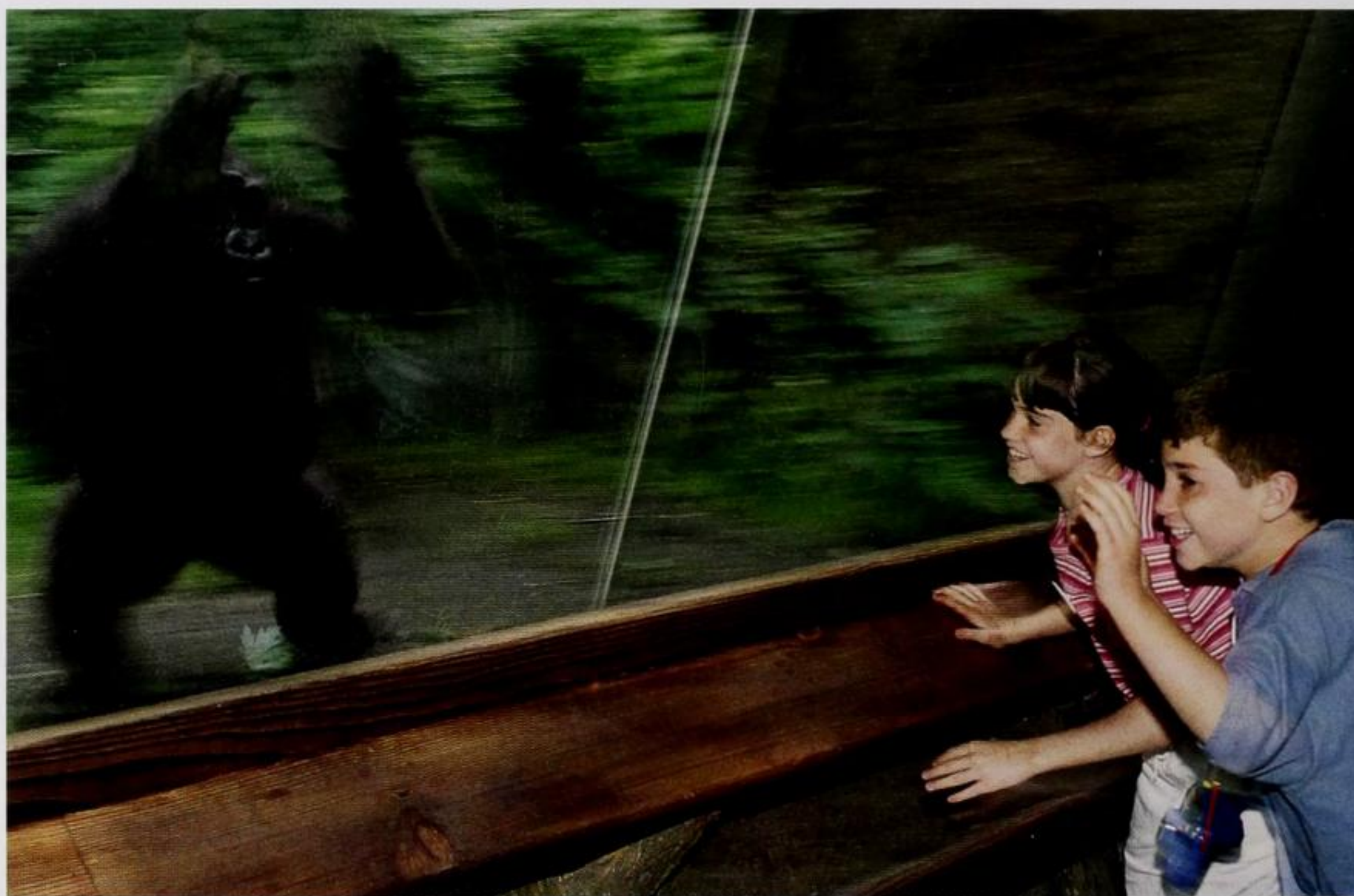


Wildlife Conservation Society

ANNUAL REPORT 1999



WCS



In celebration of the Bronx Zoo's 100th anniversary, WCS opened Congo Gorilla Forest (left) in June. This innovative exhibit directly involves zoo visitors in the conservation of gorillas (right) and other Central African animals.

