Lynn M. Cambest, Treasurer/Executive Committee Member, ZSF; William J. Gallwey III, Immediate past President, ZSF; Alex Penelas, Mayor, Miami-Dade County; Sue M. Cobb, Past President and Executive Committee member, ZSF; Merrett Stierheim, Miami-Dade County Manager; Eric Stephens, Director, Miami Metrozoo; Glenn Ekey, ZSF Executive Director



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- ZSF Executive Director Glenn Ekey

Dear Friends of the Zoological Society of Florida:

I am pleased to present the Zoological Society's 1998-1999 Annual Report, highlighting the achievements of this very exciting year. I want to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their leadership; Metrozoo and ZSF staff and volunteers for their hard work; and ZSF's members and donors who helped us accomplish several important goals. We could not have done it without you!

We are grateful for donations of all sizes and for the community goodwill they reflect. I do want to single out Mr. R. Kirk Landon for his generous gift of \$2.5 million towards rebuilding the Aviary--Thank You! I am also happy to thank a gracious donor who prefers to remain anonymous for his gift of \$1 million, the first payment on a \$5 million pledge. This gift will help build the Education Court and the Aviary; initiate several new exhibits; and support our wide-ranging efforts at the Zoo.

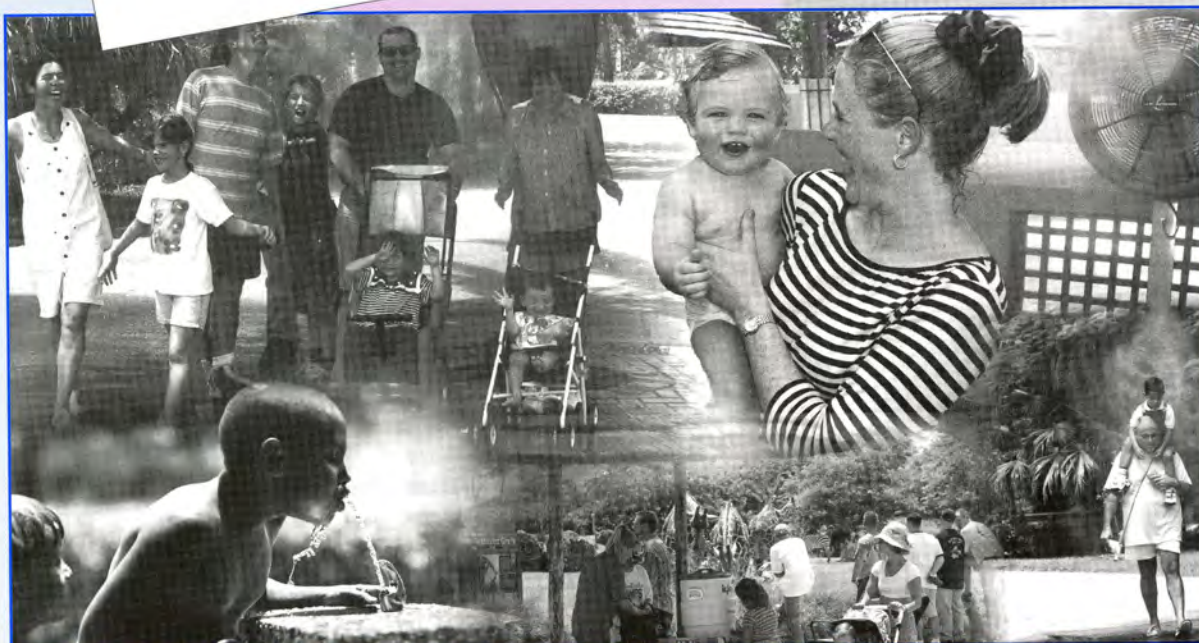
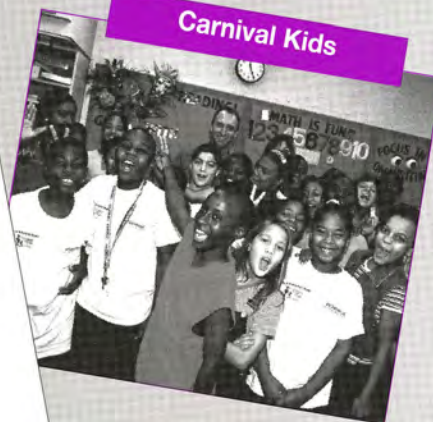
Edward Soto  
 President, Board of Directors  
 Zoological Society of Florida



