The Maryland Zoo sits within Druid Hill Park, one of the oldest and largest public parks in the country. Both the park and the Zoo retain traces of original 19th century ornamentation, reminding visitors of their historic past, while encouraging people to linger outside and enjoy the beauty of nature in the midst of a bustling city.

Yes, we encourage lingering here in the Zoo! What better way to learn about any of the Zoo’s 1,500 animals of every shape and size than by spending ten or fifteen minutes just observing their movements, whether they are on foot, in flight or underwater? While some people come to the Zoo to exercise by taking a fast-paced walk around the grounds, others choose to stroll by the flower beds and gardens and marvel at the work done by the Horticulture staff to continually beautify the Zoo.

The Zoo is also fortunate to be surrounded by mature forests that contain several local and state champion trees. Not only do we prize the native wildlife that live in these forests, but we avail ourselves of the natural shade the trees provide, and we hope that the sights and sounds envelope our visitors with the wonders of nature.

This annual report covers many of the exciting moments and accomplishments of the 12-month period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.
Letter from the Chairman

This has been my first year as Chair of the Zoo’s Board and, for me it has been an inspiring one. I’ve been particularly impressed by the talent and drive to succeed that I witness everywhere at the Zoo, each and every time I visit. In my mind, the positive changes to this institution are directly related to the professionalism and passion that each person in the organization delivers.

In 2013, the Zoo again welcomed over 400,000 visitors. We hosted local and visiting families, students, tourists, educators, business and community leaders, and animal lovers of every age. It’s nice to note that over 8,000 people attended the Zoo’s two-day fundraiser, Brew at the Zoo, which sold out on both days. We offered countless other special events and on-grounds programs throughout the year, giving people new reasons all the time to visit again and again. You could say we kept busy!

While members are of vital importance to the Zoo, I also want to thank the City and the State, as well as the citizens and leaders of Baltimore, Carroll, and Howard Counties, for their dedication to and support of this regional gem. I also am grateful to the many foundations and corporations that value the Zoo and provide support in the way of grants, sponsorships, and corporate memberships.

Finally, let me recognize and thank the men and women who serve with me on the Zoo’s Board of Trustees. These individuals commit time and talent to the Zoo because, like me, they believe in its dual missions of education and conservation. They also support the Zoo financially, and I am proud to say that in this fiscal year, 100% of the Trustees donated to the Zoo, just as in the year prior. They do this not by requirement or out of obligation but because of a sincere belief in the positive role that the Zoo serves for all who live in Maryland or choose to visit.

As the Chair of the Board of Trustees, I sincerely thank you for all that you do for The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

Edwin R. Brake, Chair, Maryland Zoological Society, Inc
Letter from the President

As a non-profit organization, we strive to increase revenue each year to support our operating budget. While there are always challenges, I remain confident in our team and their ability to seek and create new opportunities for growth.

My confidence is well founded as, for the second year in a row, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore hosted more than 400,000 visitors. Despite the inclement summer weather of July and August 2012, we exceeded our annual attendance goal while also experiencing growth in other areas such as membership, event attendance, and off-grounds educational outreach.

During the fiscal year, we were also accredited once again by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The AZA sets high standards that are not easy to achieve, and believe me when I tell you that each and every person who works here at the Zoo plays a role in the Zoo’s accreditation success.

We also finished planning for the new African penguin exhibit, the most complex project the Zoo has undertaken since I became President in 2008.

In this 2012-2013 Annual Report, we celebrate many other milestones with you, including the arrival of Kesi the giraffe, pictured on the cover. As you read each section, please take pride in what the Zoo has accomplished with your support.

What we could not know as we wrapped up the year was that we would be expecting lion cubs in the fall, bringing in two additional young giraffe and hatching out a dozen penguin chicks to help populate the new African penguin exhibit. We are looking forward to all that the new exhibit will offer, including an incredible visitor experience. The new exhibit promises to be a game changer for The Maryland Zoo, our visitors, and the community.

