

Animal Keepers' Forum



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Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

APRIL 1981

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Mike Carpenter	Phoenix Zoo	CANADA
Kathy Rettie	Metro Toronto Zoo	

PARASITOLOGY PROGRAM AT THE METRO TORONTO ZOO

by

Charlotte Coghill A.C.T., S.L.A.T.

The parasitology program was introduced in 1973 by the Veterinary staff, and now looks after approximately three thousand animals. Routine fecal samples are submitted every three months from most of the mammals, birds, and reptiles. Samples from amphibians and fish are taken occasionally.

Fecal samples are submitted in plastic baggies with tags identifying the animal, location, number in group, sexes, date, and whether it is for routine or clinical reasons.

In the lab a variety of tests may be performed on a sample. Direct smears with saline are done to detect Protozoa and OVA. Flotations are done routinely to check for parasite eggs. For this method, a concentrated sodium sulphate is sometimes used, but a supersaturated solution of sodium chloride or sugar is also effective. The Baermann Method is used quite often to detect larva in our hoof stock collection. The results of each sample are then recorded in the lab log book, plus on the animal's medical history.

Most of the animals are dewormed every three months, with difficult cases being done more often or for prolonged periods. The antihelminthics used routinely plus the recommended dosages are listed in Table 1. There are other products used occasionally for specific problems or for research purposes. A rotating program is practiced whereby alternate drugs are used during the year to reduce the risk of an immunity build-up.

Many of the animals are kept in group situations so it is difficult to monitor exact doses of treatments in the feed. Considering the problems of mixed exhibits, free flight areas, soil paddocks, etc., the zoo has been reasonably successful in keeping clinical cases to a minimum. This could be attributed to our thorough quarantine of new animals. On arrival, animals are processed and held isolated for several weeks. During this period, fecals are taken weekly and the animals are dewormed before going on site.

It is evident by Table 1 that most of our treatments are given orally mixed in the feed. Many products produced now have pleasant flavours, i.e. Strongid-T - caramel, or the orange flavour of Mintezol. However, in the cases of bitter tasting drugs such as Tramisol, an artificial flavour may be used to improve palatability. The addition of raspberry or strawberry Kool-aid has been successful for enticing birds to drink the treated water. Another technique to disguise flavour is the blending of various fruit and vegetable baby foods with the drug. These mixtures are added to a plain gelatin powder then hand-fed. Yogurt, milk, fruit, and coke syrup have also been used on occasion to entice an animal to take its medicine. Each animal has to be considered as an individual case to determine the medium necessary for treatment. In herd situations where exact oral dosage is questionable, animals are rounded up for individual doses.

Parasitology Program at the Metro Toronto Zoo, continued

Whenever possible, Ripercol injectable is given to hoofstock that is being handled. Another alternative is the Telmin paste by syringe for drenching larger animals.

At the present time, the program seems to be keeping the parasite problem under control. The program is constantly being renovated and updated to maintain an efficient, effective system.