### New Komodo Babies



### Carnival Kids



**Cool Zoo Happenings** Summer Misters, Fans, Shade, make Metrozoo the destination of choice

Animal photos by Ron Magill



Z S F

Children's Drawing Competition

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- \*Eric Stephens, Metrozoo Director
- \*Diana Udel, Vice President
- \*Ralph de la Vega
- \*Stephen A. Weber, Vice President
- \*Andrew H. Weinstein, Vice President
- \*Executive Committee Members

ZSF is sponsoring a drawing competition for children. Just send in your favorite drawing of a Metrozoo animal. The most creative submission will be published in the next issue of *Toucan Talk* along with the artist's name.

Send your drawings to:

Children's Drawing Competition

c/o Zoological Society of Florida • 12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, FL 33177-1499



RECENT ARRIVALS

BIRTHS, HATCHINGS, AND ACQUISITIONS, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1999\*

- 0.0.4 Abyssinian ground hornbill
- 0.1 East African crowned crane
- 1.0 addax
- 0.1 guanaco
- 1.0 gemsbok
- 0.0.2 impala
- 0.1 Nile lechwe
- 1.0. Dromedary camel
- 0.1 caracal
- 2.0 Mandarin duck

- \*1.0 = Male
- 0.1 = Female
- 0.0.1 = Unknown gender



Young caracal

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MIAMI METROZOO

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, AND MONDAY,  
JANUARY 15, 16 & 17, 2000

SECOND ANNUAL BIG BUG OUT  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Conquer your fears (or live them to the fullest) learning about insects, the most numerous of all species on Earth. We have a variety of activities created for you to have fun and to get to know these creatures better. Enjoy the enormous diversity of insects — exotic and native, live and mounted. You will also get a chance to taste some scrumptious bugs and learn how good some of them really are for our lives and for our environment. FREE for Zoo Members!

SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 20, 2000

JUNGLE JOG 5K RACE & FUN WALK  
Run: 8:00 a.m. Fun Walk: 8:05 a.m.

In 1983, Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida embarked on a new and exciting adventure: The first Jungle Jog was a 5K Run and Walk for people of all ages. It was an exciting event as over 1,500 people participated in this new run, some of them even dressed in their favorite animal costumes. Well, Jungle Jog is back, organized by and benefiting the Rotary Club of Coral Gables, Miami Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida! The 2000 Jungle Jog will bring back many memories from those who ran it in prior years. The cost for runners and walkers is \$20 (pre-registration). For registration information, call Split Second Timing at 954-384-7521 or check their web site [www.splitsecondtiming.com](http://www.splitsecondtiming.com). You can also register online at [www.ActiveUSA.com](http://www.ActiveUSA.com)

SATURDAY,  
MARCH 4, 2000

BALL OF THE WILD  
(formerly known as FEAST WITH THE BEASTS)  
7:30 p.m. – 12:00 Midnight

New Millennium, New CELEBRATION! A gourmet extravaganza to mark this milestone. Celebrate Metrozoo's animals and honor two of our most generous supporters: George E. Batchelor and R. Kirk Landon. There will be fabulous entertainment, a silent auction and more. Tickets are \$500 per person and \$5,000 per table of ten.

SATURDAY,  
APRIL 22, 2000

EARTH DAY'S 30<sup>TH</sup> YEAR CELEBRATION  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Join the Miami-Dade County's Department of Environmental Resources Management, Miami Metrozoo and the Zoological Society of Florida in celebrating this important anniversary at the Zoo. There will be music, booths and fun activities for people of all ages to better understand our home planet's environment. FREE for Zoo Members!

SUNDAY,  
APRIL 23, 2000

THE GREAT METROZOO EGG SAFARI  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Egg Safari is Miami Metrozoo's version of an egg hunt...But more fun! Children 12 and under can collect candy-filled eggs and other goodies, have their faces painted with their favorite motif, their pictures taken with human-sized Mr. & Mrs. Bunny, or simply stroll on the path admiring our wonderful animal collection. FREE for Zoo Members!

