



Minnesota State Zoological Board.
Zoo-Related Organizations Files.

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AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

8403 Colesville Road
Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
Phone: 301-562-0777
Fax: 301-562-0888
www.aza.org

October 20, 2005

Lee Ehmke, Director
Minnesota Zoological Garden
13000 Zoo Boulevard
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8199

Dear Lee,

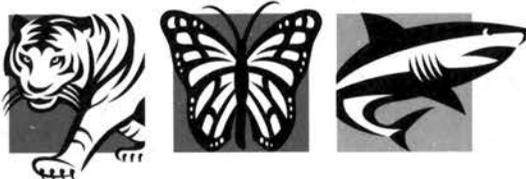
On behalf of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), I want to add my thanks for your wonderful contribution to the Audubon Nature Institute after the devastating hurricane. The individual and collective response of our member zoos and aquariums has been so moving. Staff members at each of the Audubon Nature Institute facilities have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from their AZA colleagues.

I am so proud to be a part of a group that so clearly cares for one another. Thank you again for your generous and kind support.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristin L. Vehrs', written over a thin horizontal line.

Kristin L. Vehrs
Interim Executive Director



file

Audubon Nature Institute

6500 Magazine Street New Orleans, LA 70118 504-861-2537

October 27, 2005

Lee Ehmke
Minnesota Zoological Garden
13000 Zoo Blvd
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8199

Dear Lee,

As the initial crisis of Hurricane Katrina has finally subsided and I am able to begin the process of re-building, I want to start by taking a moment to thank you for the financial and moral support you have given to the Audubon Nature Institute family. Your gift of \$10,000 is truly overwhelming.

Over 100 members of the zoo and aquarium community across the world have donated a combined \$700,000 to assist our displaced staff and to bolster our emergency operations. In addition, the "grass-roots" campaign established via local web-sites and on-site collections at many zoos and aquariums continues to bring in support from countless citizens.

Your unparalleled contribution to this recovery fund will benefit our animal collection and our dedicated personnel whose lives have been dramatically altered, and will be a critical factor in our long-term ability to thrive. More significantly, your gift will assist Audubon Nature Institute in continuing its efforts to convey the majesty of our earth's wildlife.

Your kindness, generosity, professionalism and caring have been truly inspirational to our staff. During a crisis, hearing what our friends across the country and the world have been doing to help Audubon has been uplifting to us all and will never be forgotten.

Your friendship has always been a pivotal aspect of our success and will now be a permanent part of our legacy to future generations. On behalf of Audubon's staff, our Board and the entire community of New Orleans, I send my heartfelt thanks for your generosity of resources and of spirit.

Warmest Regards,


L. Ronald Forman
President and CEO

*Lee,
Thanks for stepping
up! You are the
best.
Ron*

Celebrating the Wonders of Nature



AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

August 19, 2004

8403 Colesville Road
Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
Phone: 301-562-0777
Fax: 301-562-0888
www.aza.org

Lee Ehmke
Minnesota Zoological Gardens
lee.ehmke@state.mn.us

Dear Lee:

On behalf of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) I am pleased to welcome you as Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee. You are critical to the continuing success of AZA, and we appreciate your willingness to serve.

I've attached an updated list of your fellow committee members for your reference. Also please note, in the near future a Committee Meeting schedule will be posted on the AZA web site – www.aza.org, under **Conferences & Workshops - AZA Annual Conference**. As you may know, this year's Annual Conference takes place in New Orleans from September 18 – 23, hosted by Audubon Nature Institute. I look forward to seeing you there, as we usher in new Committee Members and welcome back returning Members for the coming term.

The AZA staff stands ready to assist you in any way, and joins me in thanking you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact Barbara Pueschel at (301) 562-0777, ext. 226 or e-mail bpueschel@aza.org with any specific questions or concerns.

Cheers,

William Foster, DVM
President-Elect
American Zoo and Aquarium Association

Committee	Name	Institution	Phone	E-mail
Honors and Awards	Alan Rost	Jacksonville Zoological Gardens	(904) 757-4463 x131	rosta@jaxzoo.org
	Bob Ramin	National Aquarium in Baltimore	(410) 659-4213	BRamin@aquaria.org
	Buz Bireline	Santa Fe Teaching College	(352) 395-5602	henry.bireline@santafe.cc.fl.us
	Charles Wikenhauser	Milwaukee County Zoological Gardens	(414) 771-3040	cwzoo@prodigy.net
	David Oehler	Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden	(513) 475-6153	david.oehler@fuse.net
	Frank Steslow	New Jersey State Aquarium	(856) 365-3300 x332	fsteslow@njaquarium.org
	Jeff Ettling	Saint Louis Zoological Park	(314) 781-0900 x364	ettling@stlzoo.org
	Kim Lengel	Philadelphia Zoo	(215) 243-5244	Lengel.Kim@phillyzoo.org
	Kirsten Friar	Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens	(805) 962-5339 x15	kfriar@sbzoo.org
	Lee Ehmke, <i>Chair</i>	Minnesota Zoological Garden	(952) 431-9500	lee.ehmke@state.mn.us
	Reid Withrow	Aquarium of the Bay	(415) 623-5313	reidw@aquariumofthebay.com
	Rick Barongi	Houston Zoo	(713) 284-1370	rbarongi@aol.com
	Roger Hoppes	San Francisco Zoological Gardens	(415) 752-7050	rogerh@sfzoo.org
	Steven Conners	Miami Metrozoo	(305) 251-0400 x226	sconner@miamidade.gov
	Steven Wing, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Louisville Zoological Garden	(502) 238-5325 x325	steven.wing@loukymetro.org

