

Heritage Society

Preserving Lincoln Park Zoo for Future Generations

Lincoln Park Zoo

A Living Legend, a Living Legacy



Dr. Lester E. Fisher

As every Chicagoan knows, Dr. Lester E. Fisher is a Lincoln Park Zoo legend. In 1947, he was hired as the zoo's first part-time veterinarian, a role that, title aside, demanded round-the-clock attention for late-night births and odd-hours animal care. In 1962, Fisher became the fifth director in the zoo's history. During his 30-year tenure, he partnered with the Zoological Society to transform the zoo, emphasizing education, introducing conservation and remaking zoo grounds to meet modern expectations for animal comfort and care.

Even in retirement, Fisher's influence continues to be felt. The zoo's world-class Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes reflects his work with our closest-living relatives. An endowment is being established in his name to support Lincoln Park Zoo's director of veterinary medicine (see sidebar). And by planning a gift to Lincoln Park Zoo through his estate, the zoo icon has joined other Heritage Society members in establishing a living legacy for the zoo he loves.

It's not surprising that Fisher would direct his planned gift to Lincoln Park Zoo. "For some years I deliberated about planned giving," he says. "Certainly, if there's any one institution I relate to more than any other, it would be Lincoln Park Zoo."

The former director is a steady zoo visitor, traveling down at least once a month from his Lincoln Park home to see the zoo grounds. He always stops by Regenstein Center for African Apes to visit his old favorites, the gorillas and chimpanzees. He was also present for this summer's unveiling of Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo, which left him impressed with the zoo's continuing vision. "It's a major community resource," he says. "It isn't just the zoo—the whole city has something that's wonderful."

Fisher expresses ready enthusiasm for the changes that have taken place since his tenure, commending the zoo's growing gardens and increasing emphasis on conservation and science. But when asked about the element of the zoo that's most important to build on for the future, his answer is clear.

Committing to Care

To honor Dr. Fisher's legacy of care at Lincoln Park Zoo, the position of director of veterinary medicine is being endowed through the establishment of The Dr. Lester E. Fisher Director of Veterinary Medicine Endowment.

Endowing Lincoln Park Zoo's director of veterinary medicine not only honors Fisher for his commitment in building a world-class veterinary program at Lincoln Park Zoo, it also secures substantial financial resources for the most fundamental element of Lincoln Park Zoo's mission: the best-possible veterinary care for all the animals.

To find out how you can support this key endowment, contact Director of Planned Giving Marilyn Schaffer at 312-742-2167 or via e-mail at mschaffer@lpzoo.org.

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King penguins display vibrant markings at the Kovler Penguin / Seabird House.

Provide for Loved Ones First and Still Leave a Legacy to the Charities Close to Your Heart

Charitable bequests in your will need not affect your family's future security. You can leave the lion's share of your estate to your loved ones and include a gift of a percentage of the remainder for Lincoln Park Zoo and other charities that are important to you. A charitable gift of the residue of your estate can also be changed at any time, at your discretion.

For information on including a bequest for Lincoln Park Zoo in your estate plans or for sample bequest language, visit our website at www.lpzoo.org/pg/bequest_language or call Marilyn Schaffer, director of planned giving, at 312-742-2167.



Your Will—the First Step in the Planning Process

Beginning the estate planning process with the correct tools in mind can make all the difference in the outcome.

Experts frequently recommend beginning with a will, the planning vehicle that typically forms the basis of even the most complex estate plans.

Exercise your rights

In a society where private ownership of property is allowed and encouraged, the right to decide who should eventually receive your property is a vitally important responsibility. The *last will and testament* has been carefully designed over centuries to be a primary vehicle for use in directing future disposition of your property.

A flexible instrument

Wills are extremely flexible. Through your will you can provide beneficiaries with particular sums of money, certain properties or percentages of your estate. You can mix methods as well.

For example, you may choose to leave exact amounts to certain heirs or the charities that are close to your heart while directing that others split the remainder of your assets in percentages you determine.

Coordinate with other plans

Remember that your will by itself may not determine who will receive many of your assets. One of the biggest mistakes made is to ignore the impact of other ways to distribute property to heirs.

To illustrate, if you own real estate jointly with another person, your will may have little or no effect on who will ultimately own the property. The same is true for proceeds from life insurance policies and retirement plans. A beneficiary designation completed years ago could determine who receives the benefits, *not* the terms of your current will.

For this reason and others, you should only undertake revision of your will with competent advice in connection with a thorough review of all your assets and the forms in which they are held.

