



All Eyes on Emi

by Gregg Hudson, President and CEO



Mark Fields

In today's zoo world, conservation needs to be a central element in any zoo's mission. The rapid rate of habitat loss and the resulting loss of species puts conservation at critical crossroads. How can we save what we already know is in trouble? How do we protect those areas of the world that still hold undiscovered life forms of plants and animals? What about those yet-to-be-discovered medicinal plants that hold the promise of potential cures for diseases? The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden is known throughout the world as an institution that is in the forefront of conservation efforts for both flora and fauna.

The excellent reputation this Zoo has for its husbandry and for captive breeding of endangered animals is one reason it holds such a significant position in the international zoo community. During this Zoo's remarkable history, the birth of the first captive born California sea lion occurred here. The first giraffe and the first caracal born in the

western hemisphere were born here. Many other outstanding "firsts" occurred at the Cincinnati Zoo as well, including the first captive breeding of a royal goliath beetle and the first ever captive-hatching of a green and white zone-tailed pigeon in 1999.

Our research facility, CREW, and its staff of dedicated scientists are respected throughout the world for other accomplishments. CREW's botanical division is consulted by zoos and botanical gardens around the country and has taken its expertise outside the United States as well. CREW's animal division is known internationally and is currently directing its techniques to the problems of the ocelot and the rhinoceros.

The Cincinnati Zoo has two of the three Sumatran rhinos in the United States. Our most recent efforts with this critically endangered animal are of interest around the world. With less than 300 Sumatran rhinos left in the wild and only 15 in captivity, wildlife experts are watching and applauding our endeavors. The pregnancy of Emi, our female, is also generating considerable interest from the

press locally, nationally and internationally. The eyes of the world are literally turned our way because this Zoo refused to give up in its dedication to save this remarkable animal from extinction.

I have stated before that I think the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical

Garden is the most well-rounded zoo in the country. Our education programs, our collection, our research, our family-oriented environment, the community support, everything plays a role in accomplishing this. And everyone plays a role. Whether you are a staff member, a volunteer or a visitor, your interest and efforts are essential. The success of an institution such as this one, and of its efforts to conserve wildlife and wild places, depends on all of us. ♣

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