Lincoln Park Zoo

2001 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Telephone 312.742.2179 Facsimile 312.742.2137

September 22, 2005

Lee Ehmke
Director
Minnesota Zoo Foundation
13000 Zoo Boulevard
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Dear Lee:

On behalf of Lincoln Park Zoo and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), thank you for your very generous donation of \$10,000 to benefit the Audubon Nature Institute, which includes the Audubon Zoo, the Aquarium of the Americas, and the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species. As no goods or services were provided, your total contribution is tax-deductible.

Staff members at each of the Audubon Nature Institute facilities are overwhelmed at the outpouring of support from their AZA colleagues and the public. Through your generosity, immediate and long-term relief is being provided to the Audubon staff and their families, the animals, and the facilities in New Orleans. AZA member institutions are providing relief to the three Audubon Nature Institute facilities such as animal food, veterinary medicine, fuel and other urgently needed supplies. In addition, a number of AZA member institutions have assisted by rescuing animals from the three Audubon Nature Institute facilities; all the animals are faring well at their new homes.

Thank you again for your generous support and for your many thoughts and well-wishes.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Bell
President and CEO

Formed in 1868, Lincoln Park Zoo is the oldest and last free, privately operated zoo in the country. Today, three million visitors each year come to the zoo to watch, listen to, delight in and learn from more than 1,300 mammals, reptiles and birds. Lincoln Park Zoo is committed to wildlife conservation, education and community service.



FL

AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

August 5, 2005

8403 Colesville Road
Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
Phone: 301-562-0777
Fax: 301-562-0888
www.aza.org

Lee Ehmke
Minnesota Zoological Garden
13000 Zoo Blvd
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8199

Dear Lee:

On behalf of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) I thank you for your continuing service as Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee. You are critical to the success of AZA, and we sincerely appreciate your willingness to serve.

As you may know, this year's Annual Conference takes place in Chicago from September 13-18, hosted by John G. Shedd Aquarium. A Committee Meeting schedule is posted on the AZA web site—www.aza.org, under **Conferences & Workshops - AZA Annual Conference**. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Prior to the Conference, you will receive via e-mail an updated list of your committee.

The AZA staff stands ready to assist you in any way, and joins me in thanking you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact Barbara Pueschel at (301) 562-0777, ext. 226 or e-mail bpueschel@aza.org with any specific questions or concerns.

Cheers!

Beth Stevens, Ph.D.
President-Elect
American Zoo and Aquarium Association



AZA Animal Poll

May 2005



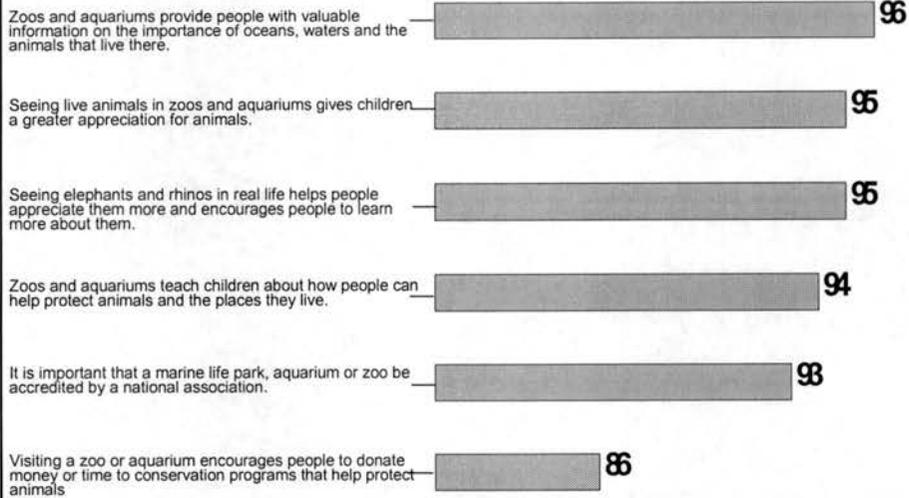
Methodology

- Conducted by Harris Interactive
- Online 15 minute nationally representative quantitative survey
- Respondents recruited from Harris Interactive proprietary panel
 - Sample Size: 1102
 - Age 18+
 - U.S. Residents
 - Data is demographically and propensity weighted to be projectible to the general population



AZA Attribute Statements

% Agree



Concern for the Protection of Animals

- o The majority of Americans (66%) indicate concern for the protection of marine mammals.
- o Marine mammals garner as much concern as the broader category of "animals and wildlife."
- o Elephants also garner equal concern, but rhinos significantly less so at 58%.
- o Women tend to be more concerned with the protection of animals than men.