On behalf of the Zoo’s staff and volunteers, I thank you for making the Zoo such a vital part of the community. We hope to see you back for many visits in 2014.

Donald P. Hutchinson, President/CEO
Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013:

• We brought in eleven mammals, fifteen reptiles and nineteen birds, some of which represented new species for the Zoo including ring-tailed lemurs, Von der Decken’s hornbills, Hadada ibis, Nile crocodile, Savannah monitor lizard, and lion-headed rabbits.

• The new Africa Barn project was completed. This 4,600 square foot building includes a sitatunga bull yard exhibit space, spacious stalls for hoofstock, a tamer room for medical procedures, a bird housing wing and dedicated tortoise room for winter holding. The building also provides office space and a kitchen for the animal care staff assigned to the building.

• The Zoo’s Commissary underwent a major renovation, including replacement of the walk-in freezers, refrigerators and kitchen upgrade.

• Thanks to the generous support of the Constellation Energy Group, the renovation of the exterior and interior of the Tundra Buggy in Polar Bear Watch was completed. The renovation included repainting the exterior and interior, new HVAC, flooring, reupholstering the seating, new graphic displays and a new audiovisual system for presentations and distance learning opportunities.

• A bull elephant training wall was installed in the Elephant Barn.

• The indoor Coquerel’s sifaka exhibit was redesigned with the addition of hanging trees and two naturalistic houses.

• A variety of other construction projects were completed including:
  – The Zoo-campus wide fiber optic upgrade;
  – A new Rainbow ADA compliant play set was installed at Celebration Hill. Work included grading the site, installing new access pathway, landscaping the area to meet applicable play set/ play ground codes;
  – Installation of sixteen full-color, day and night cameras with infra-red illumination in Polar Bear Watch yards and throughout Polar Bear night quarters. Also updated all polar bear transfer chute doors with new cables, pulleys and a counter weight system;
  – Relocation of Creature Encounters to the former Poppy’s Pond location. Work included the demolition of Poppy’s Pond, installation of a new foundation, an ADA-compliant pathway, utilities, landscaping and fencing for animal yards;
  – Installation of a new HVAC system in the Chimp Forest public area;
  – Installation of new roofs on the Donkey Barn and Meeting Barn in the Farmyard, replacement of boardwalk decking throughout the African Journey and Maryland Wilderness and installation new posts and fence rails in the Farmyard were completed.

• Intensive planning, budgeting, design, permitting, and bidding was done during this period for several major projects including:
  – The new African penguin exhibit;
  – Completely new Hospital HVAC system and emergency generators;

• Both the Marsh and African aviaries which were destroyed in the blizzards of February 2010. The African Aviary is a renovation, while Marsh aviary is a new exhibit with a new water feature and life support system.

For a good life: Work like a dog. Eat like a horse. Think like a fox. And play like a rabbit. – George Allen
Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013:

• In March, the Zoo’s young bull elephant calf, Samson, fell ill with Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV), a virus with a high mortality rate that affects Asian and African elephants in North America and in range countries. With valiant efforts by the veterinary and elephant staff, Samson became only the 11th survivor of this virus. The Zoo worked with outside laboratories and researchers to identify a novel strain of the virus that had to date not caused disease in elephants. Senior Veterinarian Dr. Ellen Bronson and General Curator/Elephant Manager Mike McClure presented their findings at an elephant research symposium and are preparing a publication to share with the scientific community.

• A black-and-white colobus monkey and a Coquerel’s sifaka were born in the Chimpanzee Forest in March 2013. The colobus female is the second born to the Zoo’s breeding pair, and the sifaka is the third offspring for the Zoo’s adult sifaka; both pair were recommended for breeding by the AZA’s Species Survival Plan (SSP).

• The Zoo welcomed several other newborns, including four warthogs and twin African pygmy goats.

