



A zoo or zoological garden refers to the term zoology, derived from Greek, meaning the study of animals.

# The Menagerie

- The “menagerie” is the first recorded method of displaying captive animals
- Mainly aristocrats kept these private collections to illustrate their power and wealth



A **menagerie** is the first recorded method of displaying common and exotic animals in captivity and was still mostly connected with an aristocratic or royal court and it was thus situated within a garden or park of a palace. The aristocrats intentions were not primarily of scientific and educational interest but they were still wanting to illustrate their power and wealth.

In 15th century BC, the menagerie of Queen Hatshepsut of Egypt was considered the first formal zoo and was known to have hippos, hartebeest, elephants and wild cats. It contained the first giraffe ever seen in Egypt.

**me·nag·er·ie /mə'najərē, mə'naZHərē/ noun**

- A collection of wild animals kept in captivity for exhibition.
- A strange or diverse collection of people or things.

## Europe



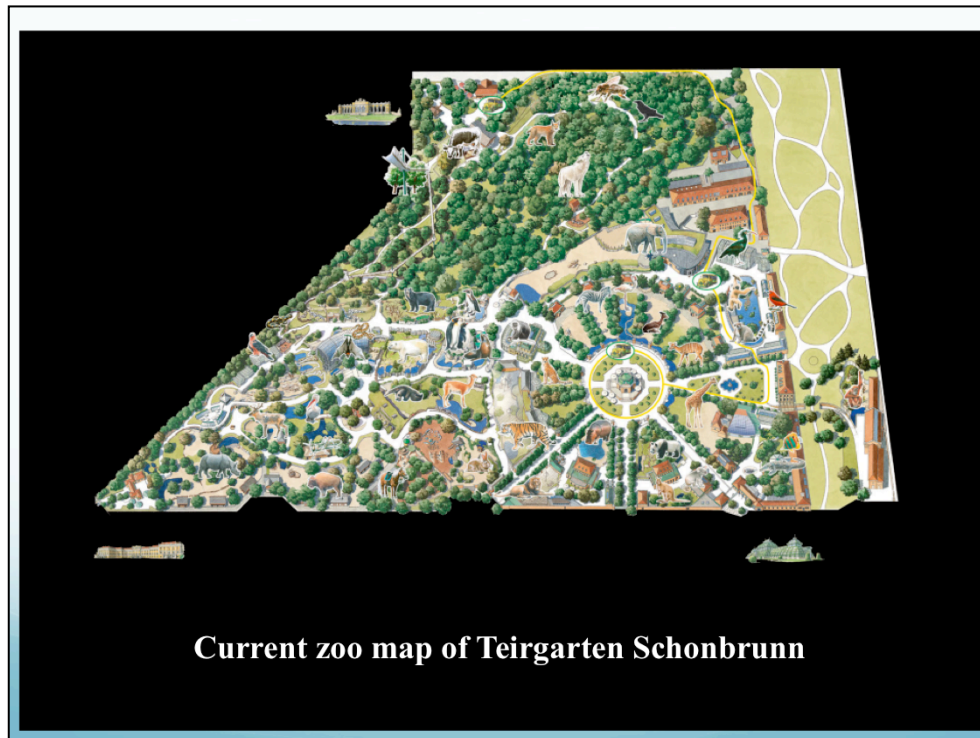
Versailles menagerie

- Although many societies practiced exotic animal keeping, it was the Europeans during the Middle Ages that popularized it
- In the 17th Century, the Palace of Versailles was built by Louis the XIV. It included a large menagerie. One of the first in the baroque style it had a circular style of housing animals, with a pavilion at its center

Throughout history, humans have been fascinated the animal kingdom. Although many societies practiced exotic animal keeping, it was the Europeans during the Middle Ages that popularized it. The Tower of London housed England's royal menagerie for several centuries. The most impressive of the royal zoos was in 18th century Europe was that of Louis XIV of France. It was the considered the first zoological garden and was the first bona fide public zoo. It had many innovative ideas including camouflaging cages and arranging enclosures in circular manor around a central courtyard.

Throughout Europe, individuals gathered up and cataloged descriptions of strange animals from distant lands or deep seas. Zoos sprung up in capital cities around the western world, once again to demonstrate the city's status through the size and grandeur of its zoo. Until the early 19th century, the function of the zoo was often to symbolize royal power.

The oldest zoo still in existence, the Tiergarten Schonbrunn opened in Vienna, Austria in 1752. It was initially built for the imperial family and court and was made accessible to the public in 1779. This evolved into the Vienna Zoo and you can still get a sense of the symmetrical nature of its design today.



Current zoo map of Tiergarten Schönbrunn. Also known as the Vienna Zoo, Austria.



## The First US Zoos

The first zoo in the United States is slightly disputed:

The Philadelphia Zoo lays claim to being the first zoo in America. It was established in 1859, but its actual opening was delayed by the start of the Civil War until 1874.