	Total	Male	Female
Animals and Wildlife	66%	58%	75%
Marine Mammals	68%	62%	74%
Elephants	65%	56%	73%
Rhinos	58%	51%	64%

Q: Overall, how would you rate your concern for the protection of ...?



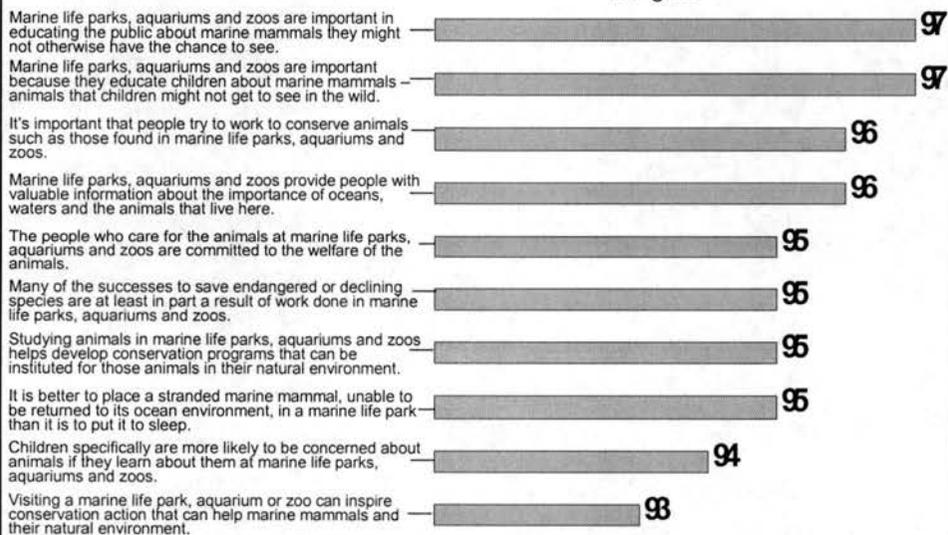
Additional Attribute Statements

- o Zoos and aquariums are perceived as an important way to view and be educated about animals that they would otherwise not have a chance to see.
- o Americans respond positively about all tested attributes and characteristics of zoos and aquariums.



