

Animal Keepers' Forum



Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

VOLUME IV

NUMBER ONE

JANUARY 1977

SCOOPS and SCUTTLEBUTT

ERNST M. LANG RECEIVES CONSERVATION MEDAL *from the San Diego Zoo*

Professor Dr. Ernst Lang, director of the Basel (Switzerland) Zoo, has become the 24th recipient of the Zoological Society of San Diego's gold conservation medal. San Diego Zoo director Charles Bieler presented the award November 12 at a meeting of the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens in Caracas, Venezuela.

The Zoological Society of San Diego annually awards one or more gold conservation medals to the persons whom it desires to acknowledge and honor as leaders in the wildlife preservation field. Recipients are chosen for their lifelong devotion to the cause of wildlife conservation or for notable contributions to the field. The first gold conservation medals were awarded in 1966 as part of the San Diego Zoo's fiftieth anniversary commemoration.

Under Professor Lang's direction, the Basel Zoo has become world famous for the breeding of Indian rhinoceros, lowland gorillas, pygmy hippopotamus, spectacled bears and flamingos.

Professor Lang was president of IUDZG from 1965 to 1967. He serves on a number of committees of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. He has been associated with the University of Basel since 1963, and in 1972 he was named a professor of zoo biology.

KOALAS DEATH CAUSE PROBED *from the San Diego Zoo*

A detailed investigation into the cause of death of Audrey, one of the Zoo's koalas, has shown that the intestinal inflammation that was the immediate cause of death was complicated by a virus infection which destroyed a large part of her liver.

Audrey was one of six koalas which arrived at the Zoo July 27 as a Bicentennial gift from Australia. She died November 26, 1976.

The effects of the suspected viral disease and the fact that Audrey had an offspring who was still nursing, combined to make her more susceptible to the inflammation caused by Pseudomonas. Her baby is being raised at the Zoo's hospital and shows no signs of illness.

SOLENOTON DIES AT NATIONAL ZOO *from the AAZPA Newsletter, Dec.*

The last captive Hispaniolian solenodon *Solenodon paradoxus*, in the U.S. died September 13, 1976. It had lived at the National Zoo for 9 years.

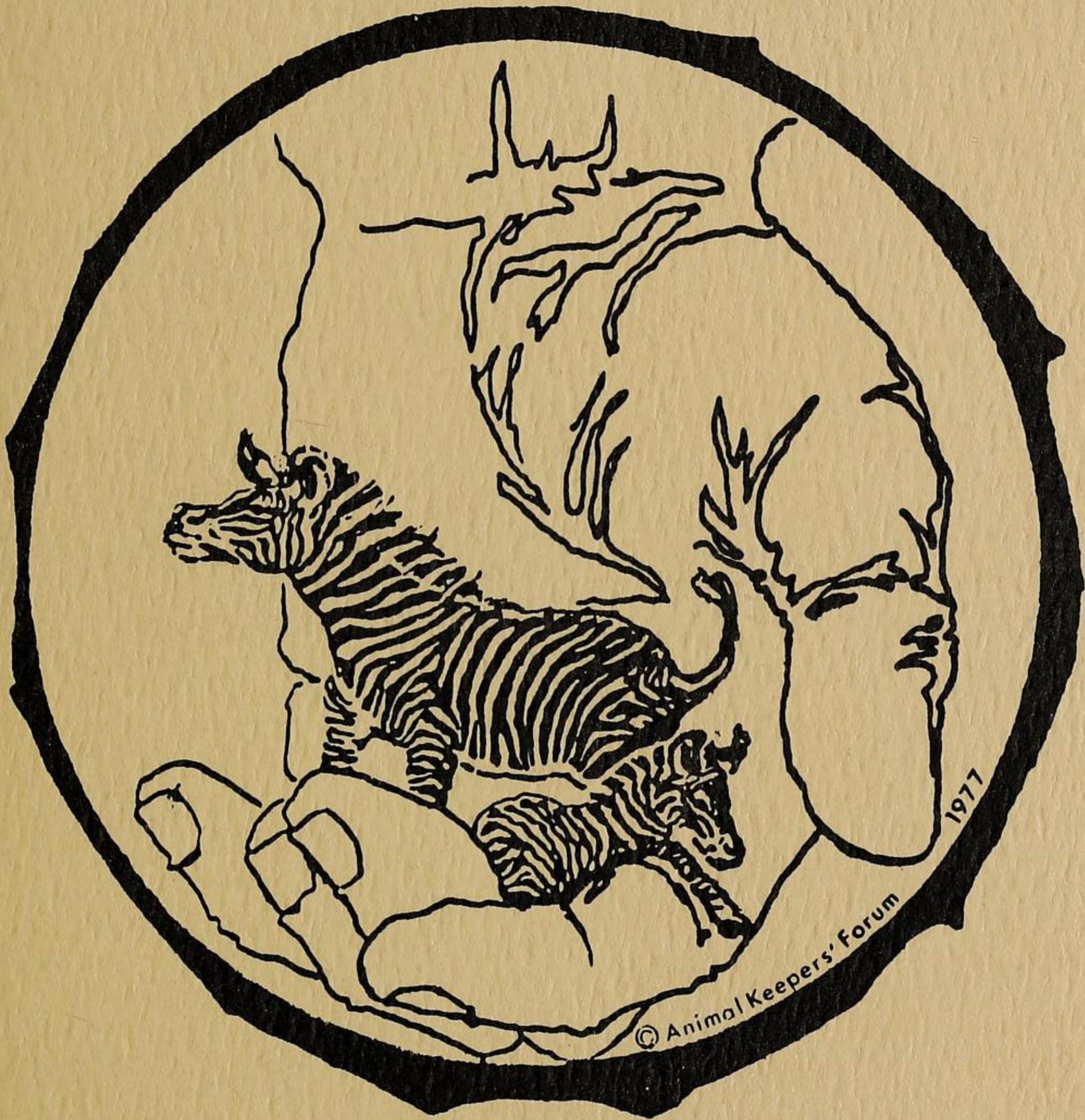
Solenodons are classified as "endangered" due to land development, loss of forests, increasing human population, and predation by dogs.

