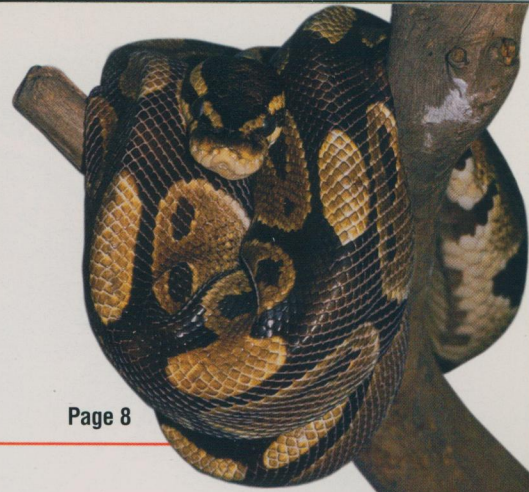




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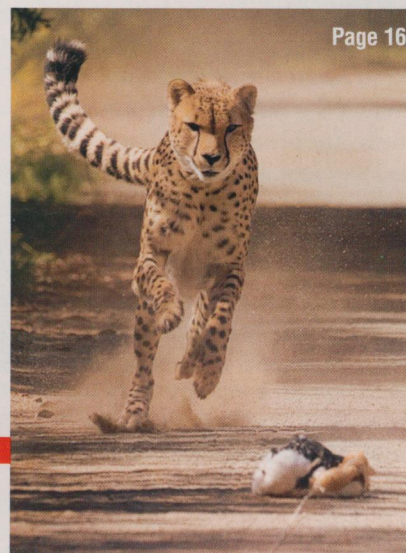
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COVER

The first time you ever see this face, it's unforgettable! The male mandrill *Mandrillus sphinx* has truly been colored by Nature's paintbrush, making this one of the most striking monkey species in the world. It's also one of the biggest: the mandrill and its close relative the drill are the largest of the monkeys, at up to 110 pounds and 30 inches in body height. Mandrills are native to the forests of central and western Africa and are one of the extraordinary species awaiting you this summer at the Zoo's newest habitat experience, Monkey Trails and Forest Tales!



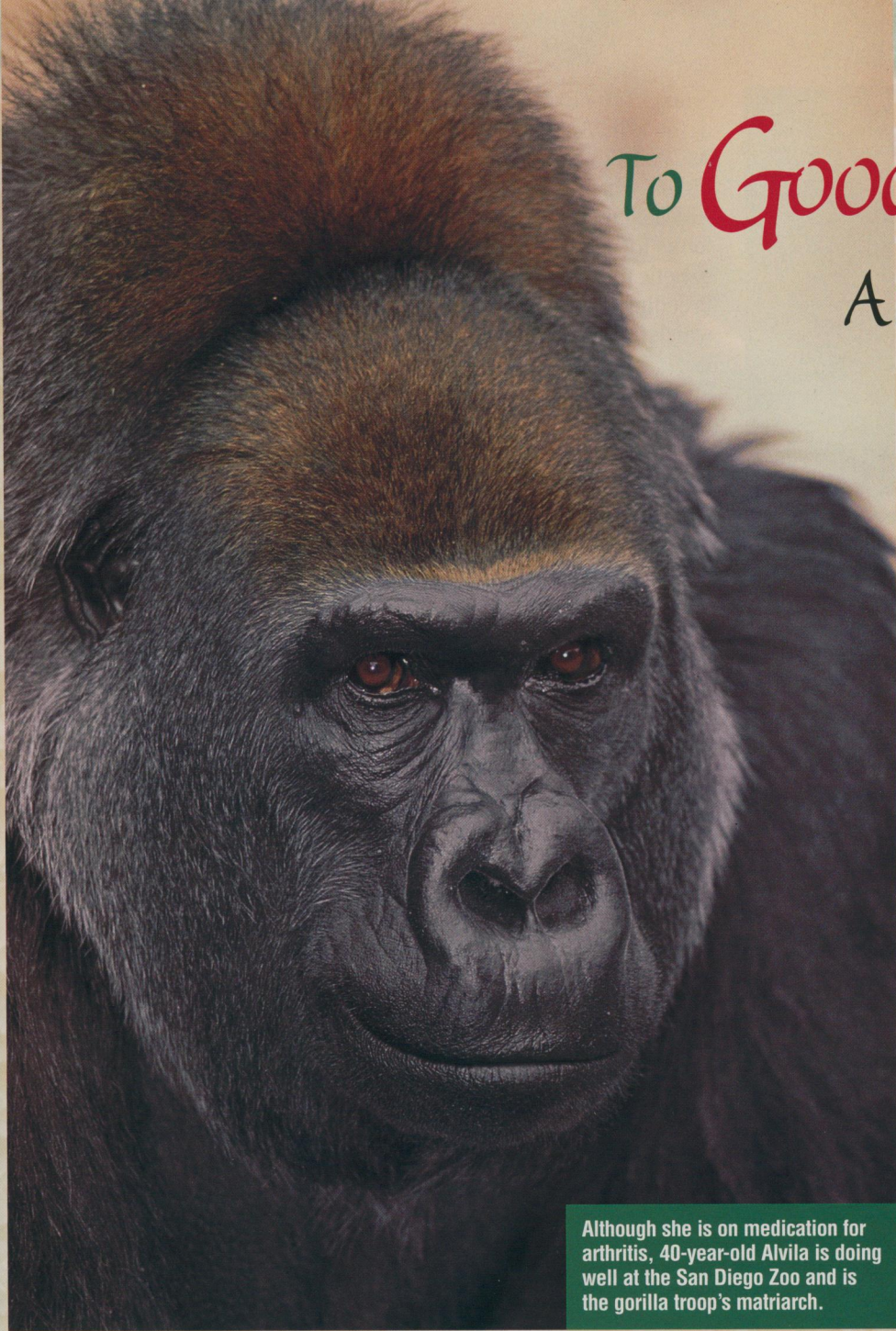
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To Good Health and Animals and Aging