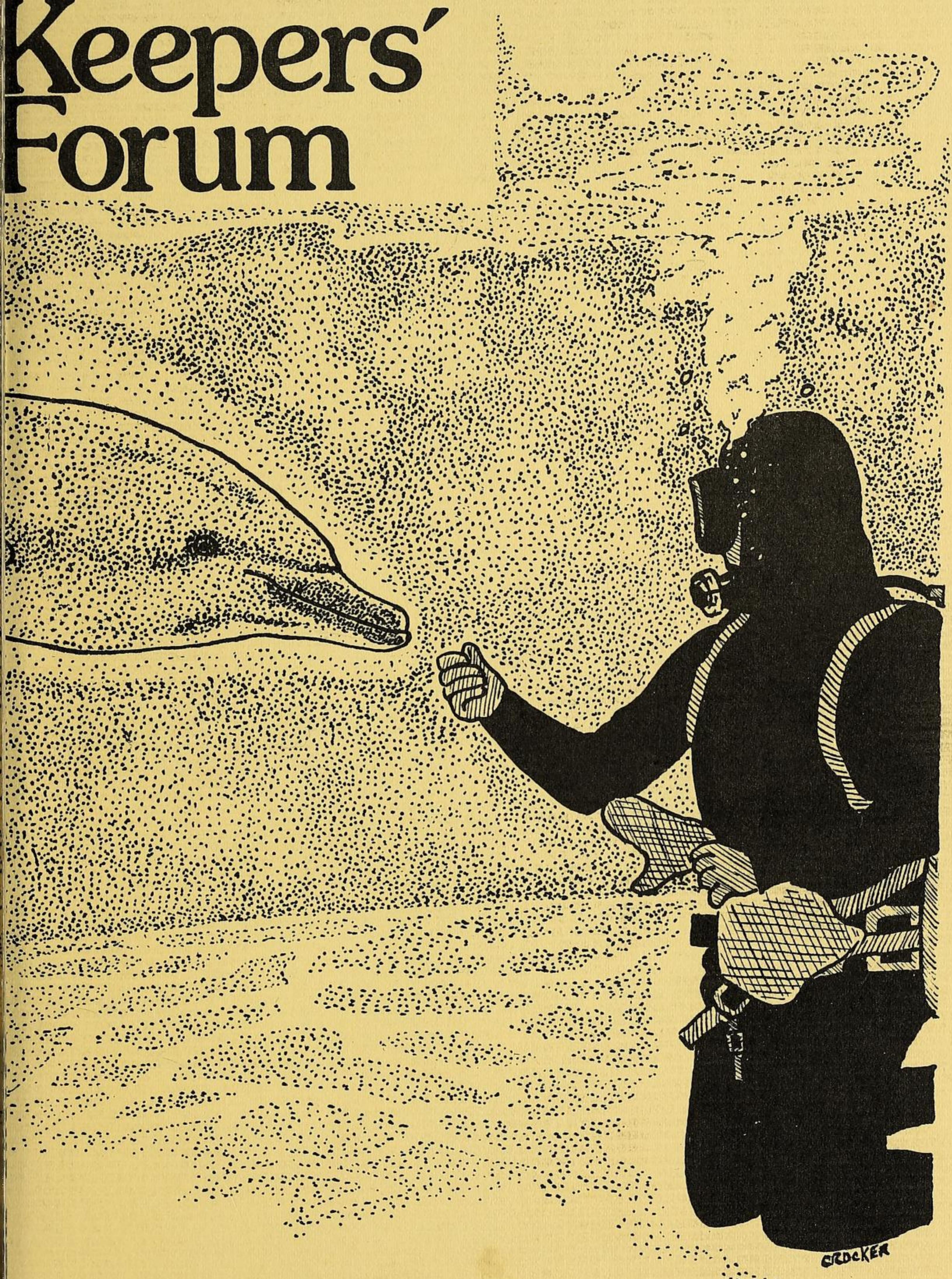
TABLE I

DRUG	TRADE	RECOMMENDED DOSE	ANIMAL
Thiabendazole	<u>Equizole</u> Merck, Sharpe & Dohme, Canada, Ltd.	As per label	Equines
	<u>Omnizole</u> IBID	.025 gms/1b body wt./2 days	Ruminents, Tapirs, Wallabies, Cavies
		.25 gms/1b body wt. divided over 2 days.	Birds
	<u>Soluble Powder</u> IBID	As per label	Young hoofstock (handraised)
	<u>Mintezol</u>	one tablet/20 lbs / 2 days	Bats, Primates
Mebendazole	<u>Telmin</u> Pitman Moore Ltd., Scarborough	10 mg/ kg. one day	Equines, Rhino, Hippo, Snakes, Primates, Ostrich Felids
	<u>Telmin Syringe</u> IBID	15 mg/kg/2 days As labeled	Ruminents Elephants, Equines, Hippos
Levamisole	<u>Tramisol Powder</u> Cyanimid of Canada, Ltd., Canada, Que.	2 gm/gal of H ₂ O/ 5 days or 5 gm/gal for 2 days	Birds
	<u>Tramisol Oblets</u> IBID	5 mg/kg	Fur Seals
	<u>Ripercol</u> IBID	Injectable - as labeled	Ruminents, Wallabies, Walleroos
	<u>Tramisol Pellets</u> IBID	As labeled	Bison, Camels, Sheep
Pyrantel Pamoate	<u>Strongid-T</u> Pifzer of Montreal P.Q., dist by Rogar STB	60 cc/1000 lbs	Carnivores, Cavies, Reptiles
	<u>PyrAPam</u> IBID	1 pill - 8-15 lbs. Small carnivores as labeled	
Piperazine	<u>Hyperzine</u> W.E. Saunders, Ltd., London, Ont.	as labeled 1cc/4 lbs. 1 oz/100 lbs.	Primates, Birds, Carnivores (except Cheetahs)



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Births & Hatchings

AUDUBON PARK ZOO LISTS RECENT BIRTHS.....Lis Glasco

The following is a list of recent births and hatchings at the Audubon Park & Zoological Garden, New Orleans, LA: 0.1 Sable antelope, 1.0 Guanaco, 0.0.1 Axis deer, 0.0.1 Thompsons gazelle; 0.0.2 Golden lion tamarins, 0.0.10 emus, 0.0.2 Red-necked ostriches, 0.0.1 Plush-crested jay, 0.0.8 Fulvous tree ducks, 0.0.1 Toco toucan and 0.0.1 Cereopsis goose.

W.D. STONE ZOO ANTICIPATES DOUBLE BIRTHS.....Ed Roberts

Gigi, our 8-year-old Lowland gorilla is expecting her first offspring around the second week of June, and Betty, our orangutan, is due to have her fourth baby at about the same time. Much media coverage and publicity have been given to Gigi since this will be her first. Dr. Deborah Schildkraut, an animal behavior psychologist, has been spending time daily with Gigi, instructing her through various hand and voice signals, on the proper care of an infant gorilla. The instruction Gigi is receiving by a human is supposed to be, as close as possible, the instruction she would receive if she were with a group of lowland mothers from whom she could learn mothering techniques. Both Gigi and her mate Sam were purchased from the Cincinnati Zoo in March of 1980 and were flown, uncrated, but in cargo nets and under anesthesia by a rented Lear jet. Dr. William Satterfield, the staff veterinarian, supervised the transport.

Betty, the orangutan, has received far less publicity since this is not her first offspring. Her last baby is now on breeding loan to the St. Louis Zoo, was born in 1975.

The W.D. Stone Zoo was also a recent recipient of an award by the AAZPA on the raising of a Hammerkope and the first successful hand-raising of an Abyssinian Hornbill. So far 13 mouflons (*Ovis musimon*) have been born this spring and our yellow-backer duiker is expecting.

FRESNO ZOO ANNOUNCES RENOVATIONS/RECENT BIRTHS.....Sally J. Smith

Fresno Zoo is a flurry of activity this spring as we are now renovating the Marine Mammal Exhibit, building a beautiful shady arborway, and will soon be renovating the large cat exhibit. We hope to break ground very soon on the first phase of our new Asian Elephant Exhibit.

Births this spring have included Addax, Scimitar-horned Oryx, Mouflon Sheep, Tule Elk, Japanese Raccoon Dogs, Cottontop Marmosets, Nile Hippo, and African Crested Porcupine.

JAPANESE ZOOS RECEIVE RARE PRZEWALSKI HORSES.....Yoshi. Yonetani

The Tama Zoological Park in Tokyo has recently received 2.3 Przewalski horses (*Equus przewalski*) from the London Zoological Society. Of these horses, 1.2 were born at the Whipsnade Park Zoo and 1.1 were born at the Marwell Zoological Park, a private zoo in England. All five animals were born between April and July of 1980. The females are named Jovanka, Nadia and Bala and the males are named Nureyev and Harry.