CHIMP ART MAKES HISTORY

A story carried in Information Report of the Animal Welfare Institute in Vol. 25 Number 3 of the same details a story which appeared in the London Sunday Times of July 25, 1976 and penned by Peter Watson. It was entitled "I've drawn a bird, says Moja the chimp...Why this drawing makes history."

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Electric Factory Concerts, a Philadelphia based producer of national popular music concerts, donated funds for three of the attractive birds.

To date, six other concerned individuals have donated a total of \$80.

The flamingo which suffered a broken leg on Monday, April 25, as a result of rock throwing, died Tuesday, May 3, in spite of intense medical care.

ZOO'S RARE RHINO DIES IN SAN DIEGOfrom the Philadelphia Zoo

Golden Girl, the Philadelphia Zoo's rare Indian rhinoceros which was sent to San Diego's Wild Animal Park in December for breeding, died Thursday, May 12, Zoo officials report.

A pathology team under the direction of San Diego Zoo Pathologist Dr. Lynn A. Griner conducted an autopsy on the rhino at the San Diego Zoo. Initial studies indicated Golden Girl had severe inflammation of the large bowel, but the exact cause of death has not yet been determined.

The autopsy also revealed she had an abnormal genital tract because of fibroid tumors of the uterus. Philadelphia Zoo Veterinarian Wilbur B. Amand said the tumors would appear to have precluded her carrying a baby to full term. After the autopsy is completed, the body will be shipped to Los Angeles where it will be placed on display at the Los Angeles Museum.

Golden Girl, one of the four Indian rhinos presently in the United States was shipped to San Diego on December 7, 1976. Her Philadelphia Zoo mate, Golden Boy, had not shown sufficient interest since they were placed together in 1955.

WE COULDN'T THINK OF A MORE APPROPRIATE PIECE TO CONCLUDE OUR "SCOOPS AND SCUTTLEBUTT" SECTION.....

MANURE SALES PROVE SUCCESSFUL FOR PORTLAND CHAPTER....from the Washington Park Zoo

The nine elephants at the Washington Park Zoo are responsible for the financial backbone of this A.A.Z.K. Chapter. They provide us with enough manure to supply the community with an organic fertilizer.

With the cooperation of the Washington Park Zoo under Warren Illifs direction and the P.R. assistance of Paige Powell, A.A.Z.K. member and P.R. person for the zoo, our chapter has made approximately \$450 in "ZooDoo" sales. This is a major part of our operating capital.

Presently we have a waiting list of over 40 orders and orders are still coming in. The cost is \$4.00 per pick-up load (approx. 2 yds.).

This chapter's future plans include making "ZooDoo" available in smaller quantities for novelty purposes. We hope to meet some of our 1979 convention costs through these sales.

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Edited by Ron Kaufman, Topeka Zoological Park
Associate Editor: Mike Coker, Topeka Zoological Park
Administrative Secretary, Cecelia Sauer, Topeka Zoological Park

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COVER DRAWING ADAPTATION OF ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY PERRY LABELLE

Deadline for each edition of AKF is the 20th of the preceding month

country; Seven Neil Levy, Pennsylvania, 17 counts; Y. L Koh, Singapore, 1 count; Robert A. Udell, Pennsylvania, 6 counts; Christopher Wee, also known as Wee Boon Keng, Singapore, 4 counts; Jonathan Leakey, Republic of Kenya, 1 count; Maurice Van Derhaege, France, 1 count; Alvin Weinberg, Pennsylvania, 2 counts; Rudolf Komarik, New Jersey, 1 count; and Walter Zinneker, Switzerland, 1 count.