All of the animals at the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park have natural life cycles. Many species in zoos, protected from the vagaries of life in the wild, live many years longer than they might in their natural habitat. In fact, at both the Zoo and Park there are many examples of species that have achieved longevity records, individual animals that have lived longer than any other recorded individual of their kind. One of them is Komaas, a southern white rhino at the Wild Animal Park that just celebrated her 42nd birthday and is the oldest recorded female southern white rhino. Komaas is also an established matriarch at the Park, having given birth there to 16 offspring. Another longevity record for the San Diego Zoo



Although she is on medication for arthritis, 40-year-old Alvila is doing well at the San Diego Zoo and is the gorilla troop's matriarch.

Every spring, thousands of butterflies hatch from their pupae in the Hidden Jungle habitat at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park. The butterflies fill the space with bright colors and flashing wings, captivating guests as they land on T-shirts and heads. Some of the butterflies are native species, and some are from Central and South America, products of long-term conservation programs that encourage sustainable use of rain forests, such as butterfly farming. Like many insect species, butterflies are not long-lived. The butterflies at the Wild Animal Park live comparatively long lives, free of bird predation and the other dangers that occur in wild settings, but in a few months or even a few days they have come to the end of their natural life cycle.



Komaas with one of her calves.

Long Life



was a California sea lion named Mac. Data gathered from the wild and other zoological organizations indicate that California sea lions generally live between 20 and 30 years, but Mac was 36 years old when he passed away last year.

Longevity is an aspect of natural history that is poorly understood and completely unknown for many animal species. For very long-lived species, human records may not extend back far

Many species in zoos, protected from the vagaries of life in the wild, live many years longer than they might in their natural habitat.

enough to indicate how long an individual may live. Lonesome George, the last surviving Galápagos tortoise of the Pinta species, was not discovered until 1971. At that time, he was already very large and probably very old. Based on his size, scientists at the Charles Darwin Research Station estimate that his current age is between 70 and 80 years of age. Lonesome George does not have any signs of illness, so the assumption is that he may live for many more years—but no one knows for sure.