• The white breasted cormorants laid a clutch of eggs for the first time.

• Opportunities for growth and professional development continued to expand with a variety of positions filled by promoting Animal Department staff from within:
  – Kevin Barrett was promoted to Reptile & Amphibian Collection & Conservation Manager
  – Carey Ricciardone was promoted to Mammal Collection & Conservation Manager
  – Margaret Rose-Innes was promoted to Assistant General Curator

• Two new elephant management positions were filled to meet the growing needs of the elephants and the increasing demands for improved staff training and development under AZA standards for elephant management.
  – Bethany Wlaz was promoted to Elephant Area Manager, and
  – Carolyn Stromer was promoted to Elephant Operations Manager.

• Keeper teams throughout the Zoo achieved milestones in animal training, working with such species as African crested porcupine, African elephant, Arctic fox, blue-bellied rollers, cheetah, chimpanzee, giraffe, lion-tailed macaque, leopard, lesser kudu, North American river otter, okapi, ostrich, rhino, Von der Decken’s hornbills and white-breasted cormorants. The Coquerel’s sifaka, ring-tailed lemurs and red-ruffed lemurs were successfully box trained to allow easy transfer from indoor to outdoor holding and vice versa as needed. Animal training is a critical component of animal care that facilitates communication between keepers and animals and allows for medical and husbandry procedures to be performed with minimal stress to all.

• Staff and volunteer handling training programs continued to be implemented:
  – Animal Embassy staff were trained to manage the 110 lb python out on grounds for Zoo visitors;
  – Twelve new Animal Embassy volunteer handlers were trained to work with some of the Animal Ambassadors that appear on grounds at Creature Encounters as well as in the classroom on ZOOmobile outreach programs;

• Animal staff developed proficiency with the Tamer, enabling them to treat and manage the addra gazelle and lesser kudu more efficiently and without the need for chemical anesthesia for procedures.

• The Zoo’s Animal Enrichment Team:
  – Created hundreds of enrichment items for Zoo animals, often themed to accompany a special event on grounds such as Valentine’s Day, Bunny Bonanzoo, Independence Day and Halloween;
  – Braided eight hammocks from fire hoses and made several browse feeders to hang in animal exhibits;
  – Completed a comprehensive, Zoo-wide non-food enrichment catalog for all species in the Zoo based on many years of information and ideas from staff;
  – Implemented a new excel documenting system for tracking enrichment;

“>The most important thing is to preserve the world we live in. Unless people understand and learn about our world, habitats, and animals, they won’t understand that if we don’t protect those habitats, we’ll eventually destroy ourselves.” – Jack Hanna
– Conducted a tour of 20 veterinary tech students from Essex Community College for training and enrichment demonstrations as well as mentored 5 interns throughout the year. Education and information sharing is a hallmark of the Zoo’s interest in shaping the animal care experts of tomorrow.

• Zoo veterinarians performed over 750 examinations on the animals at the zoo, from the smallest 5 gram Panamanian golden frog to the tallest giraffe.

• Veterinarians also treated 107 wildlife patients of 47 different species, mostly animals that were found injured in the Zoo or Druid Hill Park. Many of these patients were subsequently released, including a juvenile red-tailed hawk that fell out of the nest and broke its lower jaw. Orthopedic surgery was performed by the vets, and the hawk was rehabilitated and trained to hunt at the hospital before being successfully released.

• Zoo veterinary technicians examined 1,042 fecal samples as well as processing over 1000 blood, urine, and culture samples from the animals to assess their health and aid in diagnosing their medical problems. They also took 150 X-rays on the stationary digital X-ray at the hospital and the portable digital X-ray equipment.