BIRTHS HATCHINGS

BROOKFIELD RHINO BIRTH ...from the Brookfield Zoo

Brookfield Zoo was in 1941 the site of the first black rhinoceros birth in captivity; Brookfield repeated its achievement the morning of 15 August, when a black rhino was born to mother Brooke and father Courtney.

The baby male weighs an estimated 75 pounds, stands 20 inches tall and has a small, soft horn. As yet unnamed, the baby is nursing and - as with any infant - is sleeping regularly. He is in a yard outside Brookfield Zoo's Pachyderm Building with mother, father and another black rhino, Judy, 8. All four also have access to the inside stall.

This is the third birth of this endangered species at Brookfield Zoo, and the first birth of a black rhino at Brookfield in 33 years. The birth brings the zoo's black rhino herd to five. One of these animals, 44 year old Mary, is the oldest black rhino in captivity, and the mother of that 1941 notable birth.

KING SNAKES HATCH.....by Dora Jacobs, Rio Grande Zoo

Rio Grande Zoo, Albuquerque, New Mexico, celebrated its first productive reptile breeding recently. A garter snake previously gave birth to a litter, but she was bred before we received her, since she was caged alone here. A pair of common king snakes, Lampropeltis getulus, were seen mating on March 21 (an appropriate way to commemorate the Vernal Equinox, wouldn't you say). Then, on May 20 and 21, a clutch of seven eggs was laid by the female. How she carried them is a never-ending mystery to me, since they appeared to have a greater total mass than the snake herself. No wonder she didn't eat for weeks before, and then ate everything that came into the cage, including one attempt on her roommate, who had to be rescued by the keeper with tactics reminiscent of Punch and Judy.

The eggs were confiscated by the Curator of Reptiles and Birds, Michael Williamson, placed in a plastic jar full of damp sphagnum moss, which was tightly covered by plastic wrap, and then left to their own devices. Most of them developed a sinister-looking furry green vegetation, and three of them caved in before long, but on July 18 through 20, three of the firmest and whitest hatched. Two of the hatchlings were striped like the parents, but one was banded black and cream. Unfortunately, the banded one and one of the striped ones were deformed and had to be euthanized. The surviving striped hatchling was given its own cage, and we are eagerly awaiting its first shed so that we can offer it food. We are also curious to see if the parent pair will breed on a regular annual basis and produce any viable banded offspring.

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KEEPER FOILS ALLEGED MURDER PLOT

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) - Cobra venom was plotted as the death weapon in an estranged wife's murder for hire plan to kill her businessman husband, authorities charge.

The complaint said the venom was to have been used to make it appear Miles C. Durfee, 73, died of a heart attack.

Cash bail of \$40,000 was set for Mrs. Charlotte Durfee, 46, Janesville, Wis., who was charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Loren C. Moore, 46 Milton, Wis., was charged with solicitation to commit murder. Bail was set at \$5,000 cash.

The killing of Durfee who owns roofing companies in Janesville and Madison, was allegedly to have taken place before divorce proceedings involving him and Mrs. Durfee were completed.

The complaint said Moore talked with Thornton Willoughby, an attendant at Madison's Vilas Park Zoo, this month and asked questions about snake venoms that would be fatal but appear to have the effect of heart attacks.

The complaint said Moore told Willoughby Mrs. Durfee had offered considerable money for the death of her husband and Moore offered Willoughby \$5,000 for cobra venom.

Willoughby got in touch with police. Moore was arrested, authorities said, as he was handed a vial and syringe by Willoughby.

BABY BLACK RHINO IS KILLED

The male black rhinoceros born at Brookfield Zoo on August 15th was fatally gored on August 25th. Zoo officials were unsure which of the three adults that occupied the same outdoor paddock was responsible. The baby and his mother and father, as well as another adult female, had been living together since the day of his birth. The baby, which had not been named, had grown appreciably to 112 lbs. and had otherwise appeared healthy.

BIRTHS HATCHINGS

HEDGEHOG BIRTHS AT TURTLE BACK ZOO...by Lillian Dieterle

Turtle Back Zoo is pleased to announce the birth of 3 white-bellied hedgehogs *Atelerix albiventris* on June 17. All three babies survived and are doing well. White-bellied hedgehogs are native to W. Africa