RETURNING IN JUNE 2000  
COOL ZOO SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Enjoy misters, mister fans, even more shady umbrellas and the new water play area next to the Children's Zoo, across from the Asian Elephant Exhibit. Come to the coolest place in town to chill out. FREE for Zoo Members!

OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2000  
METROBOO

The Annual MetroBoo! will once again delight young visitors 12 and under. MetroBoo!ers will have a fun day of costume contests with fabulous prizes and safe trick-or-treating throughout the Zoo, plus many other surprises. Don't miss South Florida's wildest Halloween party! FREE for Zoo Members!

COMING:  
Meerkats  
Dr. Wilde's World  
and much more!

# Behind-the-Scenes Keeper Series

## Wildlife Show at the Amphitheater

Story by Anthea Lavalley

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

**A** day at the zoo just wouldn't be complete without a visit to the wildlife show at the amphitheater. In the realm of King George, the cheetah, one of the most popular members of Metrozoo's animal community, exotic animals mingle with their human observers. In addition to its entertainment value, the wildlife show was also designed to provide a unique, interactive educational opportunity. In this setting, the public observes exotic animals engaged in natural behaviors, while benefiting from the knowledge of an experienced animal handler. In the amphitheater, zoo visitors gain rare insight into animal behavior that could not be gleaned from textbooks or TV alone.

Of course, the success of the wildlife show is due to the hard work of a staff dedicated to responsible animal management and conservation education. The company that produces the wildlife show is owned and operated by Toni Brough (Toni Brough, Inc.) who has had a mutually successful relationship with Metrozoo since 1989. Toni's staff includes Letty Jurado, Jennifer Nelson, Jennifer Reddish, Amber Thompson, and Ivonne Vega. As an animal training team, they enjoy working closely with the members of their collection and the special bond that they share as a result. They are nevertheless aware of the fact that the animals in their care are wild and subject to instinctive impulses. Amber explains, "Whenever we forget that we are dealing with wild animals, they do something to remind us!" Although the animals in the show



Jennifer Reddish and Amber Thompson take a walk with King George

are comfortable with humans and enjoy the attention of the crowd, their trainers do not advocate keeping wild animals as pets. They stress the fact that they work with a select group of exotic animals, trained as ambassadors, representing rare and endangered species worldwide. Unlike pets, these animals are public symbols intended to inspire support for international wildlife conservation plans. Jennifer Nelson explains, "These animals are here for a reason. They are here so that members of their species will survive tomorrow."

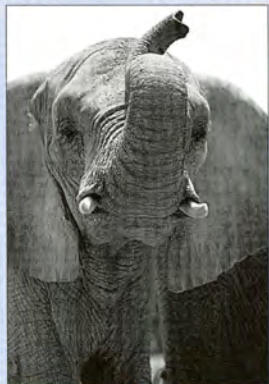
Conservation education is one of the main objectives of the amphitheater staff, and they take this responsibility very seriously. The demonstrations are intended to showcase the animals' natural skills and abilities. The animals are never encouraged to do "tricks" beyond the scope of their normal behavior. For example, since mimicry is a natural component of their vocal activity, the parrots are rewarded for copying sounds that commonly occur in their social environment, including words.

In the future, the amphitheater staff would like to continue to support the conservation of endangered wild animal populations through their participation in the Cheetah Ambassador Program. They also hope to expand their outreach programs so that wildlife conservation education can become a regular part of local elementary and high school curricula. In the meantime, you can see Toni, Amber, Ivonne, Letty, Jennifer, Jennifer, and all of their animal friends everyday in the amphitheater for a spectacular show with an important message.

Daily Wildlife Show Times: 12:00p.m., 2:00p.m., 4:30p.m.

### ASK PEGGY!

Photo: Ron Magill



Dear Peggy:

*Are the tigers and lions at the zoo tame? Can their keepers go in with them?*

-John

Dear John:

Although the tigers and lions you see look quite calm and tame, they are wild animals. For this reason, their keepers cannot go into their enclosures with them. The goal of the zoo is to keep the animals in as natural an environment as possible, which means allowing them to express the full range of their natural behaviors and instincts.

