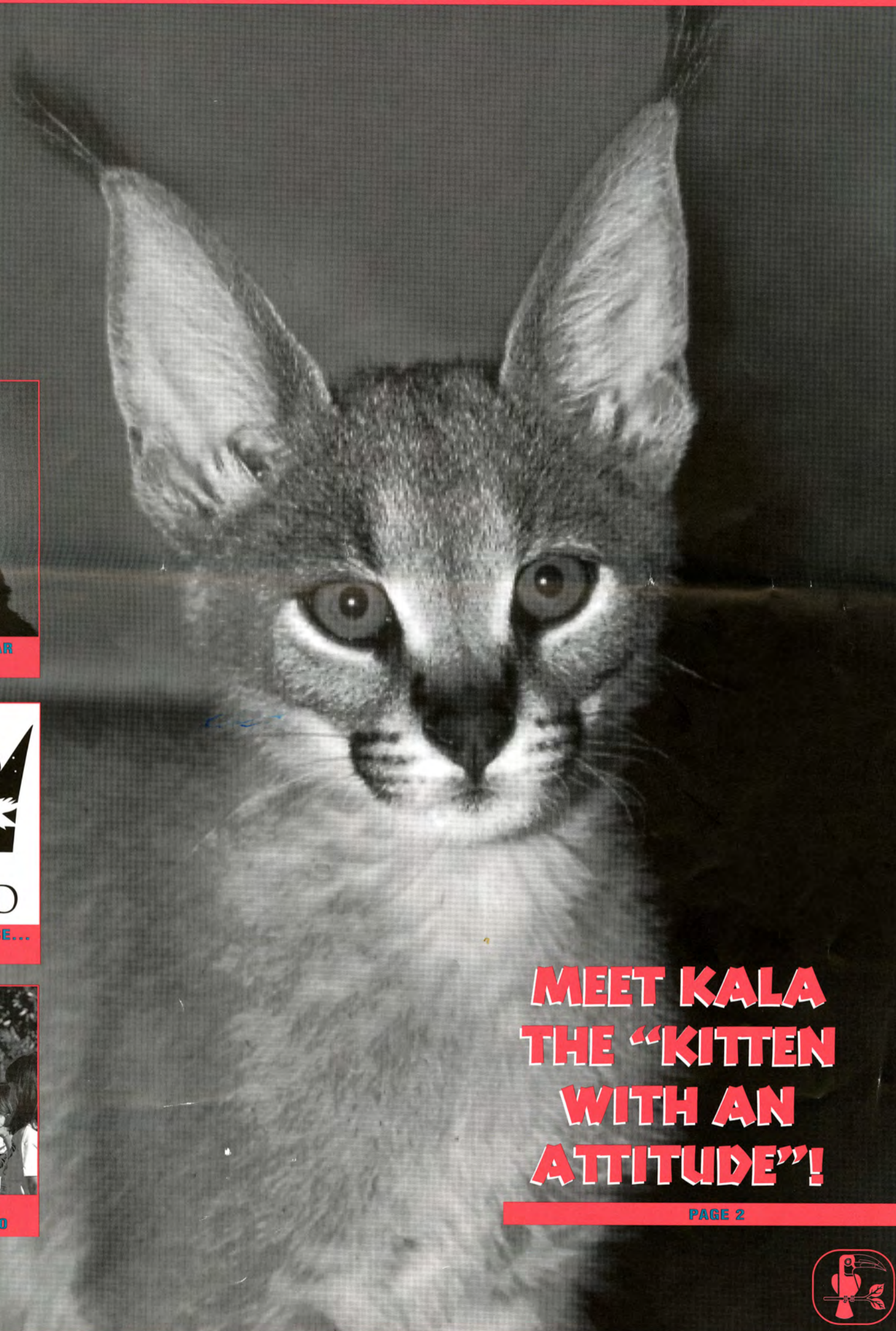
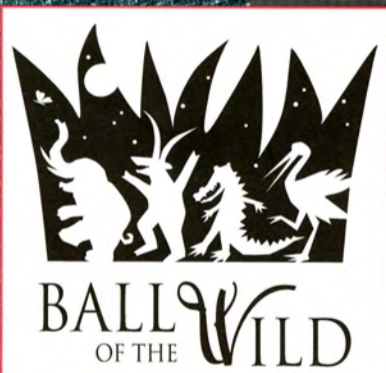


# TOUCAN TALK

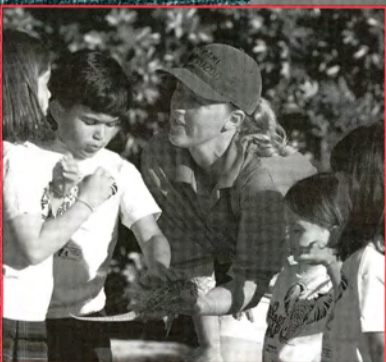
A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!



**KEEPER OF THE YEAR  
PAGE 4**



**AN EXOTIC EXPERIENCE...  
PAGE 7**



**SPECIAL INSERT:  
ZOOFARI CAMP 2000**

**MEET KALA  
THE "KITTEN  
WITH AN  
ATTITUDE"!**

**PAGE 2**







Cover: Baby Caracal  
Photo by: Dolora Batchelor

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# CARACAL KITTEN TO WOW AMPHITHEATER CROWDS

Story by Steve Conners

General Curator



Caracal with an "attitude"

Photo: Dolora Batchelor

**T**here's a new kid on the block, a kitten, actually. It's a caracal, or caracal lynx as they are sometimes called. Her name is Kala (pronounced *kāl-âh*), which is Swahili for "wild cat." According to the amphitheater staff charged with the task of raising her, Kala is indeed wild. The words "playful," "attitude" and "bites" are used in the course of describing her personality. But a few nips and scratches are all in a day's (and night's) work when it comes to raising an exotic feline. She's also "fearless"—she stalked the male cheetah, King George, an animal ten times her size! Lucky for Kala her stalk was unsuccessful. The behavior she exhibits is a caracal's natural developmental stage, growing toward the natural hunter she would be in the wild. Instead she'll be demonstrating her skills for visitors in non-violent yet spectacular displays of cat quickness and agility. For the moment she's just playing. She's bonding with (and at times tormenting) her caretakers in preparation for the days when she'll have to "work" for a living at Metrozoo's Amphitheater.

The caracal is mainly reddish brown or tan in color with black accents on the face and ears. Kala has long legs and long black ear tufts reminiscent of those found on her well-known namesake and relative, the lynx. Without a doubt the most distinctive feature of the caracal is its ears. There has been much speculation as to the purpose of the long tufts. One theory is that the long hairs at

the tips increase the sound gathering ability of the ear. If this were true it would certainly be an advantage to a cat that hunts mostly at night. Others speculate that the tufts as well as the black coloration on the backs of the ears serve to make them conspicuous signaling devices. Different ear positions reveal varying amounts of black and white coloration. This could be how a mother silently signals to her offspring while they are following her on a hunt. It could also serve to signal an emotional state, such as fear, submissiveness or anger in numerous other social settings between individuals. Caracals have been observed with ears erect, turning their heads from side to side in a behavior termed "flagging." Perhaps this is a display of supreme cat confidence! I'm certain that in the future, Kala will be doing some things a bit more exciting than simply turning her head from side to side.

Caracals reach adult size of about two and a half to three feet long, and fifteen to eighteen inches at the shoulder with a weight of thirty to forty pounds. Our kitten is nowhere close to adult size since she's only about six months old. Another similarity to the lynx is the caracal's relatively short tail, which is only about a third as long as its body.

The caracal's natural habitat is the dry thorn forests, savannas and rocky deserts found over much of Africa, the Middle East, and India. Wild caracals prey mostly on birds, which are often taken at night while they sleep.

*Continued on page 3*



## NEW ANIMAL BABIES

By Ron Magill

### Now on Exhibit

On Friday, December 24, 1999, eleven African Hunting Dog puppies and one African Warthog made their weekend public debut at the Zoo.

#### African Hunting Dogs (also known as Cape Hunting Dogs)

The eight male and three female African Hunting Dogs were born on Halloween of this year and have been carefully attended to by their mother in a special den off exhibit. This is the second litter of African Hunting Dogs born at Miami Metrozoo, and it represents a very important contribution to the world's overall captive breeding program. The Hunting Dog is Africa's most endangered predator. Since only a handful of zoos have been successful in reproducing them, we are very excited to have these frisky babies.



The African Hunting Dog is found in Eastern and Southern Africa where, it is believed, there are about 5,000 left in the wild. In a pack, only the dominant male and female will reproduce while the rest of the pack helps to protect and feed the offspring. African Hunting Dogs are one of the few carnivores that allow the offspring to feed ahead of the adult pack members. The primary reason for their decline is habitat destruction due to cultivation and cattle grazing along with the introduction of disease by domestic dogs.

#### African Warthog



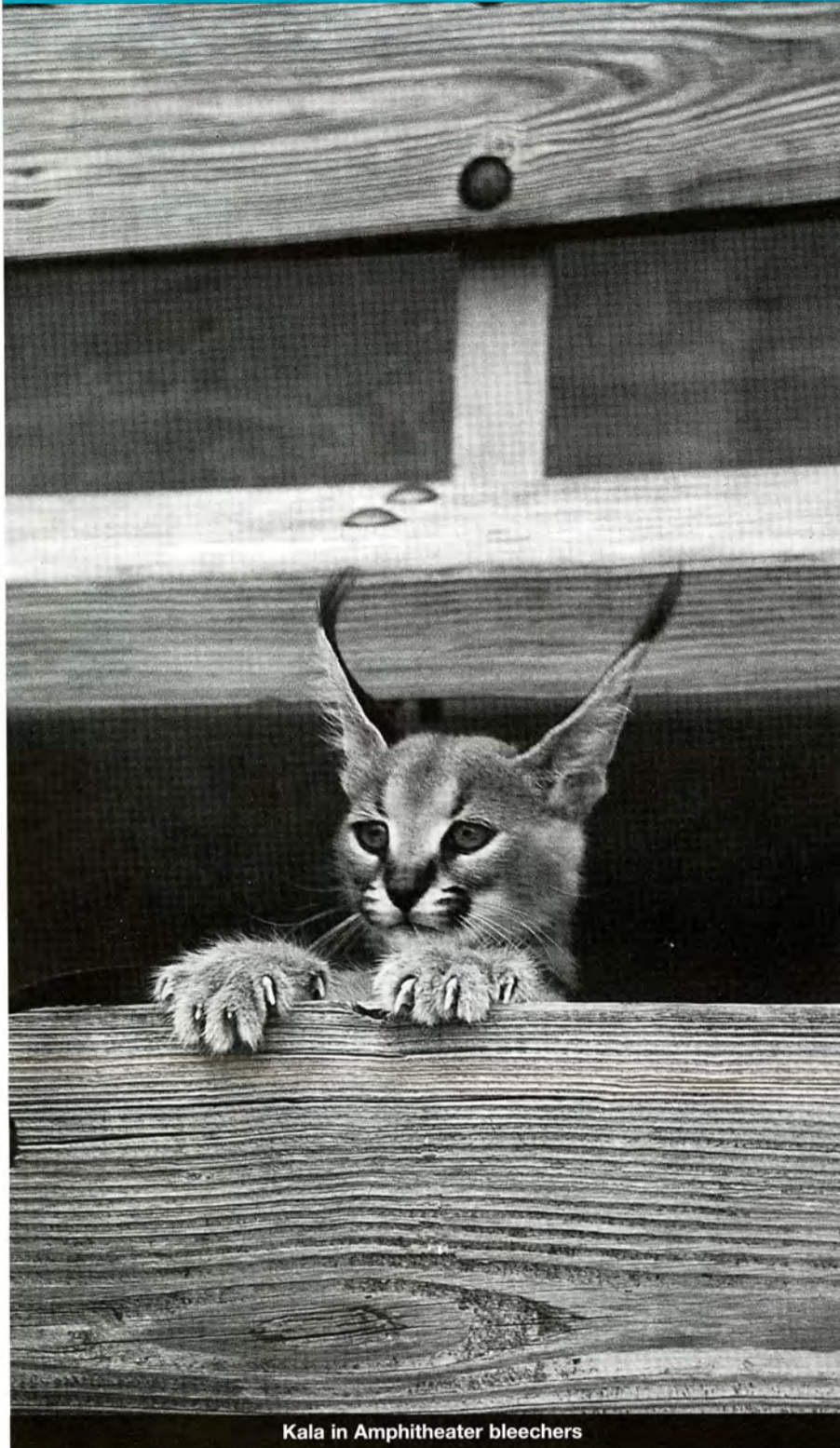
The lone male African Warthog baby was born on November 20, 1999, and can be seen with its mother on the exhibit. Metrozoo has been fortunate to have several of these unique wild pigs born in captivity over the last four years. The warthog is a common animal throughout the African savanna where it is a favorite food of lions, leopards, hyenas, and cheetahs.

This comical looking animal gets its name from wart-like growths that it develops on the sides of its face as an adult. The growths are more prominent in males and are actually not warts, but rather cartilaginous skin growths.

The African Warthog has become quite popular with children since it was featured as "Pumba" in the Disney classic, *The Lion King*.

#### Other Babies Born in November and December

A male yellow-backed duiker, a female gerenuk, and a male and a female Nile lechwe.



Kala in Amphitheater bleachers

Continued from page 2

Brooding ostriches and even eagles on the roost have been killed. Rodents, hares, hyraxes and small antelope round out the diet. Caracals hunt by slowly stalking until the prey can be captured with a final quick dash or leap. The caracal is reputed to be the fastest cat of its size, and is able to capture birds in flight. Like the cheetah, they have been tamed by people in certain areas and used for hunting. Hunters using these cats in India used to make bets over whose caracal could capture the greatest number of doves in one leap! Conversely, people persecute the cats for their attacks on domestic poultry, sheep and goats.

Denning may take place at any time of year. Favorite locations include rotting grass mounds, rock crevices and abandoned dens of other animals. After a gestation period of about seventy-five days, anywhere from one to six young are born. In captivity, two litters may be born as little as three months apart. In fact, Kala was a member of a second litter at a private breeding facility (which may be why she was rejected by her mom). The kittens open their eyes by day ten and are weaned between ten and twenty-five weeks. The young are only able to strike out on their own after many months of hunting instruction provided by their mother. They reach maturity and become territorial between six months and two years of age. Growth does continue after maturity.

Kala is a perfect Zoo ambassador, for she will demonstrate many of the natural behaviors that delight and educate our visitors at the Amphitheater. Come see Kala after one of the regular amphitheater shows.

### KEEPER TALKS & ANIMAL FEEDINGS

Tiger.....	11:00 a.m.
Orangutan.....	11:30 a.m.
Otter.....	12:00 p.m.
Sloth Bear.....	Feedings may be..... 1:00 p.m.
Pygmy Hippo.....	viewed at each..... 1:30 p.m.
Chimp/Gorilla.....	respective animal..... 2:00 p.m.
Himalayan Black Bear.....	exhibition area..... 2:00 p.m.
Giraffe.....	2:30 p.m.
Galapagos Tortoise.....	3:30 p.m.

Photo: Dolores Batchelor

Photo: Dolores Batchelor



## ARIEL OWENS: KEEPER OF THE YEAR

**H**and raising Metrozoo's baby siamang was the highlight of 1999 for keeper Ariel Owens. Born in mid-March, 1999, Loki appeared to be a perfectly healthy baby siamang. However, after a couple of months, Ariel noticed some very slight changes in the baby's behavior. Loki was suffering from dehydration and diarrhea, both of which could have killed the baby if these conditions had continued undetected. Initially, the keepers tried to treat Loki while still with his mom. The constant sedation and removal of the baby from her proved too stressful for the mother. So Ariel took Loki home and administered 'round the clock care: feeding, medicating and giving injections to the baby in an almost never-ending cycle. With two weeks of constant love and care, Loki gradually returned to perfect health, and mother and baby were reunited without any problems. Ariel is grateful that he was able to help save this very precious little life.

"Working at the Zoo is my dream job," Ariel admitted with a big grin. "I've always wanted to be a keeper. It's nice to be able to get up in the morning and look forward to going to work. To me, it's not work and it's all worth it in the end."

Two years ago, Ariel's dream to work in a zoo came true when he was hired to work in Metrozoo's Quarantine Department. A year ago he transferred to the Primate Department in the Asian lobe of the Zoo where he is now caring for a family of three siamangs and a family of four gibbons (both Lesser Apes), five orangutans (Great Apes), and ten lemurs.

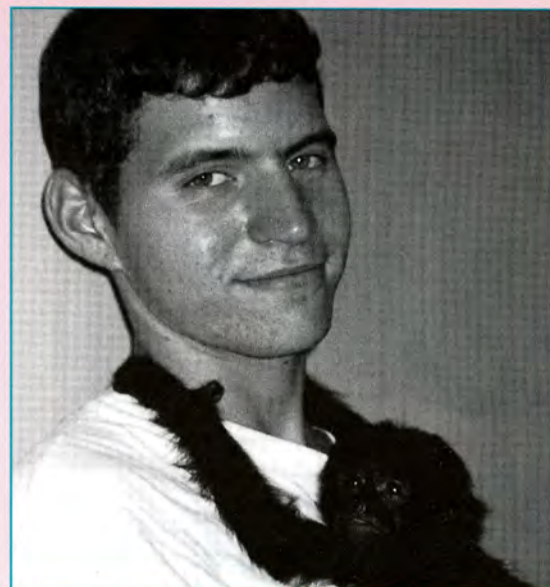
"I have a deep respect for the primates," Ariel said with reverence. "I admire their intelligence

and their beauty. Working with them is very rewarding because they exhibit a lot of emotion toward their keepers. They feel and show their affection for their keeper. The primates are so intelligent, it feels like I'm working with people, and not animals. They're like my children!"

On a typical day, Ariel spends the morning cleaning the exhibits and feeding his charges. The animals are fed twice: just before being released to the exhibit, and just before the keepers go home. The afternoon is then devoted to one-on-one attention. "It's easier to work with them after they've had the early morning to work off their restlessness from spending the night in their enclosures. After romping around and burning up the excess energy, they are more likely to pay attention during training." Ariel and the other keepers work with the primates in a program called *operant conditioning*. This is a training program that relies strictly on rewards (food, verbal or time with the animal) to enforce desired behaviors.