Additional Attribute Statements

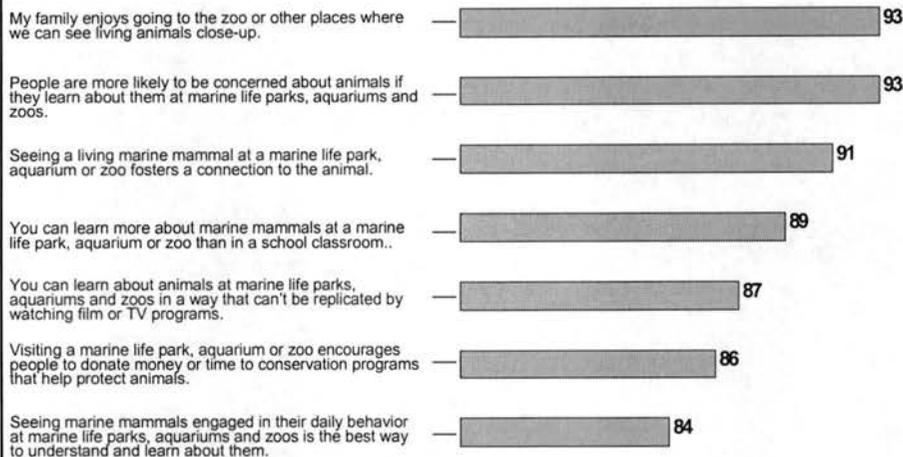
% Agree





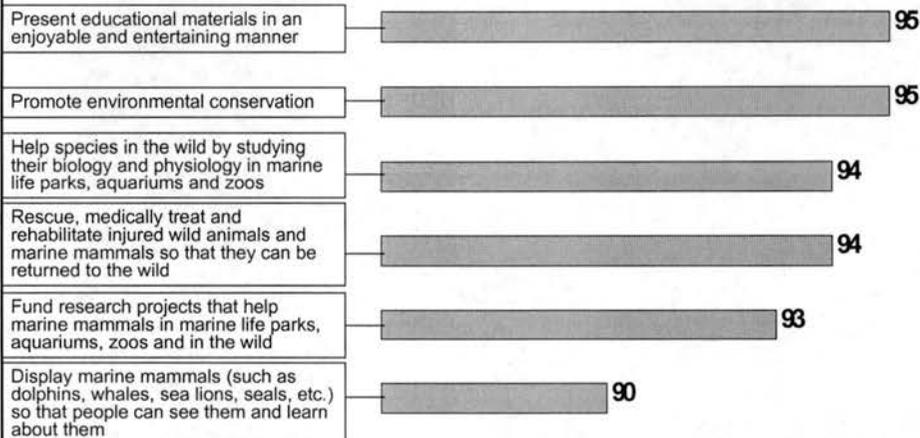
Additional Attribute Statements

% Agree



Role of Marine Life Parks, Aquariums and Zoos

o Americans indicate all efforts listed are important.



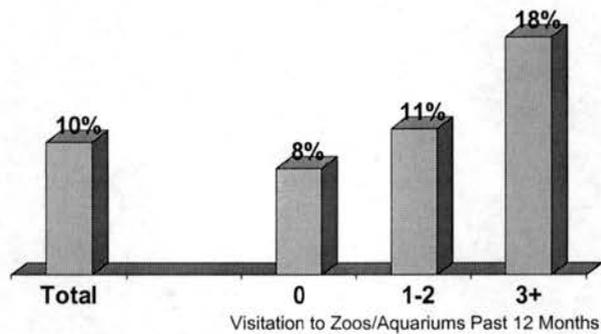
Q: For each of the items on this list, please tell us if you feel it is essential for marine life parks, aquariums and zoos to:



Animal Rights Membership

o Those who visit zoos and aquariums frequently are more likely to belong to an organized group that promotes the rights of animals.

**% Belonging to Group that Promotes
Animal Rights**



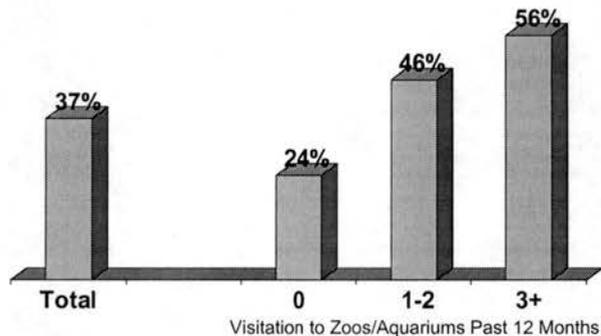
Q: Do you belong to any organized group that promotes the rights of animals?



Charitable Contributions

o Over one-half (56) of frequent zoo/aquarium visitors say they have made a monetary contribution to marine life park, zoo or aquarium.

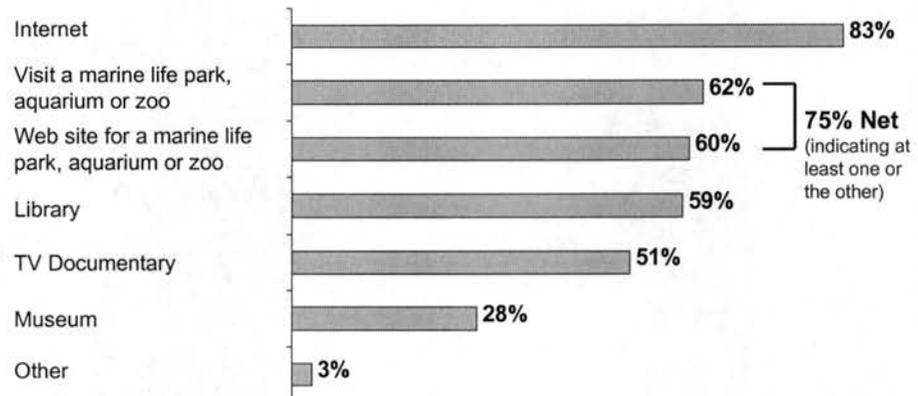
**% Belonging to Association that supports Marine Life
Park, Aquarium or Zoo**



Q: Have you ever contributed money to a marine life park, aquarium or zoo?



Educational Resources



Q: If you were looking for an educational resource to learn about marine mammals, where would you go?