Births and Hatchings, continued

The Tama Zoo has built a new \$300,000 building and outdoor yard to house the Przewalski herd. The one-story concrete structure has five sleeping rooms, two delivery rooms with electric heaters and a keeper's area. The floor space of the barn is 134.2 sq. meters. The outdoor yard has an area of 1148 sq.m. In addition it has a 2 x 50 m. observation way and a 3.5 x 52 m. keeper way. The total size of the enclosure is 2090 sq. m. It was opened to the public on April 11, 1981.

The Przewalski horses were obtained in an exchange. The Tama Zoo's male Indian Rhinoceros (named Sai-taro) was sent in December of 1978 on breeding loan to the Amsterdam Zoo. He was born on Dec. 20, 1973 and was the first successfully raised captive born of his species. Three zoos--in England, the Netherlands and Japan--were involved in the breeding loan agreement.

The Fuji Safari Park has received a pair of Gerenuk (*Litocranius walleri*) from the Los Angeles Zoo. The Safari Park, situated at the foot of famous Mt. Fuji, is the newest animal facility to make use of the surrounding forest in its planning. The Park officially opened on April 23, 1980. At present three U.S zoos (Los Angeles, St. Louis and Gladys Porter in Brownsville) and the Frankfurt Zoo in W. Germany maintain breeding stock of the Gerenuk.

In March of 1982 Japan will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first zoological park in that country.

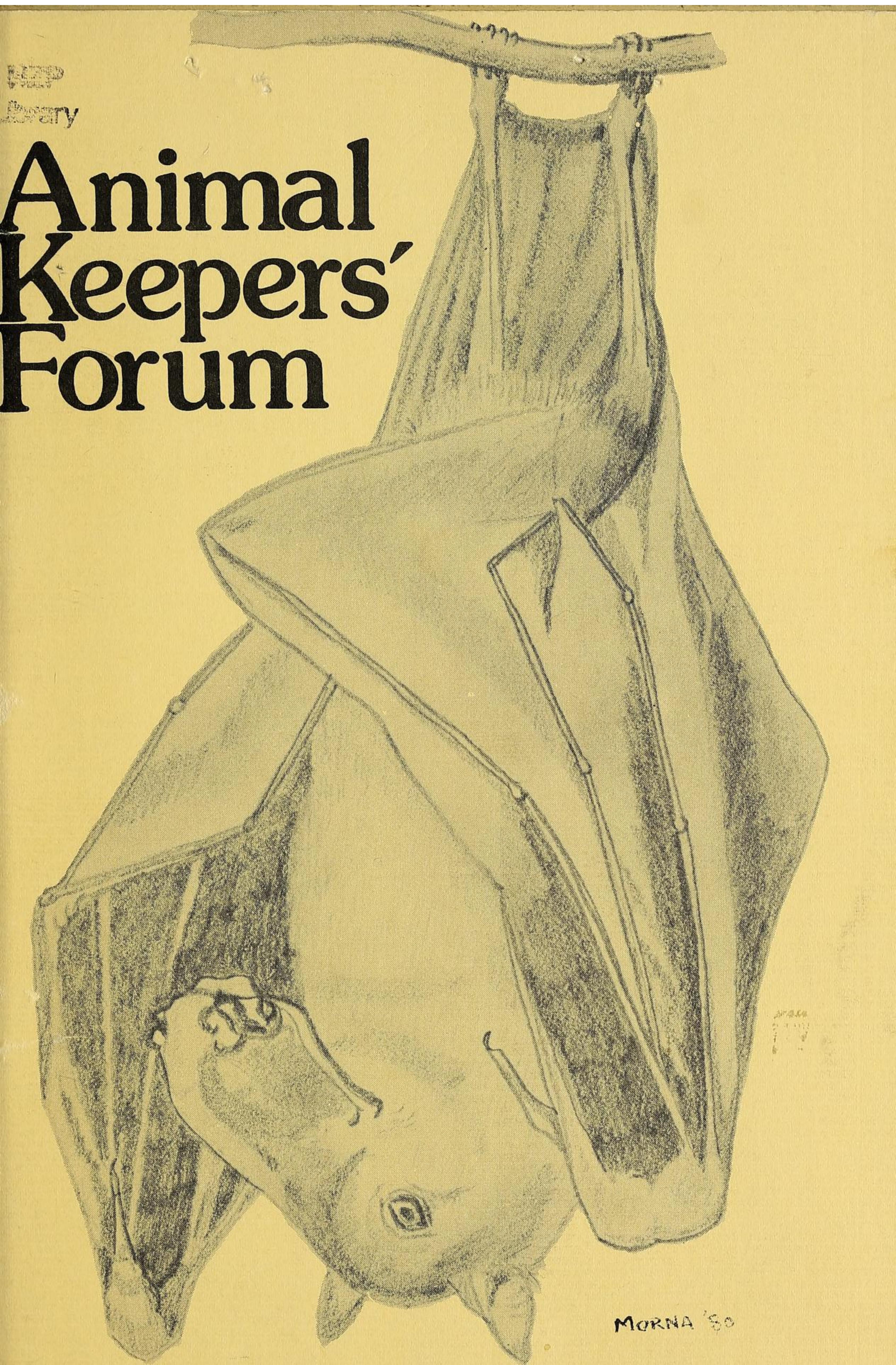
GOLDEN LION TAMARIN BORN AT MEMPHIS ZOO.....Drue Bauer