Through *operant conditioning*, Ariel teaches the primates to display their body parts to make it easier for the keepers to check for wounds. "I'll either say to them, 'show me your foot,' or I'll point to the foot and ask them to show it to me." They are also taught to accept injections voluntarily. "I clean their ears and brush their teeth in between the annual physical examinations by the veterinarian. This helps keep the plaque under control and the animals healthier. One of the most useful activities is training them to retrieve things...it's very helpful if something is dropped accidentally into the exhibit."

"It takes a long time to develop a relationship with an animal. The primates always know what



Ariel with Loki

you want, and they interact with their keepers on a trust and reward system. They can sense when there's no trust, and when they don't trust the keepers, they won't cooperate with us."

When not at Metrozoo, Ariel can be found at Miami-Dade Community College, which he attends full time. With the little spare time that he has, he pretty much considers himself a homebody. He says that music is the other big part of his life. He especially enjoys listening to soft and alternative rock and going to concerts. When he does venture out, he dons his thrill/adventure hat and sky dives or goes bungee jumping.

Ariel's ambition is to continue to live and work with his beloved primates here at Metrozoo.

Photo: Jacky Shaw

## BEHIND-THE-SCENES WITH THE KEEPER

**T**o watch the Andean guanaco lazily grazing on the paddock, you would never guess how busy his keeper is behind the scenes. **Kresimir (Kresho) Golenja** does a lot more than just feed and water the Thomson's gazelles, kudus, guanacos and rheas.

As soon as Kresho (pronounced *krey-shaw*) arrives in the morning, he carefully checks each of his charges to make sure they are healthy and free of injury or stress. When he is assured that the animals are all right, he puts the food on the paddock and checks the area for cleanliness and tree branches or other debris that might have fallen into the exhibit. He then releases the animals onto the paddock.

Simple you say? Just try to move a skittish, flighty kudu that decides to clear the nine to ten foot chain link fence in her holding pen... or the male guanaco that constantly goes at the two adult female guanacos, either in a spitting match (and boy, does that spit stain) or baring his teeth.

"The Thomson's (Tommies) gazelles are very suspicious. They don't trust anyone!" said Kresho. "They are very nervous, and sudden movement from a keeper could cause them to easily break a leg or a horn. So it is important to work with them gently and slowly...gradually introducing each step we take with them.



Kresho with a rhea

We carefully introduced the rake and shovel to accustom the Tommies to the sounds we make when we clean around them. We didn't want to risk hurting them by grabbing them, so we very gradually introduced a small PVC pipe into their holding pen, and made soft, gentle blowing noises through it for darting purposes.

Kresho spends his afternoons completely behind the scenes, making repairs to or building new holding pens, restocking, filling the pens with fresh dirt, mowing and weeding, cutting low-hanging tree branches, and a multitude of other special chores that are unforeseen. He must clean the moats of debris, lay new sod, and always observe the animals and birds. In between his chores, when he arrives in the morning, before lunch, after lunch and before leaving in the evening, Kresho carefully checks each animal and bird under his care. He pays special attention to females getting ready to give birth, new moms and how they react to their babies, and how the different species react to each other while sharing a paddock.

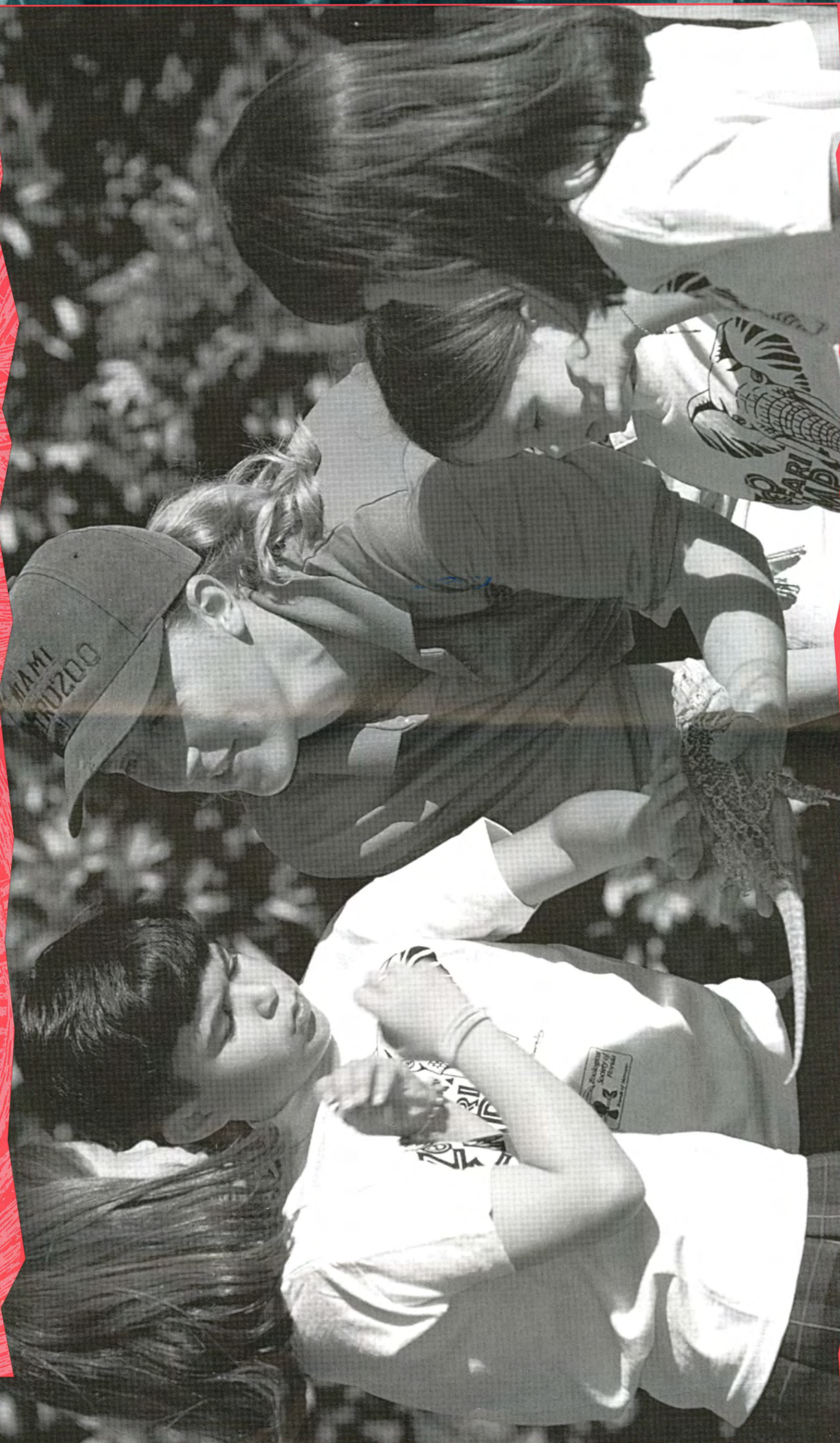
Born and raised in Croatia, Kresho studied in the Veterinary Technician program in high school, and worked a five-year internship with the local zoo. Kresho spent a year as a swing keeper with the local zoo until war broke out and he had to leave to fight in the army. Ten months of war changed a great deal for Kresho. He returned home to find his former zookeeper position had been filled. So, in 1994 he decided to come to the United States.