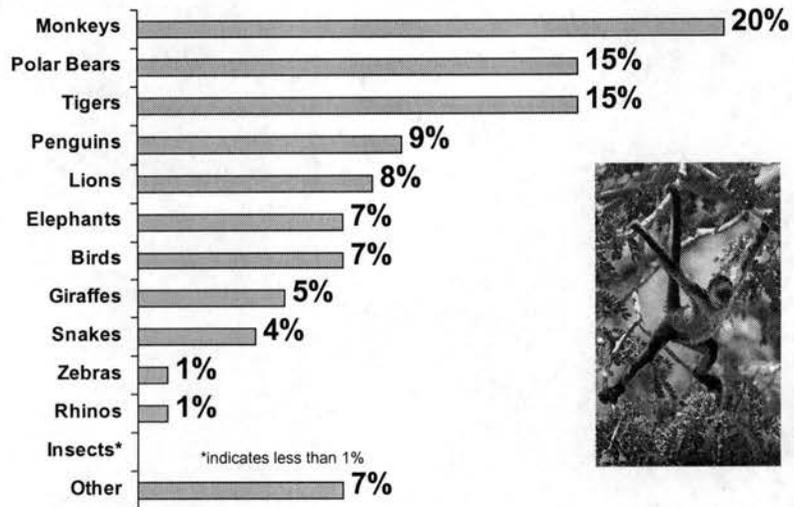


Animal Exhibit Rankings

- Monkeys are the favorite animal exhibit at zoos (20% listed as "favorite")
 - Men enjoy birds (9% "favorite") more than women (5%)
 - Women enjoy giraffes (8%) more than men (2%)



Zoo Animal Exhibit Ranking



Q: Which one of the following exhibits would be your favorite to view if you were to visit the zoo?

20 May 2005

Dear AZA member:

Harris Interactive[®], a national research company, recently surveyed U.S. adults' attitudes about marine mammals in marine life parks, aquariums and zoos on behalf of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums. AZA was invited to supply a few questions regarding opinions on elephants, conservation programs and the public's attitudes toward zoos, aquariums and accreditation.

In March, the Alliance released their poll results and since that time we have been working with Harris to gain approvals on our messages and press releases.

The survey results are in, and there is much good information for AZA members. Here are a few highlights:

- 96 percent of respondents agree that it is important that people work to conserve animals such as those found in aquariums and zoos.
- 95 percent of respondents agree that visiting accredited zoos and seeing elephants and rhinos helps people appreciate them more and encourages people to learn more about them.
- 95 percent of respondents agree that many of the successes to save endangered or declining species are at least in part a result of work done in zoos and aquariums.
- 94 percent of respondents agree that zoos and aquariums teach children about how people can protect animals and the places they live.
- 94 percent of the public agrees that children are more likely to be concerned about animals if they learn about them at zoos, marine life parks and aquariums.
- 95 percent of respondents said it is either somewhat important or essential that zoos and aquariums present educational materials in an "enjoyable and entertaining manner.
- 93 percent of respondents agree that it is important that an aquarium or zoo be accredited by a national association.
- 86 percent of respondents agree that visiting zoos and aquariums encourages people to donate money or time to animal conservation efforts.

To us, this research shows that the public understands and supports accredited zoos and aquariums.

AZA has developed a news release to send to national news outlets. **It will be issued on Tuesday, 24 May and the information is embargoed until that time. Please do not share the information with your media until Tuesday.**

-- more--

We will be working with our public relations firm, Public Communications Inc., to pitch the survey results nationally. Additionally, we are providing you two versions of the poll press release, one of which you may want to pitch locally. We encourage your institution to leverage this new survey by:

- Customizing one of the attached local template news releases and sending it out in your own market. One release gives an overview of the entire survey and is appropriate for all members. The other release is dedicated to the poll's findings specifically about elephants. If your institution has elephants, you will find this release useful.
- Posting survey findings on your Web site
- Informing your staff, volunteers and board of survey highlights
- Meeting with your local elected and appointed politicians and other opinion leaders to inform them of survey highlights

As you promote the survey results locally, please keep in mind that the news releases have been approved by Harris Interactive and the AZA and its members have a legal obligation to be consistent in using this approved language.

We look forward to supporting your efforts to capitalize on the survey in your own community. Please let us know if you have any questions or require any additional information about the study.

Sincerely,



Sydney J. Butler
Executive Director

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE

24 May 2005

[CONTACT: insert here]

**NATIONAL POLL SHOWS PUBLIC AGREES THAT VISITING ZOOS AND
AQUARIUMS HELPS PEOPLE APPRECIATE ANIMALS MORE;
ENCOURAGES DONATIONS TO CONSERVATION**

[City, State] -- People love to see animals, and according to opinion poll results released by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) today, 95 percent of U.S. adults agree that visiting accredited zoos and seeing animals helps people appreciate them more and encourages people to learn more about them. Another finding shows that 86 percent of respondents agree that visiting zoos and aquariums encourages people to donate money or time to animal conservation efforts.

“These statistics support what we have consistently heard from our guests: People want to see animals in AZA-accredited zoos because it’s how they learn about, and come to love and care for the future of these wonderful animals,” said [Institution spokesperson] “[Institution name] plays a critical role in helping connect people with animals and nature.”

Sydney Butler, AZA’s executive director added: “We have learned through this poll that people agree that zoos and aquariums not only help them to learn about animals, but that they are also committed to the welfare of the animals. AZA accredited zoos and aquariums care for 800,000 animals daily and are dedicated to providing the best of care, with new and expanded facilities, and the most up-to-date veterinary practices available.”