• The Zoo hospital continues to train young veterinarians with its one year long post-graduate internship. The most recent intern, Dr. Jen Hausmann, acquired one of the handful of highly competitive zoo medicine residencies in North America. This is a three year training program leading to specialty distinction in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, and the path to qualifying for the Zoo Medicine specialty board examination. During this year, one of our previous interns from the program, Dr. Carol Bradford, successfully passed this board examination, becoming one of only 150 people in the world to carry the title of Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine (DACZM). She is currently the Associate Veterinarian at the Albuquerque BioPark Zoo. Dr. Ellen Bronson is also a DACZM of this specialty, and currently proctors and writes the wildlife portion of the examination.
Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013:

- The Zoo actively participated in AZA management programs, which further wildlife conservation efforts in many ways, including maintaining stable captive populations of threatened or endangered species, furthering knowledge through research, and raising public awareness. These programs include:
  - Mammals: addra gazelle, African elephant, giraffe, okapi, common warthog, African lion, chimpanzee, black and white colobus, Coquerel's sifaka, prehensile tailed porcupine, red-ruffed lemurs, serval, lesser kudu, North American river otter, polar bear, sitatunga
  - Birds: African penguin, hammerkop, Abyssinian ground hornbill, black crowned crane, Caribbean flamingo, European white stork, saddle-billed stork, vulturine guinea fowl, blue bellied roller, African spoonbill, Abdim's stork, demoiselle crane, marble teal, white breasted cormorant, kookaburra
  - Reptiles: Panamanian golden frog, slender-snouted crocodile
- Reptile Amphibian Conservation and Collection Manager Kevin Barrett was named Studbook Keeper for the Panamanian Golden Frog Species Survival Plan (SSP) and the Captive Population Manager by Project Golden Frog and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
- Kevin Barrett traveled to El Valle, Panama with the SSP Coordinator to meet with Panamanian colleagues about future projects to benefit Panamanian golden frogs.
- Zoo veterinarians and keepers continued to partner with biologists from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to examine and collect samples from black bear sows and cubs in western Maryland. The field work, which spanned several weeks in March, supported the DNR’s Black Bear Project, which provides essential data for managing Maryland’s population of black bears.
- Both the Veterinary staff and Animal Department staff participated in a significant study regarding ranavirus, a deadly disease found mostly in amphibians, and its effect on Eastern box turtles, a species native to Maryland.
- The Zoo created special opportunities for the public to learn about wildlife and conservation by hosting Animal Awareness Days, Animal Enrichment Weekends, and Breakfasts with the Animals. These events provide Zoo guests with memorable experiences with animals and encourage conversation with Zoo keepers and educators, thus fostering curiosity and awareness for wild animals and the issues that affect them.
- The Zoo continued to support other colleagues in the field of wildlife conservation by making financial or other commitments to respected organizations, including:
  - Adkins Arboretum
  - Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Conservation Endowment Fund
  - Cheetah Conservation Fund
  - Goualougo Triangle Ape Foundation
  - International Elephant Foundation
  - Madagascar Fauna Group
  - North American Save the Rhino Campaign
  - Polar Bears International
  - Project Golden Frog
  - The South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB)
  - Turtle Survival Alliance

“Just because an animal is large, it doesn’t mean he doesn’t want kindness; however big Tigger seems to be, remember that he wants as much kindness as Roo.” — A. A. Milne
Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013:

- 88,348 individuals visited the Zoo in association with The Free Admission Program for Maryland Schools, supported by the legislature and funded by the Maryland State Department of Education. During their visits, students participated in hands-on activities at Education Stations that made connections between Zoo content and state curriculum standards.
  - 60,105 Maryland school children visited for free
  - 27,885 teachers and chaperones visited for free, or at a reduced rate
  - 358 students visited at a reduced rate
- 2,777 students participated in instructor-led paid Zoo programs on grounds such as ZOOlabs, zoo introductions and guided tours.
- The Zoo offered 13 home school classes to students between the ages of 5 and 12.
- Education staff offered teacher training classes and workshops to 146 teachers.
- Education staff partnered with teachers and students at five Baltimore City and Baltimore County public schools on a Zoo Exchange program focusing on citizen science and climate change. Support from Sun Trust Banks, Inc. allowed the Zoo to deliver climate change trainings to teachers and ZooLab classes 303 to students at no cost to schools.
- 109 children attended the Zoo’s week-long summer camp programs for children entering grades 2 to 6. In 2012, the Zoo also offered a new camp specially designed for younger children, entering grade 2. Generous support from the WBAL Radio Kids Campaign supported camp scholarships for several children.
- Staff delivered 878 ZOOmobile presentations to 593 sites, reaching a total audience of 44,845 people. Of the presentations delivered, 261 were delivered at no cost to Title 1 schools in the Baltimore area and to early education centers in Talbot County, Queen’s Anne County, Caroline County, and Calvert County. Early education center visits were complemented by early education teacher training workshops focusing on children in nature.
- A variety of on-grounds experiences were developed to enhance visitor learning. Close to 20,000 Zoo visitors participated in education stations, puppet shows, games, and animal-centered activities facilitated by Zoo education instructors and volunteers. Special theme weeks were developed to support guest learning and audience engagement.
- Throughout the Zoo, interpretive signage was updated, revised, and added, enhancing exhibits with important information about animals, their habitats, and conservation concerns affecting their survival in the wild. New interpretive graphic panels and an interactive game were installed in a newly renovated Tundra Buggy.
- The Education Department participated in an ongoing multi-year study funded by the National Science Foundation evaluating how engaged visitors to zoos and aquariums are while pursuing math-based educational activities. The Zoo is involved in the study through The Zoo and Aquarium Action Research Collaborative (ZAARC). Study partners include representatives from other zoos and aquariums; TERC, a not-for-profit education research and development organization dedicated to improving mathematics, science, and technology teaching and learning; and Oregon State University.
- The Education Department also pursued a number of meaningful collaborations.

“A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.” – Chinese Proverb

Partnered with volunteer staff to revise on-grounds interpretive content for education volunteers and to deliver volunteer trainings for education volunteers as well as volunteers serving other departments.

Worked with colleagues in the Animal and Events Departments to successfully deliver programmatic experiences to visitors for several Animal Awareness Days, Animal Enrichment Days and other special Zoo events throughout the year.

Zoo educators, in consultation with elementary and middle school teachers from Baltimore County developed new educational activities for school groups visiting the Zoo.
Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013:

• Volunteers gave a total of 37,437 hours of service, with a payroll value of $863,000. This represents a 9% rise in hours over the previous year, making this a 39% rise in the last five years.

• More than 876 individuals gave service to the Zoo. This includes 351 people who volunteered repeatedly throughout the year, and 525 people who served at special events or on one day projects.

• Eighty-eight teens participated in Junior Zoo Crew, our service-learning program for youth aged 14-17. These students gave an average of 105 hours each, teaching guests about wildlife, beautifying the campus, and caring for the animals.

• We continued to grow the college internship program, with 53 students working alongside Zoo staff in education, volunteer management, animal care, public relations, graphics/new media, and volunteer management. Volunteer Manager Kristi Giles attended a workshop entitled “Internship Program Best Practices Workshop: Taking Your Internship from Good to Great”, and has implemented a variety of new elements, including “lunch and learn” gatherings to build community among interns.

• Over 136 education volunteers gave 10,800 hours to teach guests about wildlife and conservation through stations, scripted talks, exhibit interpretation, and handling our Animal Ambassadors. This is an average of 15 volunteer educators on grounds every day the Zoo was open to the public.

• Many Zoo staff and volunteers participated in the national conference of the American Alliance of Museums, which drew 5,000 professionals from around the world to Baltimore in May. Zoo personnel attended conference sessions and volunteered in all aspects of the event.

• Volunteers put on their fundraising hats and sold 200 tickets for the MINI Cooper raffle, raising $5,000 for the Zoo’s operating fund.