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. 3.4% AFMR ©MMX RFSCO, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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How to Give...and Receive

Charitable gifts can take a variety of forms. One type, a charitable gift annuity, allows you to make a contribution while you also enjoy increased income and significant tax benefits today.

Under the terms of a Lincoln Park Zoo gift annuity, you transfer cash or other appropriate assets and receive annual, fixed payments. The payments are based on your age and will continue for as long as you live.

Payments may also continue for the life of a spouse or other loved one. See the chart at right for examples of gift annuity rates. Contact us for rates for other ages.

An income that can't shrink

Once your gift is made, the amount of the payments from your gift annuity will never change.

Rates for Lincoln Park Zoo gift annuities follow the rates established by the American Council on Gift Annuities, an organization that has been recommending rates for more than 75 years. These rates take into account current life expectancies, prevailing economic conditions and other factors.

To ensure your peace of mind, all of Lincoln Park Zoo's net assets are available to back your gift annuity payments.

The older you are when you create a gift annuity, the higher the rate used to determine the amount of your payments. If the annuity is based on the lives of two persons, the payments are less than those for one person.

Flexibility in funding

Most gift annuities are funded with cash, but stocks, bonds and mutual funds can also provide an excellent way to establish a charitable gift annuity. Such assets can result in additional tax savings at the time of your gift.

We are always available to talk with you and your advisors as you consider which asset might be best for you to use to fund a gift annuity.

Gift Annuity Payment Rates			
Selected Rates for One Person		Selected Rates for Two Persons of the Same Age	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
90+	9.5%	90/90	8.3%
85	8.1	85/85	7.1
80	7.2	80/80	6.3
75	6.4	75/75	5.7
70	5.8	70/70	5.4

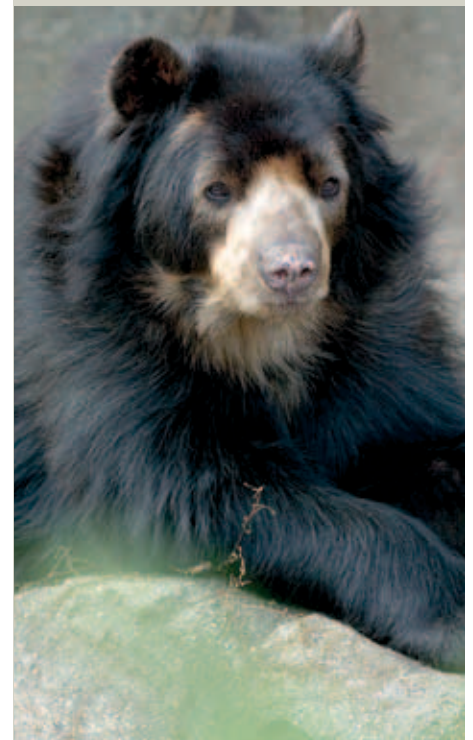
*For illustrative purposes only.
Please write for current benefits and rates for other ages.*

Considering a Roth IRA conversion?

It has been estimated that some 14 million persons will take advantage this year of new opportunities to convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. If you are looking for ways to minimize the taxes due on the conversion, you may want to explore how you can combine a Roth conversion with charitable gifts in ways that minimize or eliminate your tax liability.

Please let us know if we can furnish more information to you or your advisors to assist you in the charitable aspects of your plans.

Andean bears are also known as spectacled bears thanks to distinctive markings around their eyes.



A Living Legend *...continued from front*

“The zoo can, will and should remain an educational institution,” he says. “I believe strongly that coming down to a zoo and seeing and hearing and smelling and observing and interacting with the animals is just an experience that can’t be duplicated in any other way.”

This respect for animals is what inspired Fisher to transform the zoo’s exhibits during his tenure as director. Outdated exhibits with cement walls and steel bars gave way to new, naturalistic habitats that encouraged natural behaviors from the animals as well as greater appreciation from visitors. Similarly, the inaugural building campaign of the Zoological Society—the creation of the Farm-in-the-Zoo—was inspired by a desire to connect city kids with a natural world many had never encountered.

Lincoln Park Zoo has evolved greatly under the tenure of Fisher and current President and CEO Kevin Bell. It’s equipped with state-of-the-art buildings, global

conservation efforts, robust educational programs and the highest standards of care. But as the zoo has changed, it remains at heart a place where people of all backgrounds can come to experience the wonder of wildlife. The support of Fisher and other Heritage Society members ensures it will remain that way far into the future.

“Lincoln Park Zoo has always been there for people, and hopefully it always will be,” he says.



During his regular visits, Dr. Fisher always stops to see the gorillas at Regenstein Center for African Apes.

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