Although the longevity of most domestic animals is well documented, the lack of information about many animal species means that longevity estimates may be based on only a few individuals and may not be an accurate representation. As an example, panda researcher Dr. George Schaller notes that one giant panda was documented to be 30 years old. However, we do not know if that was an extreme example or

an average. We do know that Shi Shi, the giant panda that lived at the San Diego Zoo for a number of years, was estimated to be in his late 20s. Although Shi Shi was already showing signs of age before he went back to China, he is still doing well in his new home and may live longer than 30 years. Similarly, *Walker's Mammals of the World* estimates that gorillas probably do not live longer than 50 years of age. However, one gorilla was documented to live to 54 years of age. At the Wild Animal Park, we have a female gorilla, Vila, who is a grandmother and is estimated to be 46 years young.

Bird species at the Zoo and the Park have also demonstrated long life spans. The Wild Animal Park was home to a pair of Abyssinian ground hornbills that lived for more than 50 years and produced 50 offspring. In addition, longevity records have been set at the Park by emerald starlings (currently more than 14 years old), purple-tailed imperial pigeons (16 years old), and greater flamingos (20 years old).

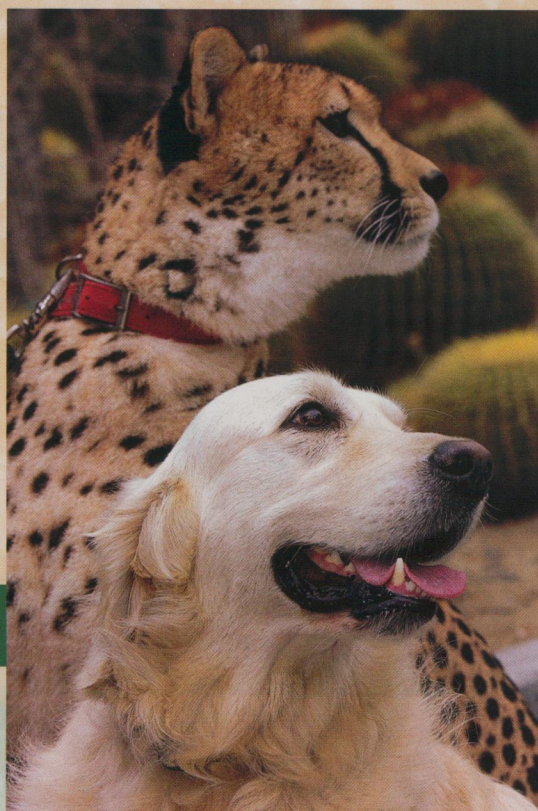
As they get older, animals experience more health problems and require more intensive care, just as people do.

Aging animals may develop arthritis, diabetes, a heart condition, or cancer, have reduced vision and hearing, and experience mobility issues. Recently, Sven, the well-known canine companion of the cheetah at the Zoo's Hunte Amphitheater, was diagnosed with progressive arthritis in the joints of his front paws. Animal care staff and veterinarians are working to control this condition with medication and therapy. Although Sven continues to enjoy daily walks around the Zoo and interaction with his feline friend, the animal care staff has reduced his activities to accommodate his illness.

Sven Olof the golden retriever with his pal, Karroo the cheetah.

Similarly, the elephant keepers at the Wild Animal Park recognize that the Asian elephants they are working with are aging. A study published in *Zoo Biology* in August 2003 indicates that the average life expectancy for female Asian elephants in zoological settings is 44.8 years (a number consistent with life expectancy figures from the wild). In Asia, where these elephants are often used as beasts of burden and may be subjected to less than ideal situations, their life span is probably much less. The age of the elephant herd at the Park ranges from 38 years to 56 years. As with people, animals have individual genetic tendencies, and it is not always the oldest that begins to show signs of age first. The keepers and veterinarians at the Park are already working to combat the effects of arthritic conditions in 38-year-old Carol, while 56-year-old Sunita still appears to be in the prime of life.

Working with animals is a wonderful and also challenging profession. The animal care staff must know about all stages of life, from the needs of the newborn or newly hatched to the challenges of the geriatric patient. While we celebrate each birth, we also know that we will mourn each death, as we continue to study and understand the inevitable cycles of life. **Z**





Zooscoops

RAMBUNCTIOUS RHINOS As most Zoo and Park visitors will agree, there are few things as cute as a baby rhino. Their wrinkly skin, expressive ears, and playful natures give them a personality that just makes us smile. Pay a visit to the Park and you'll double your rhino-watching pleasure because there are two rowdy rhino youngsters to see. Over at the Nursery Kraal in Nairobi Village, a male Indian rhino calf is having a grand time running laps around the exercise area and playing chase with keepers. The "little" guy is being hand raised, so his lucky keepers get to interact with him every day. Born on January 7, the cute rhino calf doesn't have a name yet, but he already has a sidekick, a little female banteng calf that is also being hand raised.