“The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.” – David Attenborough
Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013:

• With strong support from the community, the Institutional Advancement team had a record year, growing private revenue totals across the board despite continuing economic uncertainty. Such strong support is vital and very much appreciated, as the Zoo is a nonprofit organization that relies on private donations to realize a balanced budget.

• Many generous individuals made donations in support of daily operations, including gifts to The Maryland Zoo Fund and ADOPT programs, as well as gifts in support of capital improvements. The Zoo was also the grateful beneficiary of many gifts made in honor or in memory of loved ones.

• For the first time, donors gave more than $677,000 in dollars for operations. For the second year in a row, we received more than $100,000 in a single month (December 2012). Maryland Zoo Fund revenues rose by 45% over the previous year’s total.

• Individuals, corporations, and foundations came together to provide more than a million dollars of the funding needed for construction of the Zoo’s new African penguin exhibit, which will change the face of the Zoo forever.

• Companies across the region made Annual Fund gifts to support the daily expenses of running the Zoo, became Corporate Members, and provided valuable sponsorships.

• Tens of thousands people came to the Zoo to attend special events such as Bunny BonanZOO, Brew at the Zoo, ZooBOOO!, and the ever-popular Breakfast with the Animals series, all 16 of which sold out in advance. Brew at the Zoo sold out with an attendance increase of 32%. New in this year was OktoBEARfest, a fall beer and music festival. In addition, the Zoo hosted Jungle Jack Hanna for an evening of great stories and wild animals. Total event revenues increased by 53%.

• Over 10,000 member households supported the Zoo, resulting in more than $1,000,000 in revenues for the second year in row.

• Membership expanded the Members Perks Program, a new community partnership program that allows members to visit area businesses, restaurants, shops, and more at a discount. Perk highlights included free admission to the Sports Legends Museum and a discount to downtown’s popular Urban Pirates cruises.

• The Zoo marketing continued to support new events like OktoBEARfest and ZooBloom, marketing memberships, group sales, education programs and annual fund giving to a broader, more engaged audience.

Online activity through the Zoo’s website noted a 15% overall increase in online visitor traffic and a total of 2,009,593 page views on the Zoo’s website.

• Social media engagement continues to increase with the Zoo’s Facebook audience growing by more than 12,500 new followers to a total of more than 37,541 in this fiscal year (a 50% increase).

• The Zoo’s other social media channels, Twitter, Google+, Pinterest, Instagram, Tumblr and Foursquare have also increased audiences. Most notably, the Zoo’s Twitter following is now well over 12,000 followers. Instagram grew from an audience of 200 to more than 3,500.

• Email marketing efforts have also been invaluable as the current audience of opt-in subscribers now numbers 51,000.

• The Zoo’s agency of record, Mission Media, helped develop a new “Meet Me at The Zoo” campaign that served as the launch pad for
a new design and branded look for the Zoo’s marketing materials. Key projects completed included updated corporate sales packet, new television creative, logo identity for OktoBEARfest, digital marketing campaigns and the beginning development of a new website. Additionally, the firm was honored with a Regional ADDY Gold Award for their design of the Zoo’s new Brew at the Zoo logo.

• Renovations to the Mansion House Porch opened up availability to include rentals during the summer months. The creation of corporate day meeting packages optimized weekday rentals, increasing rental revenues 63% over last year. The Groups Sales Team continued to successfully promote rentals, fundraising walks and picnics, the Zoo’s consignment ticket program, group visits and tours, behind-the-scenes tours, and birthday parties.