The survey also shows that 94 percent of the public agrees that children are more likely to be concerned about animals if they learn about them at zoos, marine life parks and aquariums. “It’s important in our society today that children have the opportunity to learn about and care about animals from around the world,” Butler said, speaking on behalf of AZA’s 211 accredited members.

The poll shows that most adults (95%) agree that seeing live animals in zoos and aquariums gives children a greater appreciation for animals. Ninety-three percent of respondents agree that their families enjoy going to zoos and aquariums where they can see living animals up close.

[Insert paragraph about something your visitors love, new exhibit, program, etc.]

Butler added that he is not surprised to see education identified as a key part of a family’s zoo and aquarium experience. “It is important for people, particularly children, to learn about animals, like elephants, and then turn their experience into an interest in conserving and protecting

- more -

animals. Almost any professional working at an AZA-accredited zoo or aquarium will tell you that their passion and dedication to animals goes back to their experiences at zoos and aquariums when they were children. We all share this love of animals, and we are committed to the daily and long-term care of our animals, as well as wild animals and their habitats," he said.

[Insert information about conservation program, Wonders of Water event, way for public to get involved]

In addition to wanting a fun, safe family experience when visiting a zoo or aquarium¹, adults (94 percent) agree that zoos and aquariums teach children about how people can protect animals and the places they live. Ninety-five percent said it is either somewhat important or essential that zoos and aquariums present educational materials in an "enjoyable and entertaining manner."

Following are some additional findings from the new research:

- 96 percent of respondents agree that it is important that people work to conserve animals such as those found in aquariums and zoos.
- 95 percent of respondents agree that many of the successes to save endangered or declining species are at least in part a result of work done in zoos and aquariums.
- 93 percent of respondents agree that it is important that an aquarium or zoo be accredited by a national association.

Methodology

Harris Interactive® conducted the study online on behalf of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums between September 16 and 21, 2004, among a nationally representative sample of 1,102 U.S. adults aged 18 and over. The data were weighted to be representative of the total U.S. adult population on the basis of region, age within gender, education, household income, race/ethnicity and propensity to be online.

In theory, with probability samples of this size, one could say with 95 percent certainty that the results for the overall sample have a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. This online sample is not a probability sample.

[Insert your boilerplate here]

About the American Zoo and Aquarium Association

Founded in 1924, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) envisions a world where all people respect, value and conserve animals and nature. AZA currently has 211 accredited members in the U.S., Canada, Bermuda and Hong Kong. Look for the AZA logo whenever you

visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats.

- more -

AZA NATIONAL POLL, page 3

About Harris Interactive®

Harris Interactive Inc. (www.harrisinteractive.com), the 15th largest and fastest-growing market research firm in the world, is a Rochester, N.Y.-based global research company that blends premier strategic consulting with innovative and efficient methods of investigation, analysis and application. Known for *The Harris Poll*® and for pioneering Internet-based research methods, Harris Interactive conducts proprietary and public research to help its clients achieve clear, material and enduring results.

Harris Interactive combines its intellectual capital, databases and technology to advance market leadership through U.S. offices and wholly owned subsidiaries: London-based HI Europe (www.hieurope.com), Paris-based Novatris (www.novatris.com), Tokyo-based Harris Interactive Japan, through newly acquired WirthlinWorldwide, a Reston, Virginia-based research and consultancy firm ranked 25th largest in the world, and through an independent global network of affiliate market research companies. EOE M/F/D/V

ⁱ Wirthlin Worldwide Research, May 2003

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AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

8403 Colesville Road
Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
Phone: 301-562-0777
Fax: 301-562-0888
www.aza.org

October 27, 2004

Lee Ehmke
Minnesota Zoo
13000 Zoo Boulevard
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Dear Lee,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to the 2004 Conservation Endowment Fund's (CEF) Silent Auction. We are so glad that you are committed to furthering the conservation efforts so vital to AZA's vision.

According to our records your donation was a pair of Pronghorn Antelope horn sheaths.

Your gift supports AZA members and their critically important research, education, and conservation projects. With new grants of \$290,000 just approved by the AZA Board in July, the CEF has awarded over \$2.7 million to AZA members since 1991.

I am pleased to announce that 13 proposals were selected for CEF awards. Please look for the new awardees in this month's Communiqué or on AZA's Web site. Thank you for your support of AZA and the CEF.

