



Meet the Animals and Staff at
WCS Zoos and Aquarium



POSTCARDS

FROM THE

ZOO

GALA 2020



PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

We care for our Magellanic penguins in the Bronx Zoo, and our colleagues in South America protect in the wild.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Based out of the New York Aquarium, the WCS New York Seascape team is tracking sharks right off the coast of NYC to protect them in busy local waters.





PHOTO: WCS

Nichole Shelmidine, Prospect Park Zoo's Animal Department Supervisor, leads a program that has successfully hatched Endangered Chinese big-headed turtles.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Bronx Zoo keepers keep our lemurs happy and healthy year-round. We love teaching our visitors about these unique primates from Madagascar and the work our colleagues are doing to protect them in the wild.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Bronx Zoo gorillas live in large families called troops, just like wild gorillas. When you visit our gorillas at the Bronx Zoo, you help us raise money to protect wild gorillas in Africa too.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Our Bronx Zoo Malayan tigers love to swim, just like wild tigers in Asia! Their home at Tiger Mountain is full of activities that keep them engaged.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

We make sure our animals stay healthy by providing them with a variety of enrichment activities every day. We developed a special enrichment device just for Velcro, our giant anteater. He must search for treats in the device's tubes without knowing which tubes hold the food rewards, similar to how he would eat termites from a termite mound.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

It's not easy to diagnose, treat, or even move an ostrich. Staff were faced with these challenges when keepers noticed Olga was losing weight and had to bring her to our Wildlife Health Center for a complete medical check-up.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

The Bronx Zoo received a new male giraffe to be part of our breeding program. As is normal for giraffes, it took some time for him to adjust to staff and his new home before he could be introduced to a female.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Bronx Zoo reptile keepers successfully hatched four Critically Endangered Roti Island snake-necked turtles—a species that is functionally extinct in their natural habitat in Indonesia. We're working with conservationists in Indonesia to eventually reintroduce zoo-born turtles to the wild.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Collaboration and creativity are key when it comes to animal courtship. Exhibit designers and bird keepers worked together to help our cock-of-the-rocks breed. By introducing bird sculptures, recorded calls, and adding more live male birds to the exhibit, we were able to mimic wild courtship conditions and hatch a chick for the first time in decades!





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Since 1946, the Bronx Zoo has bred over 160 Père David's deer, which are extinct in the wild, as part of the AZA's Species Survival Plan program. Our staff recently hand-reared two fawns that were not nursing from their mothers. Keepers were then challenged with reuniting the fawns back into the herd once they were eating solid food.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

We received three dholes from the San Diego Zoo in 2019. A lot of work went into getting these Endangered dogs acclimated to their new home, building their exhibit, and encouraging the dholes to form bonds with their new keepers.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Keepers noticed our male tinamou was having trouble incubating the female's eggs because they were laid all throughout the exhibit. Keepers stepped in to help the female focus on laying eggs in one nest, which eventually resulted in successful incubation.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

The Bronx Zoo is a proud partner of Iowa's Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program. Our breeding pair of swans successfully hatched three chicks, called cygnets. One of the cygnets was returned back to Iowa to be released into the wild, and another has been paired off with a female at Prospect Park Zoo.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Some of our male geladas were experiencing irregular heartbeats. We worked with a cardiologist to give them surgically implanted heart monitors. Keepers then worked with the geladas to have them sit next to a computer that downloaded the data on their heart activity.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

It's always an eventful time when a baby animal is born at the zoo! We recently welcomed a new chick to our Caribbean flamingo flock. Our staff took all the necessary precautions and care to protect the chick during its vulnerable development.





PHOTO: JULIE LARSEN MAHER/WCS

Members of our nyala herd are descendants from the original herd dating back to 1941, when the Bronx Zoo opened the ground-breaking African Plains exhibit. It was the first exhibit in North America to show predators and prey together in an immersive, natural setting separated by hidden moats. We're still breeding nyalas today.