Kresho is an active member of the South Florida Chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers. Kresho, we're glad that you're here!

Photo: Dolores Batchelor



# SUMMER CAMP 2000





# SUMMER ZOOFARI CAMP 2000



## ANIMAL MINDS AT WORK - SESSION A

How do different animals deal with daily challenges? How do they learn? Can humans learn from "other" animals? Can they learn from us? In the first session of Summer Camp we are going to explore the answers to these and other questions while interacting with the most amazing animals in the world.

## SENSATIONAL ANIMALS - SESSION B

Animals have different skills and strengths that allow them to have a unique place in nature. In the second session of Summer Camp we are going to investigate how animals use their senses to their advantage. We are going to learn interesting animal facts, such as, how keen the eagle's sight is, how fast cheetahs can run, or how powerful elephants and tigers can be, and much more to challenge the most inquisitive of minds!

### Ages 4-6

#### KINDERCAMP - SESSION A

**Dates:** June 26 - 30  
July 10 - 14  
July 24 - 28

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

#### KINDERCAMP - SESSION B

### Ages 11 - 13

#### ZOOLIFE CAMP SESSION A

**Dates:** August 7 - 11

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

#### ZOOLIFE CAMP SESSION B

**Dates:**

**Time:**





**Dates:**

July 3 - 7  
 July 17 - 21  
 July 31 - August 4

**Time:**

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Cost:**

Member: \$125 per week  
 Non-member: \$145 per week

**Ages 7-10****ZOOFARI CAMP SESSION A****Dates:**

June 19 - 23  
 July 3 - 7  
 July 17 - 21  
 July 31 - August 4  
 August 14 - 18

**Time:**

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**ZOOFARI CAMP SESSION B****Dates:**

June 26 - 30  
 July 10 - 14  
 July 24 - 28  
 August 7 - 11

**Time:**

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Cost:**

Member: \$125 per week  
 Non-member: \$145 per week

Early morning drop-off 8:30 a.m.  
 additional \$10.00 per week per child

**Cost:**

Member: \$125 per week  
 Non-member: \$145 per week

**Ages 14-17****TEEN ZOOLOGIST**

Hey teens!

If you are 14 to 17 years old and the animal kingdom seems irresistible to you, it may be time to become a Teen Zoologist! The first two weeks of summer camp are dedicated to the training of teen volunteers, who assist with different areas of the zoo, such as the Children's Zoo, the Zoo Camps, and public events at Metrozoo. Upon completing this training program, teens are eligible to join the Zoo Volunteer Team. Teens must apply and will be interviewed and evaluated. Each volunteer is required to assist with one week of Summer Zoofari Camp. Join us for a thrilling experience!

**Dates:**

June 19 - 23

**Times:**

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Cost:**

Member: \$125  
 Non-members: \$145

- \$10.00 discount with 2 or more weeks registration or;
  - \$10.00 discount with 2 or more siblings. Please, only one discount per family. Please provide your child with lunch.
- All Summer Zoofari Camp programs are subject to a \$30 cancellation fee.

After camp care 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
 additional \$25.00 per week per child





# REGISTRATION FORM

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payment enclosed: Check # \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_ Camp Fee(s) Total \_\_\_\_\_

## CAMPER INFORMATION

Name of Camper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camp Program \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camp Session(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Camp Session(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CAMPER'S MEDICAL INFORMATION

Physician Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dentist Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In an emergency, if the parent, guardian or designated physician/dentist cannot be reached, I authorize the Zoological Society of Florida to transport and/or obtain medical services from any physician/dentist for my child.

**Signature of Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any medical conditions or health problems of which the Camp staff should be aware. Please describe: (if you require further space, please use the back of this form):

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prescribed Medications \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

(Your signature below gives permission to Camp staff to dispense only prescribed medications you send with your child. Please provide the prescribed container, paraphernalia necessary for taking medications, and explicit instructions on back of this form.)

## NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL PICK UP THE CHILD

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle information: Make \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color \_\_\_\_\_ Tag # \_\_\_\_\_

*I give permission for my child to participate in the Zoological Society of Florida's Summer Camp program. I have read the registration and medical sections and have supplied accurate information. My child can be photographed and his/her picture used for public relations purposes.*

**Signature of Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. *Registration cannot be processed unless this form is completely filled out.*

For reservations please call the Education Department at 305 -255-5551 or mail registration form to Zoological Society of Florida/Education Department - 12400 S.W. 152nd Street, Miami, FL 33177-1499.



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



# If You Love Animals, We Have Something Great For You To Do!

**V**olunteer opportunities are numerous and diverse at Metrozoo. Duties range from the care of the animals used in educational programs to assisting customers in the Gift Shops. Highly trained volunteers, called "docents," provide information and assistance at the Information Booth, or lead tours providing information about the animals to the public. Docents also teach lessons in wildlife and conservation to children and adults through "Outreach" programs and presentations on Zoo grounds.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life and professions. They are young, old and in between. Most importantly, they are fond of animals and enjoy learning while contributing to the care and preservation of wildlife.

Volunteers must be members of the Zoological

Society of Florida, and must be at least eighteen years of age. All new volunteers must undergo a series of orientation classes, and prospective docents are required to complete an additional eight weeks of specialized training to familiarize them with the philosophy, management, and animal collection of Metrozoo. What you'll learn is not only fascinating, it will open the animal kingdom to you as you've never imagined.