The Memphis Zoo is pleased to announce our first birth of a single Golden Lion Tamarin (*Leontopithecus r. rosalia*). The father (studbook #78-34a) is on loan to us from the Oklahoma City Zoo and the mother (studbook # 78-4a) came to us on loan from the National Zoo. The youngster, whose sex is unknown at this time, was first observed on the morning of April 20, 1981. Strangely, the father carried the baby all during the first day and we were concerned by this behavior because the mother had no prior infant handling experience. At the suggestion of Ron Evans of the National Zoo, we blacked out their enclosure to encourage the pair to go to nest. We hoped that this close proximity of the pair would help in a transfer of the baby to the mother. It worked! The next morning the female was seen with her offspring and nursing was observed. The youngster now transfers back and forth from parent to parent with ease.

FRESNO ZOO MOURNS DEATH OF MALE GORILLA.....Sally J. Smith

Fresno Zoo sadly announces the death of our 17-year-old male Lowland gorilla, "Freddie", on April 23, 1981. Fred was wild born and had lived at our zoo for 14 years, siring two offspring, "Alberta" in 1979 and "Jitu" in 1980. We had treated Fred for a chronic respiratory illness since January 1980. Exhaustive tests were conducted by veterinarians, medical doctors and pathologists, yet the exact cause of his problem was not discovered. He suffered a relapse on April 22, after an apparent heart attack. Necropsy at the University of California at Davis Veterinary School listed the cause of death as congestive heart failure. The death of a breeding male gorilla is an immeasurable loss to his species and the zoo world.





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Births & Hatchings

PHOENIX ZOO ANNOUNCES RECENTS BIRTHS.....Joanie Stinson

On 18 April 1981 "Old Miss", a 21-year-old Spider Monkey (*Ateles sp.*), gave birth to her third offspring in our island colony. Mother and baby are doing fine. This is our fourth birth on the island in 18 months, each of our adult females is currently caring for an offspring.

On 22 May 1981, our female Cotton Top Tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*) gave birth to triplets. We had been forced to separate her from our male due to aggression 185 days previous. We were surprised at the birth as recorded gestation for the species is 140 days. We were also concerned about her raising them without the male to carry them. She proved a perfect mother though she was unable to nurse all three. After two days the weakest animal was pulled for hand rearing. We unfortunately lost this animal after 13 days when it became entangled in its heating pad. The two remaining offspring (all three were males) are still with the mother and doing fine.