With best wishes

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sydney J. Butler', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sydney J. Butler
Executive Director

Your item is tax deductible based on the Fair Market Value as a charitable contribution and no goods or services were received in exchange for this donation. This contribution is deemed to be used for unrestricted Conservation Endowment Fund purposes. Please note that this letter is your official receipt and should be retained for tax purposes.



file

April 26, 2004

AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

Lee Ehmke
Director and CEO
Minnesota Zoological Garden
1300 Zoo Blvd.
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8299

8403 Colesville Road
Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
Phone: 301-562-0777
Fax: 301-562-0888
www.aza.org

Dear Mr. Ehmke:

I understand that at the recent Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums retreat, it was stated on two separate occasions by Alliance Director Marilee Menard that the only reason the Alliance's proposed "conservation and management" amendment was not part of the current Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) reauthorization bill was because of AZA opposition to the amendment. These comments were unwarranted and inaccurate. I am writing this letter to explain the AZA position on this amendment and our activities in dealing with Congress on it and the reauthorization in general.

The Alliance had proposed the following amendment to the MMPA regarding the definition of conservation and management as it relates to public display facilities:

The terms "conservation" and "management" mean...[new section] (2) all [emphasis added] activities related to the maintenance or public display of marine mammals at facilities holding marine mammals pursuant to a permit....Such terms include the entire scope of activities that constitute a modern scientific resource program including, but not limited to [emphasis added], research, animal husbandry, breeding, education...":

AZA has not supported this amendment because it is extremely vague and could be construed as including some marine mammal activities that AZA could not support or finds irrelevant to marine mammal conservation. In addition, it was not clear what the amendment would actually achieve if adopted. Finally, AZA was told by key House of Representatives' Resource Committee staff that the proposed amendment was a "non-starter" and had no chance of passing either Republican or Democratic staff review (regardless of AZA support).

We had, on numerous occasions, expressed our reservations about the amendment to Ms. Menard especially as it related to the term "conservation." AZA staff, following consultation with the AZA Government Affairs Committee, agreed to take the amendment before the AZA Board of Directors on March 17-18, 2004. At that meeting, the AZA Board agreed to a more specific amendment that could be supported by AZA:

The terms "conservation" and "management" mean.... (2) activities related to the public display of marine mammals at facilities holding marine mammals pursuant to a permit....Such terms can include the scope of activities that constitute a modern scientific resource program including research, animal husbandry, breeding for re-introduction purposes, conservation education..."

Upon returning from the AZA Board meeting, I sent an e-mail to Ms. Menard concerning the proposed amendment revision. She responded that the Alliance did not support this approach.

AZA has, at no time, gone on record in opposition of the Alliance amendment. We have remained neutral. At the same time, we have supported the other three amendments that the Alliance has advocated and which have been included in the current House bill.

In subsequent discussions with the House Resources Committee staff, they stated their preference to include language in the Committee report which accompanies the MMPA reauthorization bill recognizing the major contributions and the importance of licensed public display facilities which house marine mammals. AZA fully supported this approach. Based on these discussions, AZA decided not to engage in further discussions with the House Resources Committee staff on the conservation and management amendment.

On April 20, 2004, the House Resources Committee released its report to accompany the MMPA reauthorization bill as it moves to the floor of the House of Representatives for further consideration. In the report, the Committee states:

The Committee commends the public display community for its role in the conservation and management of marine mammals. Activities sponsored by public display facilities—research, educational programs and presentations, animal husbandry, breeding, and rescue and rehabilitation—are important aspects to the conservation of marine mammals. The rescue and rehabilitation programs run by these facilities are critical to the survival of stranded animals and for many years participating institutions ran these programs using their own funds. In addition, these facilities play an invaluable role for the general public. The public display facilities are the only place for many Americans to view marine mammals and learn about the conservation needs of these animals. The Committee believes the interactions provided at these facilities generate the general public's good will toward marine mammals and develops their support for conservation and management measures for these and many other ocean creatures.

It is my hope that in the future, we can foster a more coordinated and cohesive working relationship with the Alliance. AZA is prepared to set aside our minor differences and work together in the future to develop constructive, common-sense legislation and regulations that benefit all of our members.

I am enclosing a copy of the AZA Government Affairs Committee report to the AZA Board of Directors for your information. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Olson', written in a cursive style.

Steven G. Olson
Director of Government Affairs

cc: Kevin Willis



AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION October 29, 2003

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Lee Ehmke
Director
Minnesota Zoo
13000 Zoo Boulevard
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Dear Lee,

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According to our records the following gift was auctioned: a large plush black bear.

Your gift supports AZA members and their critically important research, education, and conservation projects. With new grants of \$290,000 just approved by the AZA Board in July, the CEF has awarded over \$2.5 million to AZA members since 1991.

I am pleased to announce that 18 proposals were selected for CEF awards. Please look for the new awardees in this month's Communiqué or on AZA's Web site. Thank you for your support of AZA and the CEF.