Upon completion of the training courses, volunteers are required to give a minimum of six hours of service per month to the Zoo.

See how this exciting volunteer program will enrich your life. For more information, call our

Volunteer Services Department at 305-255-5551.



Docent Nancy Hembree (white hat) gives information and answers questions about the Tiger Exhibit.



Volunteer/Docent Connie Owens shows children a boa constrictor in a Close-Up activity.

## 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.

## YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

The work of the Zoological Society of Florida is supported by membership dues, donations from community-minded individuals, corporations and foundations, matching gifts, and planned giving bequests. The generous support of our community is essential for Metrozoo to successfully carry out its mission to encourage the appreciation of our world's wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations.

### WONDEROUS WILDLIFE

Zoo animals are ambassadors from the wild reaching out to us for their survival on the planet. They are the lifeblood of the Zoo. Providing their food, shelter and expert medical care is our highest priority.

### A WORLD CLASS ZOO

Since the Zoo opened, millions of dollars have been raised for new exhibits such as Wings of Asia, the Children's Zoo, Asian River Life, the Koala exhibit, and

the Falcon Batchelor Komodo Dragon Encounter. The Aviary will return before long, and after that, the exciting new lobe of the Zoo to be called Tropical Americas.

### CONSERVATION

The preservation of the animals' wild habitats will ultimately determine the quality of life on earth. Metrozoo's central theme is that each of us can contribute positively to wildlife conservation and habitat preservation by making wise choices in our daily lives.

### EDUCATION

Miami Metrozoo provides opportunities for hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to interact with and learn from the animals and the staff. About 55,000 school children tour the Zoo on class trips annually and about 60,000 people enjoy the Zoological Society of Florida's wildlife education programs each year.

### WHY SUPPORT MIAMI METROZOO?

As part of Dade County's Park and Recreation system, Miami Metrozoo's 290 acres provide a quality recreational experience that helps make South Florida an exceptional place to live, work and play.

Donations are needed above and beyond membership dues to enable the Zoological Society of Florida and Miami Metrozoo to continue to grow in size and number of exhibits; to support the Zoo exhibits and conservation/preservation programs; to provide conservation education outreach programs at schools, Metrozoo and throughout South Florida; to continue the operation of the Children's Zoo; to continue to provide volunteer and docent interpretive services; and to provide more entertainment for your family.

Please help support Miami Metrozoo with your Tax Deductible Donations. For information call (305) 255-5551.

## ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA PLEDGE CARD

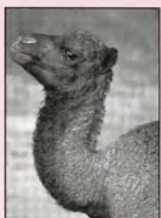
Please Print

Please Return to: Zoological Society of Florida  
12400 SW 152 Street, Miami, Florida 33177-1499 (305) 255-5551

Name: Mr. _____ Mrs. _____ Ms _____		Date: _____	
Home Address: _____		City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____
<b>B U S I N E S S   A D D R E S S</b>			
Business Name: _____		Contact: _____	
Street Address: _____		City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____	ext: _____	Fax: _____	E-mail: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> other	
Check _____		Securities _____	Credit CardType: _____ Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____
My employer will match this gift. Form enclosed: _____		Form pending: _____	
<i>Thank you so much for your support to the Zoological Society of Florida and Miami Metrozoo.</i>			



## Members Programs



### What's for lunch?

Did you ever wonder what animals eat? In this program you will learn about the dietary needs of different animals while you enjoy a delicious light lunch of your own. Following lunch there will be a behind-the-scenes tour of our very own Zoo kitchen! End this unique day by feeding a very special visitor its favorite treat!

Families, children ages 6 & up  
 Date: Saturday, March 11, 2000  
 Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
 Cost: Adult Members (age 13 and over) \$13  
 Adult Non-Members \$16  
 Child Members (age 6-12) \$8  
 Child Non-Members \$10



### Monkeying Around and Going Ape!

Come and enjoy a light breakfast with Scott Fuller, an entertaining zookeeper, who has had a great deal of experience

working with our primates. He will introduce you to some of our favorite primate friends here at Metrozoo! Learn why gorillas beat their chests, why colobus monkey babies are white at birth, and which primate is the most closely related to humans. You're sure to go bananas for this one!

Families, children Ages 6 & up  
 Date: Saturday, April 15, 2000  
 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
 Cost: Adult Member (ages 13 and over) \$8  
 Adult Non-Member \$10  
 Child Member (age 6-12) \$4  
 Child Non-Member \$6



### Spring Break Camp

What a week away from school! Schools may be out, but classes are in at Miami Metrozoo.

Spend your week off with our "wild bunch" learning about the amazing residents of the Zoo. Campers bring their lunch, while we supply snacks, crafts, animals, and a souvenir T-shirt.

Children ages 4-12  
 Date: April 3rd - 7th, 2000  
 Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Cost: Members \$100.00  
 Non-Members \$120.00

### "Wild Nights" at Metrozoo



Be our guest for one of the wildest adventures in town! We'll start out with a pizza dinner and orientation, and

then it's off on a behind-the-scenes flashlight safari. The Zoo seems 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. A fun evening to be shared by the whole family!

Families, Children (6 and older)  
 Date(s): Wednesday, March 22, 2000  
 Wednesday, April 12, 2000  
 Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
 Cost: Members \$20  
 Non-Members \$25

## Zoodler Academy For Children Aged 2-3

Young children are incredibly curious and learn at a rapid rate. As they strive to understand the world around them, toddlers find animals and nature to be fascinating. The ZSF Education staff is pleased to present its latest program designed to promote early learning among toddlers two to three years of age. With the assistance of a parent, our young participants will engage in lots of fun activities and interact with live animals in a safe and friendly setting. Don't miss this unique educational experience! Enroll your toddler in our Zoodler Academy today!

Date: Friday, March 31, 2000  
 Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Cost: (price includes one adult and one child; \$4 per each additional child)  
 Members \$8  
 Non-Members \$10  
 Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### Stripes and Spots for Tiny Tots

Spend some special one-on-one time with your favorite 'lil' Zoo fan. Metrozoo's animals come in many different patterns and colors. In this session, explore the world of "animal wrappers" and see for yourself just how exciting they can be. The afternoon includes a classroom visit from some gentle creatures that your little one is sure to enjoy.

Date: Friday, April 14, 2000  
 Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Cost: (price includes one adult and one child; \$4 per each additional child)  
 Members \$8  
 Non-Members \$10  
 Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### The Tortoise and the Hare

Listen to the wonderful old fable "The Tortoise and the Hare," delightfully told by our staff, and learn interesting fun facts about tortoises and hares. The characters will then come to life in the classroom as the children meet the relatives of these legendary animals in an up-close and personal encounter.

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2000  
 Time: 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Cost: (price includes one adult and one child; \$4 per each additional child)  
 Members \$8  
 Non-Members \$10  
 Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### Spring Is In the Air

With spring just around the corner, this is the perfect time to welcome a new friend to your backyard. There is no better way of doing this than with a "neat treat." In this program, children and parents will join together with our friendly staff in making their very own bird feeders! They will then have a surprise visit with one of our resident bird friends.



## SPECIAL EVENTS IN APRIL

### Earth Day's 30th Year Celebration

Join Miami-Dade County's Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), 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.

Families  
 Date: Saturday, April 22, 2000  
 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### The Great Metrozoo Egg Safari

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.

Families  
 Date: Sunday, April 23, 2000  
 Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## REGISTRATION FORM

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I'm a Member: Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ I'm 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):** Credit card holders may register by phone.  
 Check  American Express  MasterCard  VISA  
 Card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Customer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/Session	Name of Participant	Age/Grade	Fee

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

All program registrations subject to a \$10 cancellation fee.



## Ball of the Wild An Exotic Experience In Paradise

(Formerly known as Feast With the Beasts)



**B**all of the Wild, a fabulous evening of elegance, enchantment and excitement under the stars, will be held amidst the great beasts of Metrozoo. **Lucent Technologies** is the presenting sponsor of the moonlight gala, and the cuisine is by Gene's Catering.

The party is in celebration of the re-building of Metrozoo's world-famous aviary, which was lost to Hurricane Andrew in 1992, and the soon-to-open education center with its special exhibits and classrooms.

We have chosen Ball of the Wild to thank two of our benefactors for all they have contributed to the growth of Miami Metrozoo. George E. Batchelor, President of Aero Space Finance Ltd., has supported the Zoo for many years. He has made it possible for you to enjoy the Falcon Batchelor Komodo Dragon Encounter, the 100-inch "Batchelor Vision" video wall for the new education center, and *King George*, our new king cheetah, just to name his most recent gifts to the Zoo.

R. Kirk Landon, retired Chairman of American Bankers Insurance, is helping to make it possible for us to rebuild the Aviary that was so tragically lost in Hurricane Andrew.

Philanthropic endowments are critical to the achievement of our aggressive financial goals to grow and expand Miami Metrozoo. You, our members, are our lifeblood, and we are truly grateful for your support. Thanks to the wonderful contributions of our benefactors, we are able to offer new and exciting Zoo experiences for you, your family, and your friends. Our special thanks to **Jennifer Getz** for chairing this wonderful event.

Date: **Saturday, March 4, 2000**  
Time: 7:30 p.m. to midnight  
Tickets: \$500 per person, \$5,000 for a table of 10  
For information or tickets call: (305) 255-5551

## Cool Zoo Summer Experience

**E**njoy 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.

**Families**  
Dates: Thursday, June 1, 2000 throughout the summer  
Times: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sunday through Saturday

## Angel's Hatchery- What an Angel!

**J**udy and Paul Radice of Angel's Hatchery go the extra mile for wildlife conservation. They donated the proceeds of their last two Koi Pond Workshops to the Zoological Society of Florida. So, be an angel - **sign up for their next workshop** which is scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2000, 9 a.m. to noon at the Fruit and Spice Park (24801 SW 187th Avenue). Learn about Koi health, pond management, nutrition, filtration, disease prevention, and construction. Registration is \$15 and proceeds will benefit ZSF and Metrozoo children's programs. Call Angel's Hatchery at (305) 248-7777 to register.

## Carnival Loves Kids!

**O**ur sincere appreciation to Carnival Cruise Lines and the Carnival Foundation for sponsoring the Zoological Society of Florida's *Carnival Kids* program for the third year. Carnival's generous gift is making it happen! Fourth graders from Liberty City, Miami Park and Carol City elementary schools participate in a conservation educational program custom-designed for them by the ZSF education staff.

Live animals visit their schools, and the children experience lively trips to Metrozoo and a visit to Everglades National Park. *Carnival Kids* prepares the young participants to be the effective environmentalists and wildlife advocates of tomorrow. Last year's participants more than doubled their wildlife and conservation knowledge by the end of the program. We congratulate them on their achievements. **Thank you, Carnival** - it couldn't have happened without you!

## BIG BUG OUT RECEIVES BOACH RAVE REVIEWS

**T**he second annual Big Bug Out was just plain fun! Children and grown-ups had bugs identified by entomologists (you know, those guys who know all about insects), enjoyed creepy-crawly stories, polished amber pieces (with bugs inside!), had their pictures taken with wandering butterflies, learned cool facts about bugs, and challenged their palates with edible mealworms.

We want to thank: A-Maze-Ing Bugs Crew: Nathan Diehl, Guillermo and Victor Guerrero, and Jason Ortega; Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection; Butterfly Mystique; Bug Chef Freddy Cohen; HOTLIX; Palmetto Bug Volkswagen Club; **And all the staff and volunteers!**

We look forward to seeing you at our Big Bug Out next year!

## Thank You, Thank You!

The Zoological Society of Florida is very grateful to **Libby Madden**, the inspiration behind a grant received from the Sara Woodruff Foundation. This funding will support programming at Metrozoo's new education court.

Thanks to **Anna Rentz** for supporting the Colobus monkey exhibit.

A big thank you to **Jennifer and William Manikas** of the Chingos Foundation, **Peter Storer** of the Storer Foundation, and **The Lucia H. Shipley Foundation, Inc.**, for their gracious donations.

Thanks to our members for their generous support of the ZSF 1999 Year-End Appeal.

If you have not responded to the ZSF 1999 Year-End Appeal, please do so now.