• Public Relations continued to communicate important Zoo information on the various animal births, deaths, important milestones, special events and general Zoo news to the public via local and national media outlets. Of special note was a series of articles and updates on the health of young elephant Samson, who was taken seriously ill with Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV), a virus with a high mortality rate that affects Asian and African elephants in North America and in range countries.
Support & Revenue

State of Maryland $5,777,193
City of Baltimore 999,636
Other Public Funds 391,479
Sponsorships 342,289
General Support 1,571,619
Contributed Income 9,082,215
Net Admissions 1,849,062
Membership 1,379,901
Contract Services 325,111
Attractions 268,865
Programs 907,288
Other 303,995
Earned Income 5,034,221
Revenue Total $14,116,436

Net Capital Support – used to fund capital projects $4,026,498

Support & Revenue

Animal Care $3,834,468
General & Administrative 1,984,385
Maintenance 1,311,264
Visitor Services 1,119,219
Development 726,882
Events 433,705
Marketing/Communications 744,036
Facilities 2,581,003
Education 536,516
Membership 186,626
Operating Expenses Before Depreciation $13,458,105
Depreciation 2,889,066
Expenses Total $16,347,170

Expenses

State of Maryland 40.93%
Other Public Funds 2.77%
Sponsorships 2.42%
General Support 11.13%
Net Admissions 13.10%
Membership 9.78%
Contract Services 2.30%
Attractions 1.90%
Programs 6.43%
Other 2.15%
Animal Care 23.46%
Maintenance 8.02%
Events 2.65%
Marketing & Communications 4.55%
Depreciation 17.67%
Education 3.28%
Membership 1.14%
General & Administrative 12.14%
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RESEARCH PROJECT PARTICIPATION
FISCAL YEAR 2013

African Elephants

IMLS Elephant Welfare Study

- This science-based study will evaluate elephant welfare along a quality continuum, assessing the impact of zoo management practices by looking at the elephants’ responses to differences in practices among zoos. When complete, the study will provide zoos around the world with information that will contribute to their ongoing efforts to ensure elephant well-being. During this fiscal year, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore supplied biological samples, such as serum and fecal samples, video recording of animals for behavioral analysis study and filled out elephant management surveys.

The Effect of Exhibit Size and Herd Composition on Zoo Elephant Movement

- Elephant movement may have important implications for welfare, as a lack of exercise is believed to be associated with a host of health issues, including obesity, foot disease and reproductive problems. The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore supplied GPS data collected from two of its female African Elephants to help gain a better understanding of how far zoo elephants walk and the husbandry and exhibit factors that influence these distances.

Regulatory Mechanisms of Prolactin Secretion in African Elephants (loxodonta africana)

- The goal of this pilot study was to establish methodology for measuring dopamine, serotonin and oxytocin in African elephant serum and/or urine collection. These neuropeptides are known regulators of prolactin secretion in humans, and could provide valuable information as to the etiology of hyperprolactinemia in captive African elephants. The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore contributed serum and urine samples from one of its female African elephants for this study.

African Penguins

Exploration of Methods of Fibrinogen Measurements in African Penguins (Spheniscus demersus)

- The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore supplied serum samples from 20 to 30 African penguins to assist in this pilot study. The information gained from these samples will help researchers come up with a way to measure fibrinogen levels in birds to develop a useful tool in penguin disease management.

Malaria Pathogen Amplification and Gene Sequencing

- This project was a repeat of the techniques that have been used for several years at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. Once this technique is developed, it will be utilized on historical samples to do complete genome work which, if successful, will lead to further sequencing of historical parasites from the penguin colony. Another goal of this project is to see if Plasmodium relictum will infect chickens so that NIH can utilize this system as a model for people with Plasmodium vivax. To date, there is no animal model for a Plasmodium relapse in humans. However, penguins have been proven in previous studies to relapse with Plasmodium relictum. With this in mind, we will be able to go back to historical samples and see if the organisms causing the original parasitemia are identical to the organisms of relapse when the infected but parasitemia negative penguins were housed at the zoo hospital.

Polar Bears

Exploratory Gene Transcript Study – Environmental Stressors and Polar Bear Immune Function

- The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore supplied serum samples from their collection of polar bears to help in this study of understanding the effect of changing ecosystems in the Arctic on biological communities.