Your friend, Peggy

Dear Peggy:

*What are the differences between African elephants and Asian elephants?*

-Sincerely, Sarah

Dear Sarah,

There are many characteristics that you can use to distinguish African from Asian elephants. The first thing that most people notice is the difference in the size of the ears. African elephants, like myself, have much larger ears than Asian elephants, like Metrozoo's Dahlip. Also, both male and female African elephants have tusks. Among Asian elephants, on the other hand, only males have visible tusks. Finally, I have two finger-like tips at the end of my trunk, while my Asian counterpart has only one. The next time you visit the zoo, be on the lookout for many more differences!

Your friend, Peggy

Twenty-two-year-old Peggy, one of our African elephants, is answering any animal questions our young readers may have. Peggy will select the two best questions to be printed in the next *Toucan Talk*, and the children will receive a photo of Peggy herself, along with an autographed copy of her answer.

Questions may be sent by mail to: Ask Peggy • c/o Zoological Society of Florida • 12400 SW 152 ST. • Miami, Florida 33177

### UNWELCOME GUESTS

## Free-Ranging Exotic Wildlife in South Florida

Story by Carla Baker

**W**hile this is a lovely picture of very interesting subjects, there is much more to this story than a rare photo opportunity on the *Angola Colobus Monkey Paddock*. Consequences of a growing free-ranging iguana population include the rapid spread of parasites or diseases to other animal species and crop damage associated with their feeding behavior. Unfortunately, many free-ranging exotic animals in South Florida find the environment ideal. The climate is neither too hot, nor too cold, and there is an abundant food supply. In the absence of many natural predators, Green Iguanas and other tropical species thrive under these conditions. At Metrozoo, these animals come to live in several enclosures and can damage the landscape, disturb nesting birds, injure smaller species, and possibly spread parasites to our exhibit animals. If left unchecked, the Green Iguana population could pose a major threat to Metrozoo residents and their homes. For this reason, they are carefully monitored and removed by zookeepers if necessary. In order to combat this problem, we strongly encourage the responsible ownership of all household pets.



"Curiosity! Juvenile colobus monkey touching a Green Iguana."

Photo: Barbara Crutchfield

# Hurricane Preparations in the Metrozoo Bird Department

Story by Susan Kong

The bird department has been told that a hurricane is three days away. We don't worry yet, but we make time in our normal routine to pick up things that are not used everyday. The second day and the storm is still heading toward us. At this time we check and update our hurricane bird placement list. We normally need five daylight hours without a lot of wind to catch and secure most of the birds in the zoo. Since it is very stressful for them, we want to avoid catching the birds if possible; therefore we wait as long as we can. There is a chance a bird could injure itself or us while being captured and transported. They could also injure each other when they are confined to a small, hurricane-safe space. We delay rounding up the birds because, if the storm changes course at the last minute, the catch can be avoided altogether.

Now the hurricane is due in 24 hours. We start the final preparation. The zoo is scrambling. Everyone is now in hurricane mode. Hay and water tubs are placed in the space where the birds will ride out the storm. These places include restrooms and also animal trailers that are moved into the Hay Barn with the birds inside. The nets and brooms that are needed to catch the birds are gathered together. Once the decision is made to catch the birds, we split into two teams. With our bird location maps in hand, we start catching the birds on the paddocks first, such as the Marabou Storks. These birds are the hardest to catch because they have more space to avoid us. Then we move on to the birds off exhibit. Finally we get to the flamingos--everyone at the zoo is needed to help move them from the lake to the zoo restrooms.

After the storm has passed and the winds die down, we start returning the birds to their paddocks, and the big clean up begins. Although it takes about a week for the birds to return to their normal behaviors, the keepers all breathe a sigh of relief that none have been harmed.



Above: Flamingos in the bathroom.



Right: Marabou storks in the bathroom

Photo: Dolora Batchelor

Photo: Ron Magill

## EVENTS

### MetroBoo! was a hit

We want to thank all of the following sponsors for their generous support:

- Burger King
- Butterfly Mystique
- COAST 97.3 FM
- Florida Arts
- K-Mart #7150
- Lizards On Ice
- M & M Mars
- Sedano's
- Toys "Я" Us
- Velda Farms

We also thank volunteers from the following organizations for their time and hard work:

- ZSF, D-FY-IT, FIU's Future Educators of America, and Single Volunteers of South Florida



We would also like to thank the Best Buy Company for providing 3,000 bags for MetroBoo! Kids.