## Children's Drawing Competition



**N**icole Enos was the winner of the January/February Children's Drawing Contest. Nicole is ten years old and a fourth-grader at William Lehman Elementary School. When asked why she likes to come to Metrozoo, Nicole answered, "I'm an animal lover, and I enjoy watching the animals - especially the tortoises and otters. The most fun thing I did in Winter Camp was to go onto the exhibit with the tortoises and feed them!" Nicole concluded that Winter Camp was "fun and entertaining every second." She also enjoyed arts and crafts and seeing the animals close-up in the classroom. Painting a rhea (large, flightless South American bird similar to but smaller than the Ostrich) egg was another highlight of camp activities.

Send your drawings for the next issue to: **Children's Drawing Competition, c/o Zoological Society of Florida, 12400 SW 152nd Street, Miami, Florida 33177-1499.**

## PICNICS, COMPANY & GROUP GET-TOGETHERS

Let us arrange your picnic, group outing or get-together (minimum 100 people). Phone: (305) 251-0403.

## Birthday Packages

Minimum: 20 people. Packages include: admission, choice of menu, rental, party decorations, set-up/clean-up and service. Phone: (305) 233-8389.

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## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ANIMALS WHEN IT'S COLD?

By Martha Thaden, Lead Zookeeper

**W**hen we shiver from the cold, we look for a warm spot to keep warm, and we wear warm clothing. Our animals at Metrozoo do the same thing.

During the winter months the keepers need to know the weather forecast 24 to 48 hours ahead of time so they can make sure all our cold-blooded friends are kept warm during our brief winter cold spells.

Almost all of our reptiles have access to heat, coming and going when they want. But when the temperature drops below 55 degrees, it's time for the keepers to make sure no one is left out in the cold. The decision to move animals into the warm shelters is based on a combination of temperature and dampness, since water is a conductor of cold.

Also, because the metabolism of reptiles slows as the temperature cools, as does their digestion and movement, it is important to decrease or stop feeding altogether, as a stomach full of undigested food could become toxic to the animal.

**How do you get a 500-pound tortoise or an 8-foot Komodo Dragon to go where you want it to go?** For the Aldabra and Galapagos Tortoises, if the promise of an orange slice doesn't get them moving toward the shelter, then some gentle tapping on their hind legs beneath the shell and near the tail is usually enough to do the job.

Copper tubing encased in the concrete floor of the exhibit shelter has warm water circulating through it to provide warmth inside. Plywood sheets blocking the 3 normally open sides of the

shelter keep the animals inside while keeping the wind out.

The Komodo Dragons are managed in a daily routine that allows them to be on the paddock during the day, but ensures they always come inside their dens (complete with heated floors) at night. The large concrete rock in the center of the exhibit is heated, and there is a radiant heater in the cave on the left side of the exhibit.

The crocodiles, caimans and water turtles are in a different situation. Since ground water is used in the Siamese Crocodile Exhibit, the South American Stream and the off-exhibit breeding pools in the quarantine area, the water temperature never falls below 68° F. If a cold snap comes along, the zookeeper simply increases the flow of water to keep everyone warm. This also keeps the animals cool in the hot months.

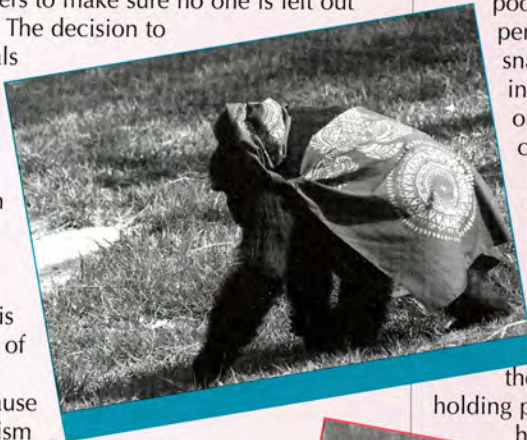
Most mammals can tolerate temperatures in the 40s and 50s with no problem. After all, they are covered with hair or fur. But when it gets chilly, they, too, are provided with warm shelter.

Notice the primates on cool days wearing their burlap blankets around their shoulders like shawls. Inside the holding pens and shelters we place windbreaks, heat lamps, radiating heaters, and lots of soft warm bedding in

which to cuddle.

As soon as it's sunny again, the animals come bounding (or at least a joyful crawl) from their shelters - happy to bask again in the sun. As you can see, for our zookeepers it's a busy time, and just another one of the many interesting jobs they perform.

This article was reproduced from *The Bongo Beat*, a publication by the Docents of the Zoological Society of Florida.



## ASK PEGGY!



Dear Peggy:

*The last few times I have been to the Zoo, I've noticed that the keepers poke the elephants with a rod to get them to do what they want them to do. Does this hurt them?*

-Andy

Dear Andy:

Elephants like myself are trained to respond to both verbal com-

mands as well as touch commands. In most cases, once an elephant has been trained to recognize verbal commands, touch reminders are unnecessary. Occasionally, my keepers need to touch an area of my body in order to tell me what I need to do. For instance, if I pick up my right foot, after they've asked me verbally to lift my left foot, they can better explain the original command by touching my left foot. The purpose of the "ankus," or elephant hook (which you called a rod), is to guide and control me by creating physical pressure on my body that I can recognize as a command. The ankus doesn't hurt me; in fact, my keepers usually touch me with the handle rather than the hook. The ankus actually works in the same way that my tusks do when I want to move one of my fellow elephants out of the way. By pushing my tusk against nearby elephants, I make it clear that I want them to move. Since my 8,000-pound body doesn't do the other elephants any harm, my keepers couldn't possibly hurt me when they use the ankus.

Your friend, Peggy

Dear Peggy:

*What is the difference between a monkey and an ape? When I visit the Siamangs and Gibbons at the Zoo, I hear kids call them monkeys and I know that isn't right.*

-Sincerely, Alisha

The easiest way to tell the difference between apes and monkeys is to remember that monkeys have tails and apes don't. (By the way, the Siamangs and Gibbons are Lesser Apes.) Tell your friends to come back to the Zoo, and see if they can tell the monkeys and apes apart! The next time you're at the Zoo, see if you can discover which are Lesser Apes and which are Greater Apes.

That was a good question. Thanks,

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 33177-1499

# TOUCAN TALK



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