

Excellence in Animal Care and Health

From Asian Cranes to Zebras

Our excellence in animal care connects visitors to the welfare of all wild animals, improves action to ensure their well being, and contributes to a healthier planet for people and wildlife.

This awesome, 365-days-a-year responsibility is the heart of what we do: take excellent care of animals — from delicate birds to hardy zebras — and match passion with expertise to help them thrive at our zoo and in the wild.

Woodland Park Zoo was among the first zoos to move animals into naturalistic exhibits, setting the standard as a leader in animal care. Just like human health care, the science of animal care evolves rapidly. To continue setting the standard for 21st century zoos, our curators, keepers

and veterinarians must stay on top of new developments keeping our animals in optimum health, providing intense, individualized quality care and sharing our expertise with other scientists and conservationists.

To continue to lead the pack in animal welfare and management, we must make our animal nutrition and behavioral management programs more robust and tailored to individual needs. We must incorporate new medical technology and training, and expand exciting global partnerships in wildlife and community health. As stewards of hope for endangered species, we will continue to lead in the breeding and care of rare populations while bringing exciting, new animals to the Pacific Northwest.



MORE **WONDER.**
MORE WILD.



AT A GLANCE

HABITAT

Seattle's beautiful, 92-acre Woodland Park Zoo

NUMBERS

More than 1,000 animals representing 300 species of animals and 64 species of invertebrates, including dozens that are threatened or endangered

OPPORTUNITY

Your support helps our award-winning zoo achieve new levels of excellence by making great animal nutrition, enrichment and management even better (\$3.7 million); acquiring new medical technology and training to improve animal and community health (\$1.2 million); and successfully breeding and showcasing exciting new animals (\$2.5 million).

PRIVATE FUNDING GOAL

\$7.4 million



Make Great Animal Care Even Better

Excellent animal care rests on a multi-front strategy of optimal nutrition, enriched physical/mental stimulation and preventive medicine, including regular examinations, vaccinations, diagnostics and treatments.

As with humans, nutrition is the foundation for healthy animals. We are modernizing every diet with computerized analyses and new feeding protocols tailored to meet animals' individual needs for different life stages and medical conditions. We are also eager to expand our organic browse program which combines nutrition and enrichment to provide more animals in our collection with the benefits of engaging, species-specific activities.

Our comprehensive behavioral management program is key to optimal animal welfare. We are expanding this program with detailed training and enrichment plans for each species. Positive reinforcement training allows animals to cooperate in health and husbandry care and reduces the need for anesthesia. Naturalistic enrichment deepens our animals' engagement with their physical and social environments. More visibly active animals, in turn, enrich the experience of visitors.

Key to our success is maintaining our low animal-to-keeper ratio, which allows staff to provide individualized care,

health assessments and recordkeeping tailored to each animal's needs. To advance even higher standards of animal husbandry and care, we will participate in a multi-year program of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums.

Enhance Animal and Community Health

To stay ahead of the curve, we must continuously incorporate new medical technology. Innovations in imaging, endoscopic and surgical equipment will enable us to perform procedures less invasively. With more modern electronic data storage and retrieval, we will make diagnoses more quickly and share information more efficiently. To keep our expertise up to date, we must expand our professional training in disease prevention and treatment, and increase mutually beneficial collaborations with allied experts in conservation medicine, wildlife reproduction and reintroduction. Because animal health and human health are closely intertwined, we will expand our contributions to global partnerships for wildlife and community health, lending our expertise to research, treat and prevent emerging threats such as avian influenza, West Nile virus and other zoonotic diseases.



Our scientifically advanced nutrition program includes foods that elicit species-appropriate behaviors — cracking, shredding, foraging and browsing.



Showcase Exciting New and Favorite Animals

This initiative will fund homes for new animal ambassadors that connect our visitors to wildlife and inspire them to help conserve it. Our new Chilean flamingos, Humboldt penguins, meerkats, Asian tigers and bears, and our many species survival breeding programs are essential to engage the public in conservation success stories.

Elephants are among visitors' favorite animals. Educating more people about threats to these gentle giants in the wild is key to our mission. Because of our staff's 200+ combined years of experience and expertise with elephants, particularly with state-of-the-art assisted reproduction, we will be among the few, select zoos to have a breeding program for endangered Asian elephants — a center of excellence for training and research in western North America and worldwide.

We have also joined the international wildlife conservation community in a race against time to rescue endangered amphibians. We will maintain genetically viable populations until researchers can stop a deadly fungus from spreading worldwide. Zoos are safe havens until species recovery is possible.