Photo: Maria Roberts

## WISH LIST

Thanks to all of you who have responded to our previous Wish List. Your gifts are greatly appreciated!

- Mowers
- Weed-eaters
- Flight kennels
- Pole saws
- Chain saws
- Long-handled dip nets, or pool skimmer nets
- Long pieces of heavy-duty PVC pipe, 12" in diameter
- Hemp rope
- Hand tools – drills, hammers, etc.
- New or used softballs (for use in animal enrichment activities)

Please bring donations to the ZSF front desk or call (305) 255-5551 to arrange for a pick-up.

## RUN & FUN WALK

### JUNGLE JOG RETURNS TO METROZOO

Get your running or walking shoes ready! After a long hiatus, Jungle Jog returns on February 20, 2000. Join us next year for a 5-K run and fun walk benefiting the Rotary Club of Coral Gables, Miami Metrozoo, and the Zoological Society of Florida.

For more information or registration call ZSF at 305-255-5551 or Split Second Timing at 954-384-7521



Photos: Ricardo Stanoss

## OUR GRATEFUL THANKS



To First National Bank of South Miami for graciously hosting the successful October 14th party honoring Miami Metrozoo's King cheetah, "King George:" special friends like you are a true example of positive corporate involvement in our community. **Thank you, Thank you!**

Staff from First National Bank of South Miami, from left to right: Mr. Bruce W. MacArthur, Chairman of the Board; Mr. Curtis Sibley, Chief Executive Officer; Ms. Maria T. Diaz, Vice President and Trust Officer; Ms. Sandy Robinson, Vice President, Private Banking

The Zoological Society of Florida is very grateful to the **Boyer and Meyrovitz Charitable Foundation, Republic International Bank of New York (Miami)** and the **Harry Kramer Memorial Trust** for supporting the work of our organization. We also thank **Miami-Dade Parks** for grants funding education programs and the installation of walkway lights at Metrozoo.

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

## BALL OF THE WILD

(Formally known as Feast with the Beasts)

**DATE:** Saturday, March 4, 2000, 7:30 p.m. to midnight

**TICKETS:** \$500 per person • Tables of 10 \$5,000

Honoring **George E. Batchelor** and **R. Kirk Landon**

**R**aise a toast to the animals at "Ball of the Wild," the Zoological Society of Florida's exciting new fun-filled event. This elegant evening of dining and entertainment will be held Saturday, March 4, 2000 at Metrozoo.

In addition to honoring noted business leaders George E. Batchelor and R. Kirk Landon for their long-time support of Metrozoo, the Ball of the Wild will celebrate the rebuilding of the zoo's popular aviary, which was lost to Hurricane Andrew in 1992. This special evening will also showcase the new Education Court, which will house classrooms and exciting exhibits. "Formerly known as Feast with the Beasts, Ball of the Wild will be a black tie gourmet dinner," reports Jennifer Getz, event chair. Planners are expecting 500 - 600 Zoological Society of Florida supporters and their guests to attend.

For more information about Ball of the Wild or to make reservations, call: (305) 255-5551 or visit our web-site [www.zsf.org](http://www.zsf.org).

## ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL

Receive a **FREE T-shirt** when you adopt "The Sloth Bear Family" or any other animal from Metrozoo's collection for only \$50.

Your adoption package includes:

- T-shirt with your adopted animal's photo on it. T-shirts available in the following sizes: Child: 2-4T, 6-8, 10-12 Adult: S, M, L, XL
- Adoption Certificate, suitable for framing
- Exciting facts on your animal
- Adopt-An-Animal auto decal

**So don't delay!**

Call Carol Rey at (305) 255-5551.

This offer ends January 31, 2000



Call now at: (305) 255-5551 to order your adoption package.

Photo: Ron Magill

## VOLUNTEER AT METROZOO!



Are you ready to become more involved in your zoo? Consider becoming a volunteer. Volunteers perform many important tasks throughout the zoo, and serve as Metrozoo's goodwill ambassadors. To learn more about the volunteer program, come to the Open House scheduled for Saturday, February 5.

Call the Volunteer Services Office at 305-255-5551, ext. 124 for more information and to RSVP.

# TOUCAN TALK



**Zoological Society of Florida**  
12400 SW 152nd Street  
Miami, Florida 33177-1499

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