With best wishes

Sincerely,

Sydney J. Butler
Executive Director

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The American Zoo and Aquarium Association envisions a world where all people respect, value and conserve animals and nature

AZA Awards

	Education Excellence	
1979	Education Award	Institutional Commitment
1980	Significant Achievement Award in Education	Beluga Bunch: Pre-school Education
1982	Significant Achievement Award in Education	Animal Behavior Zooschool
1986	Significant Achievement Award	Minnesota Zoo Computer Camp
1990	Propagator's Certificate	in recognition of sustained captive breeding of: Japanese Macaque, Flying Fox, Red-Crested Bulbul, Nilgiri Tahr, American Elk, Mongolian Wild Horse, Musk Ox, Pronghorn, Spur-winged Plover, Red-eyed Glossy Starling
1990	Significant Achievement Award	Breeding Program for Ermine
1992	Significant Achievement Award in Education	Earth Voice: Citizen Stewardship & Education program
1993	Significant Achievement Award in Conservation	Development of an Indonesian Conservation Strategy for Captive and Wild Sumatran Tigers Captive Tiger Management (with Potter Park Zoo)
1993	Edward H. Bean Award	Long Term Propagation of Tigers
1994	Edward H. Bean Award	Long-term Propagation and Conservation of Tigers, with Henry Doorly Zoo and National Zoo
1995	Conservation Award	Adopt-a-Park Program: Ujung Kulon National Park
1998	Conservation Award	Sumatran Tiger Project (wild tigers)
2000	Edward H. Bean Award	Long-term Propagation for Pronghorn
2000	Exhibit Award	Wells Fargo Family Farm
2003	No. Amer. Conservation	Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program (15 participants)



MINNESOTA ZOO™

Changing how you see the world

January 16, 2003

Dusty Lombardi
Chair, Small Carnivore Advisory Group
Director of Living Collections
Columbus Zoo
PO Box 400 Powell, OH 43065

Dear Dusty:

It is my pleasure to send this letter in support of Christine McKnights' application to be designated Red Panda Studbook Keeper. Christine has been one of the most active and effective members of our Biological Programs staff for a number of years. Her participation in a number of SSP programs, AAZK chapter leadership, keeper talks, and as a Minnesota Zoo travel program tour leader has increased significantly, without any drop in her very high levels of performance as a keeper in our Tropics Trail.

Christine's commitment to our institution and to the profession is exemplary. I have no doubt that if awarded the responsibility of maintaining the Red Panda studbook she will conduct the task with accuracy, enthusiasm and professionalism. I would be happy to provide any additional information you may require in making your recommendation.

Best regards,

Lee C. Ehmke
Director / CEO

cc
Christine
Kevin



MINNESOTA ZOO

September 18, 2002

Changing how you see the world

AZA Training Administrator
American Zoo and Aquarium Association
8403 Colesville Road
Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to offer my strongest recommendation in support of Christine McKnight's application for the Margaret A. Dankworth Management Scholarship to participate in the February 2003 "Managing for Success: Organizational Development" course. Christine has consistently demonstrated her commitment to our institution and to the profession, and is among the "brightest lights" in the Biological Programs division of the Minnesota Zoo.

Specifically, Christine has helped spearhead important efforts including behavioral enrichment activities and associated public programs, led and organized AAZK activities (including art sales and Bowling for Rhinos fundraising events), and has served as a tour leader for the Zoo's international travel program. Associated with her responsibilities as Zookeeper on our Tropics Trail, she has participated in several SSPs (including Tree Kangaroo and Sun Bear). Christine was named "Keeper of the Year" in 2000 for her outstanding performance, and continues to grow as an animal care professional and as an important resource for our public programs.

Christine has indicated her interest in expanding her responsibilities and assuming a greater role on the professional team at the Minnesota Zoo. Her hard work and many achievements evidence her resolve to do more. I believe her potential and her initiative should be acknowledged and rewarded; I can think of no stronger candidate for the Dankworth Management Scholarship than Christine.

Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee C. Ehmke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lee C. Ehmke
Director / CEO



AMERICAN ZOO AND
AQUARIUM ASSOCIATION

8403 Colesville Road
Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
Phone: 301-562-0777
Fax: 301-562-0888
<http://www.aza.org>

November 28, 2001

Mr. Lee Ehmke
Director
Minnesota Zoological Garden
13000 Zoo Blvd
Apple Valley, MN 55124-8199

Dear Mr. Ehmke:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of the Minnesota Zoological Garden's annual dues payment. Enclosed you will find a pressure-sensitive insert for use on your AZA membership plaque.

On behalf of AZA staff and Board of Directors, I want to thank you for the Minnesota Zoological Garden's continued support of and participation in AZA's programs. As we begin to implement our new Long Range Plan, you can look forward to a variety of improvements to current programs and a number of new initiatives aimed at

We also want to ensure that you have found membership beneficial to your organization in the past year. We would appreciate any feedback as to how we can serve you better in the future. If you should have any questions about your organization's membership or any of AZA's programs, please feel free to give me a call at (301) 562-0777 x234 or e-mail me at mdellapietra@aza.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark DellaPietra".

Mark DellaPietra
Membership Coordinator