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The Covers

◆ *The mandrill is one of the primate species featured in the Bronx Zoo's new Congo Gorilla Forest. WCS Conservation Ecologist Lee White and field scientist Kate Abernethy use radio telemetry to follow groups of mandrills in Gabon to better understand mandrill behavior and ecology.*

◆ *Inside front cover, artist Perry Gargano polishes a replica of the skull of a red river hog (page 1), for display in the new exhibit.*

Queens Wildlife Center

A male coyote that had been captured in Central Park was successfully integrated into the zoo's existing group. The coyote seems to get along well with the other three animals. The story of his capture made all the local and some national papers.

With the completion of a cold-weather holding area, the Center can keep its American alligators year-round. A new exhibit was opened featuring barred owls, and the Center started a propagation program for the thick-billed parrot. This species is the only remaining parrot that occurs naturally within the continental United States.

Prospect Park Wildlife Center

A total of 244,026 visitors flocked to Prospect Park Wildlife Center during the year. They were drawn by a number of special events, such as Keeping Up With Keepers and by increased free programming.

A cotton-top tamarin was born. This was the culmination of an eight-month hormonal study of reproduction in this highly endangered primate. Other births and hatchings included a North American porcupine, parma wallabies, prairie dogs, Madagascan day geckos, bearded dragons, and poison dart frogs.

Director Lewis Greene was elected Vice Chair of the Tapir Taxon Advisory Group.

WILDLIFE HEALTH SCIENCES

The Wildlife Health and Sciences Committee, chaired by Mrs. Ann Unterberg and co-chaired by Dr. Judith Sulzberger, provided vital support to the department. Fiberoptic endoscopes contributed by Olympus America, Inc. were used in diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, speeding up recovery time and enabling animals to return to their habitats quickly. Emerge Vision donated a thermography unit—non-invasive, handheld equipment that pinpoints areas of increased body heat, often an indicator of inflammation or infection. This technology increases the ability to diagnose illnesses earlier without having to immobilize animals.



Snow monkeys (left) at the Central Park Wildlife Center enjoy new "hot springs" that simulate their native mountains in northern Japan. Visitors to Central Park Wildlife Center can also see the rare Surinam azure dart frog (below). A llama at Queens Wildlife Center (above).

The Clinical, Pathology, and Field Veterinary departments used digital cameras to capture images that were instantly transmitted to experts for review. The Field Veterinary Program beamed information directly to the Health Center via satellite telephone. The case of Heiner, a Bronx Zoo rhinoceros, is an example of new electronic consultations. Following discovery that the rhino had injured its jaw, radiographs were taken of both the injured jaw and a normal jaw skeleton on loan from the American Museum of Natural History (with the aid of George Amato of the Science Resource Center). The images were captured with a digital camera and sent via the Internet to Dr. Paul Orsini, Consulting Veterinary Dentist at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. A teleconference between Orsini and WHS clinical veterinarians resulted in successful therapy, and Heiner's jaw problem was resolved.

The most significant event for Clinical Studies was transferring animals to Congo Gorilla Forest. Chief Veterinarian Robert Cook and staff planned the move with Wildlife Conservation Associates and Wildlife Health Consultants—in particular Drs. Brian Currie, Jim Grillo, and Laurie Gold-

stein. Sixteen gorillas were safely anesthetized under direction of Bronx Zoo Senior Veterinarian Bonnie Raphael, and each animal was medically evaluated, providing information on captive gorilla health for the zoo and wildlife veterinary community. The animals recovered quickly and uneventfully and adapted rapidly to their new environment.

Paul Calle, Senior Veterinarian for the Aquarium and the City Wildlife Centers, worked with veterinarians, technicians, and husbandry staff to cure a number of problems. At the Aquarium, an older female beluga whale developed signs of a uterine infection, which was successfully treated thanks to the dedicated intervention of laboratory technicians led by Kate McClave and the aquarium training staff. Uterine endoscopy was performed to both diagnose and treat the infection. A new medication was used to relieve anxiety in animals being introduced to new environments.

