

News

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Saint Louis Zoo, 314/781.0900
Janet Powell, ext. 4633
Christy Childs, ext. 4639
Joanna Bender, ext. 4703

ORTHWEIN FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$1.5 MILLION ENDOWMENT OF SAINT LOUIS ZOO'S ANIMAL NUTRITIONIST POSITION

The William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Foundation has announced a gift of \$1.5 million to endow the Saint Louis Zoo's position of Animal Nutritionist. The gift will be part of the Zoo's Endowment Trust, which manages designated financial assets for the future. The Orthwein Foundation also contributed substantially to construction of the Zoo's new Orthwein Nutrition Center.

Currently the Zoo's Animal Nutritionist is Dr. Debra Schmidt. She manages the daily animal food operations for 18,000 animals and keeps the Zoo in the forefront of zoological nutrition research. She first determines what nutrients each animal needs and which foods best provide these nutrients. She works closely with curators, keepers and veterinarians to make sure the animals are eating healthy. Her staff of three begins at 5:30 a.m. to prepare and deliver the bulk foods and special diets needed for the animals.

"To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time that the position of Animal Nutritionist has been endowed at any zoo," said Dr. Jeffrey P. Bonner, Dana Brown President & CEO of the Saint Louis Zoo. "There are just a handful of zoos around the nation with full-time nutritionists, and we're quite proud of the work we are able to do. Animal nutrition research is one of the ways that we learn more about keeping our animals healthy and fit."

In addition, the Orthwein Foundation has also contributed a gift of \$75,000 to help maintain the Nutrition Center's medicinal garden and \$75,000 to the George Vierheller Endowed Fund for Zoological Medicine.

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