After exploring the Village, jump on the Wgasa Bush Line Railway and take a ride out to look for the other new rhino, a female Indian rhino calf born on January 25. Curators and keepers didn't have a tough time naming this calf, because her arrival into the world helped a lot. Her mom, Jeta, gave birth out in the Asian Plains exhibit. Because Indian rhino newborns and their moms need privacy and time to bond, they are routinely placed in a boma together for some quality time. In order to do that, keepers put the rhino calf in a truck and gave her a lift, with mom following along to the boma. The youngster's name? "Jatri," which means "passenger" in Bengalese.



NEW BOY IN TOWN A new male Bactrian camel has fallen right in line as a member of the caravan of camels that make their home in an exhibit near the Zoo's Elephant Mesa. Brimming with youthful exuberance, the four-year-old newcomer is nicknamed "Mongoli" (after Mongolia) but has yet to receive an official Society moniker. Tipping the scales at around 700 pounds, the youngster is spunky and apparently unaware of his size and strength—something not lost on the wheelbarrow that Mongoli's high jinks left in ruins! His keepers say the camel is already playing kissy-kissy with his new female herdmates, and the group has been seen sharing meals out of a communal feeder. The charismatic camel is also apparently getting along nicely with his new human friends. Keepers report Mongoli has a gentle mouth and is not a biter, and, quite notable in the camel world, "not a spitter." Stop by on your next visit and say "hi" to the new boy and his friends.



Merissa Murray

A WARM WELCOME TO DRU

When Monkey Trails and Forest Tales opens this summer, you'll be able to say hello to little Dru, the newest resident of our newest exhibit, and he's quite a little man! The Wolf's guenon baby was born in March to Fifi, who gave birth in the Zoo's Primate Propagation Center, where some of our monkey residents were living during construction of their new state-of-the-art home. Wolf's guenons are found in Africa, in areas south of the Congo River in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and also in Uganda, hence the new baby's name, Dru, which means "manly courageous" in Swahili.

Although six-year-old Fifi is a first-time mother (she came to the Zoo from a facility in France, which explains her decidedly non-African name), she is reportedly an attentive mother who often lovingly cradles her baby's head while he nurses. Dru's father also lives with Fifi and the baby, and his name is Grampa. Despite that moniker, there is no monkey business going on—Grampa is also six years old and not related to Fifi other than by "marriage." He came from the Bronx Zoo in 2001.

As the little family grows, Fifi and Grampa will no doubt teach little Dru all about being a Wolf's guenon and all that goes along with it, such as learning the wide range of vocalizations the species is known for and how to use his ample cheek pouches to save fruit treats for later.

Come visit Dru and his parents in their new home in Monkey Trails and Forest Tales—you'll find them sharing an exhibit with the adorable pygmy hippos!



Andrew Stallard

AGED TO PERFECTION

Komaas the southern white rhino isn't getting older, she's getting better. Okay, she might be getting up there—at 42, she's the oldest female southern white rhino living in managed care—but she's still got a lot of living to do. She just does it at a slightly slower pace.

A member of the Wild Animal Park's original southern white rhino herd, Komaas came to the Park in 1971. The proximity of her horns to each other earned the rhino her name, which means "close" in Afrikaans. During her many years at the Park, Komaas has given birth to 16 calves—another managed care record. Her last baby, now a three-year-old calf, is still with her in the East Africa exhibit. The two are part of a nine-member herd that can be seen from the Wgasa Bush Line Railway. Komaas may walk a little slower these days, but keepers report she is very healthy and making the most of her golden years. She enjoys a good roll in the mud wallow and spends a lot of time munching grass. Her keepers say she is a mellow girl who doesn't cause any problems and minds her own business. Wisdom apparently does come with age!

Besides the impression Komaas has made on her keepers, the Zoological Society, and Park visitors, she has also contributed greatly to the conservation of her species. Her calves have gone on to facilities all over the world, thus helping the southern white rhino species for generations to come.

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