

RESOLUTION NUMBER 131
Saint Louis Zoo

Whereas, the prestigious Saint Louis Zoo is well known as a major force for wildlife conservation and for public enlightenment through its excellent animal care and public education and engagement initiatives; and

Whereas, the Saint Louis Zoo—one of the nation’s few zoos with no admission charge---attracts three million visitors annually and ranks as the #1 zoo by Zagat Survey and Parenting Magazine and among the top three U.S. zoos in number of visitors; and

Whereas, after decades of work conserving wild animals in wild places, the Saint Louis Zoo established its WildCare Institute in 2004 to bring together conservation initiatives under a single organization; and

Whereas, WildCare Institute is dedicated to creating a sustainable future for wildlife and for people around the world. The Institute and its 12 centers take a holistic approach to troubled ecosystems by addressing three key ingredients in conservation success: wildlife management and recovery, conservation science, and support of the human populations that coexist with wildlife; and.

Whereas, at a Sept. 12th, 2012, awards ceremony during its annual meeting, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) announced that the Saint Louis Zoo was selected for two of the AZA’s three coveted awards recognizing top conservation initiatives; and

Whereas, AZA President and CEO Jim Maddy recognized the Saint Louis Zoo as a leader in wildlife conservation—both at home and abroad: “While all AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums make conservation a top priority, these awards bring well-deserved national recognition to the Saint Louis Zoo for making a positive impact on the future of these species.”

Whereas, AZA’s most historic award, the 2012 Edward H. Bean Award, went to the Zoo for its “Propagation, Head-start and Conservation Program for the Ozark Hellbender.” The Edward H. Bean Award recognizes a truly significant captive propagation effort that clearly enhances the conservation of the species; and

Whereas, the Edward H. Bean award not only honors the Zoo’s captive breeding efforts but also underscores the importance of an initiative that moves us toward a better understanding of the overall health of the aquatic ecosystem of streams and rivers here in Missouri; and

Whereas, the 2012 International Conservation Award also went to the Saint Louis Zoo and its partners for the “Grevy’s Zebra Trust and AZA: A Model of Collaborative Endangered Species Conservation Program.” The International Conservation Award recognizes exceptional efforts toward habitat preservation, species restoration, and support of biodiversity in the wild; and

Whereas, these awards recognize the decades of work by two highly respected Zoo professionals: St. Louis, Mo., residents and directors of WildCare Institute centers--Jeff Ettling, Zoo Curator of Herpetology and Aquatics and Director of the WildCare’s Ron Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation, and Curator of Mammals Martha Fischer, Director of the WildCare Center for Conservation in the Horn of Africa, which supports the Grevy’s Zebra Trust; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor the Saint Louis Zoo for its contribution to the conservation of wildlife not only in the wild but at the Zoo and we wish them continued success and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 21st day of September, 2012 by:

Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward

Adopted this the 21st day of September, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen