San Francisco Zoological Society
Recreation and Park Commission Report
For the San Francisco Zoo
February 18, 2010

- **ZooFest 2010: Wild About Parrots**

  Preparations are underway for the San Francisco Zoological Society’s annual fundraiser, ZooFest. Inspired by a December article in the Smithsonian Magazine as well as on-going restoration of the Zoo’s South American Tropical Aviary, the Zoological Society felt it necessary to educate this year’s participants about illegal animal trafficking and deforestation occurring in South America. By choosing the theme, “Wild about Parrots,” the Society hopes to highlight these beautiful ambassadors of South America and also convey the reality of wildlife trafficking and the more than two million to five million wild birds that are illegally traded worldwide every year. A copy of the Smithsonian article can be found at: [http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/Wildlife-Trafficking.html](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/Wildlife-Trafficking.html).

- **San Francisco Supervisors Support Wild Animal Legislation**

  In early February, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted in favor of Supervisor Sean Elsbernd’s legislation that mandates laws and increases penalties for individuals who do not respect wild animals at the Zoo and in Golden Gate Park. (The San Francisco Zoo provides animal and veterinary care of the Bison in Golden Gate Park.) All of us at the San Francisco Zoo hope this new law will dissuade those intending to do harm to themselves or the animals. Tremendous thanks to Supervisor Sean Elsbernd for proposing this new law and for his continued support of the San Francisco Zoo. Additional thanks to all the Supervisors for their support and understanding of this legislation and the important role it plays to the well-being of Zoo visitors, staff and its animals.

- **Zoos & Aquariums on Capitol Hill**

  More than thirty members from the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, including the San Francisco Zoo, descended upon Washington, D.C., during the first week of February,
holding meetings which reached more than fifty Members of Congress and the White House. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss language embedded in the House-passed Jobs for Main Street Act, which prevents accredited zoos and aquariums from accessing needed funds for job creation. A recent economic analysis shows that zoos and aquariums are superior job generators and strong contributors to regional economies.

- **Super Bowl Provides Animal Enrichment?!!**

  Football isn’t just for people! The Zoo hosted a playful event that also provided animal enrichment for the Zoo’s beloved chimpanzees. Loosely entitled, “San Francisco Zoo Chimps to Predict Super Bowl Winner,” the plan was as follows: zookeepers would place one team-themed box with spirited paraphernalia (shirts and team banners) inside the chimpanzee exhibit and the chimps would come out ready to play. The predicted winner…well, that’s a toss up. Cobb, the Zoo’s male chimpanzee, had the foresight to pick the Saints but, not surprisingly, spent most of his time enjoying the treats. The females were more mixed in their responses: Maggie was a true Colts fan and Tallulah seemed to go for the Saints. Minnie wasn’t as interested in the teams but enjoyed the snacking! The event was a success with high media attendance including ABC, CBS, KTVU, Associated Press, San Francisco Chronicle, Contra Costa Times and San Francisco Sentinel.

- **January Attendance**

  The actual visitor attendance for the month of January is 34,077 versus budget of 48,000 generating an unfavorable variance of (13,923). January had a total of ten rain days with the Zoo closed on three of them due to the rain and high wind.

- **A Cause for Claws**

  Tunya, the Zoo’s 13-year-old male lion, recently presented with sudden front leg lameness. Initial treatment with anti-inflammatory medication helped, but the lameness persisted over a few days. Upon lying down, keepers were able to see the likely cause – overgrown claws touching the toe pads. Unfortunately, even a simple claw trim requires general anesthesia in a large cat like Tunya. This examination confirmed that two of the claws were starting to grow into the pads. After a full nail trim, Tunya recovered uneventfully and is much more comfortable.
• **Mark Your Event Calendars!**

The San Francisco Zoo continues to outreach to the community with events that help connect visitors with animals and nature. Year-after-year, the Zoo’s marketing and animal care teams work together to think of memorable and festive celebrations that will excite, unite and even educate the Zoo’s visitors:

- **February 21:** Lunar New Year. This annual event honors the Bay Area’s Asian Community.

- **March 31 – April 4:** Big Bunny’s Spring Fling. A new event this year that hopes to highlight problems with over-breeding a favorite domestic animal. Not only will educational material be provided, but it will feature a Big Bunny-costumed character, a bunny petting area, a bunny puppet show, and many games to play.

- **April:** This year’s annual “Party for the Planet,” a national zoo endeavor celebrating Earth Day, also will be the Grand Opening of the San Francisco Zoo’s “Greenie’s Conservation Corner,” a volunteer garden highlighting sustainable practices and providing browse for the Zoo’s animals. SFUSD classes and Bay Area resource conservationists will be part of the celebration.

- **May 8 & 9:** Sesame Street’s “Meet & Greet with Bert, Ernie & Grover.” The ever-popular Sesame Street characters will be on hand to help spread the word about conservation. These characters also will be available for photo opportunities.

- **May 8 & 9:** “Mommy & Me” Macy’s Promotion: In an effort to better support mothers, select Macy’s retail stores will be selling tee-shirts and giving moms free admission to the Zoo. A portion of sales and admission will be reimbursed to the Zoo.

- **May 22:** Pedigree event – “Meet Your Best Friend.” The Zoo, in partnership with Animal Care and Control, will be hosting a dog and cat adoption day in the Zoo’s main parking lot. Local rescue organizations will bring adoptable animals to the Zoo for the day. There will also be “pet” entertainment.

- **June:** Celebration of “Gay Pride” month. As an outreach to all families, regardless of their composition, the Zoo will provide discounted coupons in appropriate publications to celebrate this month-long San Francisco celebration.

Be sure to mark your calendars!