Kristin Buhl, our senior bird keeper, is currently playing surrogate mother to a pair of Red-breasted Toucans (*Ramphastos dicolorus*) tossed from the nest at approximately one week of age. Both are strong and nearly feathered and Kristin is preparing a paper on their care and development.

Finally we recently experienced the 113th birth to our herd of Arabian Oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*). We are anxiously awaiting the completion of our new oryx exhibit and breeding complex and additional oryx births.

JAPAN MONKEY CENTRE OFFSPRING ANNOUNCED.....Koji Nakashima

12 January 1981: twin (2.0) Red-bellied tamarins were born. They are the third and fourth babies for their parents.

16 January 1981: one Night-monkey was born (1.0). This baby is the fourth born to his parents. His oldest brother, born in May 1978, has gone to Yokohama.

10 March 1981: twin Pygmy marmosets were born (1.1) This birth came after a ten year interval with no offspring for the adult pair.

12 March 1981: one Goeldi's monkey was born (0.1). The mother bore nine babies from Jan. 1975 to March 1981 and six of them have survived. The total number of Goeldi's monkeys in the collection is nine.

17 April 1981: twin Lesser galagos were born (0.2). They are the ninth and tenth babies for their parents. Their body weight was 15 grams each when they were 3 days old. One of them died on 30 April (13 days of age) Ten weeks later, the surviving baby's weight was 90 grams.

6 May 1981: a tuffed-capuchin was born (1.0) This is the second baby for his parents.

SAN ANTONIO ZOO HAS 'BIRTHS' BOOM.....Cindy Roger

The San Antonio Zoo is pleased to announce the following births and hatching from January 1981 to the present. A "first" in the Large Mammal Dept. was the birth of 0.1 Black Rhinoceros. Other noteable births include

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Interactions Of Infant Baboons In Captivity, continued

Josie Ann's interactions and time spent appear to be similar to that of infant baboons in the wild (DeVore 1965, Simonds 1974) and to that of infant baboons in captivity (Anthony 1968, Crandell 1964). The only deviations appear to be ones that were affected by weather conditions.

There are a number of ways in which this type of project is beneficial to our zoo. First, since the observer becomes familiar with each member of the troop, early detection of illnesses and injuries can be readily treated. Secondly, comparisons can be made with infant development in captivity and in the wild. This allows appropriate alterations to be made, for example diet changes if deficiencies occur, in order to resemble a more natural habitat. Another is more accurate breeding records, including cycles and birthdate estimations, and social ranking changes can be noted with such a study. And finally of equal importance is the benefit to the visiting public. The public is generally not too bashful to approach the observer and ask questions. This increases the public-keeper interaction and increases public knowledge and awareness.

This type of study also can benefit zoos. Most noteworthy, comparisons can be made with the points mentioned above, as well as space utilization and sex ratios. A study of infant interaction is not the only type of project than can be done with baboons. Grooming, such as the type or the connection to social rank, is a possibility. Play and its role in infant development is another, as well as, the influence of social rank on breeding and communication, both visual and vocal.

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SQUARE-LIPPED RHINOCEROS STUDBOOK PUBLISHED

A new edition of the Square-lipped (white) rhinoceros studbook has just been issued by the Zoological Gardens of Berlin, West Germany. This is the first complete volume ever published and included all living and deceased animals from the first registrations in 1963 through 31 December 1980. Currently, there are 558 (253/305) registered animals living in captivity worldwide.

The vast majority of pedigree animals are of the southern race, Ceratotherium simum simum, although data and range information on the highly endangered northern subspecies, C.s. cottoni, is also included. This studbook has been difficult to maintain because of the large number of nonparticipating owners; and the studbook keeper, Dr. Heinz-Goerg Klos, is to be commended for his fine job. For further information, the studbook keeper should be contacted at Zoologischer Garten, Berlin (West Berlin Zoo), 1000 Berlin 3, Hardenbergplatz 8, Federal Republic of Germany.

A. Shoemaker
in AAZPA Newsletter