Panamanian Golden Frogs

Testing Climate-Disease Interactions in Panamanian Golden Frogs (Atelopus zeteki)

- The idea that climate change will increase infectious disease outbreaks, although controversial, has received support in a variety of host-parasite systems. Recently, a number of high profile papers have suggested links between climate change, outbreaks of the pathogenic fungus Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (hereafter “Bd”), and amphibian declines or extinction. For fiscal year 2013, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore did an addendum to this research study. In the past two breeding seasons, we have been able to further optimize the protocol used for ovipositing of the frogs. We have had over 80% success with this protocol. In addition, we plan to perform a small pilot study to investigate the feasibility of modifying our current hormone protocol.

Changing Virulence of a Deadly Amphibian Pathogen: Effects of Strain Passage History on a Susceptible Tropical Frog Species

- The emerging infectious disease chytridiomycosis has devastated many amphibian populations worldwide. Caused by the fungal pathogen Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Bd), chytridiomycosis also appears capable of causing extinction in some species. The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore supplied Panamanian Golden Frogs to assist in the research to test whether Bd attenuates in virulence when it is maintained for years outside of its amphibian host in pure culture.

Exogenous Hormone Induction of Oviposition in Gravid Panamanian Golden Frogs (Atelopus zeteki)

- The captive populations of Panamanian golden frogs at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore and other zoological institutions have suffered a concerning amount of morbidity and mortality that appears to be at least partially related to the failure of gravid females to undergo oviposition. For fiscal year 2013, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore supplied Panamanian Golden Frogs to assist in testing whether Bd attenuates in virulence when it is maintained for years outside of its amphibian host in pure culture.

15

staff research projects
Red-tailed Guenons
Investigating Mechanisms of GB Virus C Protection from AIDS in Macaques

The goal of this research study was to investigate the anti-AIDS properties of GB virus C (GBV-C). In humans, multiple large-scale epidemiological studies have shown that HIV+ people who are also infected with GBV-C are significantly protected from the development of AIDS and all-caused mortality but the mechanism(s) by which GBV-C protect against HIV/AIDS are poorly understood. It was recently discovered that GBV-C infects three different species of wild monkeys: the olive baboon, red colobus monkey and the red-tailed guenon. The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore supplied serum samples from its collection of red-tailed guenons to assist in this research study.

Citizen Science
Evaluating Public Research at the Zoo

The goal of this project is to conduct a trial study on the validity of animal behavior research conducted on zoo guests. The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore developed a citizen science program and will use the data collected in this trial study to compare data collected by the principle investigator vs. the zoo visitors using the same research questions and methods.

Examining Dung Beetle Diversity Attracted to Different Baits: “Who Chooses Zoo Poo?”

Dung beetles play a key role in the rapid degradation of animal waste. Thus, they are essential decomposers in all ecosystems and are found on every continent except Antarctica. This project had both educational and research goals. The data collected by students from Towson University will be used for a citizen science research project to collect information on the distribution of scarabs across Maryland. The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore supplied numerous fecal samples from many different species of zoo animals to assist in this study.

PROFESSIONAL PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND ARTICLES


Wack, A. April 2013. Zoonotic and Vector-borne diseases at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Mid-Atlantic Zoonotic and Vector Borne Disease Inter-Agency Workgroup.


We could not do it without you!

Your generosity allows the Zoo to continue offering excellent animal, education, and conservation programs, to provide an exemplary visitor experience, and to assure a clean and safe environment for our animal collection, staff, and guests from all over Maryland and the region. Our genuine thanks go to you, our faithful friends, who year after year support the Zoo with your philanthropic donations, enabling us to make the wonders of wild life accessible to the entire community.

Thank you!

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Together, these governments provided half the Zoo's operating budget and funded important capital improvements. We remain deeply grateful for government leaders’ recognition and appreciation of the Zoo as a high-quality institution serving the community.

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