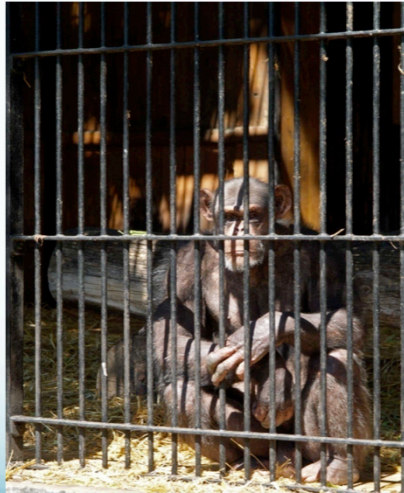
The Central Park Zoo in New York opened in 1864 and also bills itself as America's first zoo.



The first American zoo was chartered in 1859 in Philadelphia but the opening was delayed for 15 years due to the civil war. The Central Park Zoo in New York opened in 1864 and also claims to be the first zoo in America. When the Philadelphia Zoo opened finally in 1874, there were 3,000 guests on the first day.

**Notice their mission: Conservation, research, education and recreation**

## Early Zoos



- The method for exhibiting animals was haphazard, with bare barred cages and individual specimens of each species
- Exhibits were built so that the public can easily view the animals at all times and accessible to keepers for animal and exhibit management

Most American zoos were established in the early part of the 20th century.

Early methods for exhibiting animals were haphazard, with bare barred cages and individual specimens of each species.

There were no thoughts given to an animal's social behavior/structure. E.g. herd animals vs. solitary animals

## The Move Towards the Modern and Naturalistic Zoo

- Carl Hagenbeck is considered the father of the modern zoo
- Visitor is immersed in natural or recreated habitat, where barriers between the animals are not detected
- Zoos are developing new exhibits based on how they can enrich the animals; there are opportunities for the animals to be active and visible



**Carl Hagenbeck** (1844 – 1913) was a German merchant of wild animals, who supplied many European zoos, as well as P. T. Barnum. He created the modern zoo with animal enclosures, without bars, that were closer to their natural habitat. He used ditches and moats to separate the animals from the visitors and more spacious enclosures for the animal to move around. The wild animals appeared to be mingling with each other. He designed the tiergarten outside Hamburg in 1902 that became the blueprint for zoos of the future.

Eventually, these naturalistic landscapes eventually contained groups of mixed species. The enrichment and wellness of the animal are also now being considered in the design process of an exhibit. **Why do you think that might be important?**

Since the mid-20th century, zoos have been finding ways to conserve wild animals and more importantly, their natural habitats. By serving as ambassadors of their species, today's zoo animals raise public awareness as to the uniqueness of each species as well as the important role that each plays in their environment and in the web of life. Some of the species we keep are now extinct in the wild and would have disappeared completely without zoos.

Examples:

## Purpose of Zoos

- More than 180 million people a year visit zoos and aquariums in the U.S.
- **Conservation** – zoos inspire a concern for animals
- Zoos have become the last refuge for many species and their captive breeding programs, such as the **Species Survival Plans (SSP)** that are overseen by the **Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)**
- **Environmental education** - widens an individual's view of nature and personalizes it; zoos provide an understanding of the interdependence of animals and their habitat
- **FUN!**



Currently zoos serve three main purposes: conservation, environmental education and entertainment. While the public's perception of a zoo is entertainment, education and lastly conservation in that order.

Zoos have changed dramatically over the past few decades since the enactment of the Endangered Species Act of 1973; the law prohibited any action that causes a "taking" of any listed species of endangered fish or wildlife. In 1981, the **Species Survival Plan (SSP)**, overseen by the **Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)**, was created as a cooperative population management and conservation program for selected species in zoos and aquariums in North America. Each SSP manages the breeding of a species in order to maintain a healthy and self-sustaining population, that is both genetically diverse and demographically stable.

As zoo docents, it is your job to educate the general public, and especially the next generation, the importance of species survival. We are the connection between the animal and the public. Docents raise public awareness when we communicate the need for conservation of the species, preservation of habitat, captive breeding, ongoing research, and the reintroduction of endangered animals to the wild when possible.

Zoos are a necessity not just because they bring people face to face with animals or provide an activity for the public, but because they unite the community around a core set of principals. These principals are based on understanding that all living things on the planet are interconnected and interdependent of each other.

## Zoo's Mission

The mission of the San Francisco Zoo is to connect people with wildlife, inspire caring for nature and advance conservation action.

**3 C's: CONNECT\*CARE\*CONSERVE\***



"The mission of the San Francisco Zoo is to connect people with wildlife, inspire caring for nature and advance conservation action."

Zoos are becoming more aware of the role they can play in species and habitat conservation. Zoos promote conservation by educating and inspiring people to learn more about the diversity of life. The evolution of the San Francisco Zoo into what we know today has been one of steady progress toward a primary mission of conservation.

The San Francisco Zoo's priorities include the welfare of their collection by providing quality animal care and enrichment. The Zoo's Wellness and Conservation Center looks at developing techniques and implementing practices that ensure the animals are thriving. The Zoo has become an ambassador for animal and habitat conservation.

## The Beginnings of the San Francisco Zoo

- **Herbert Fleishhacker**, a banker and president of the park commission, dreamed of a zoo for the city of San Francisco.



- A grizzly bear named “**Monarch**” was the first animal in what would become the SF Zoo.



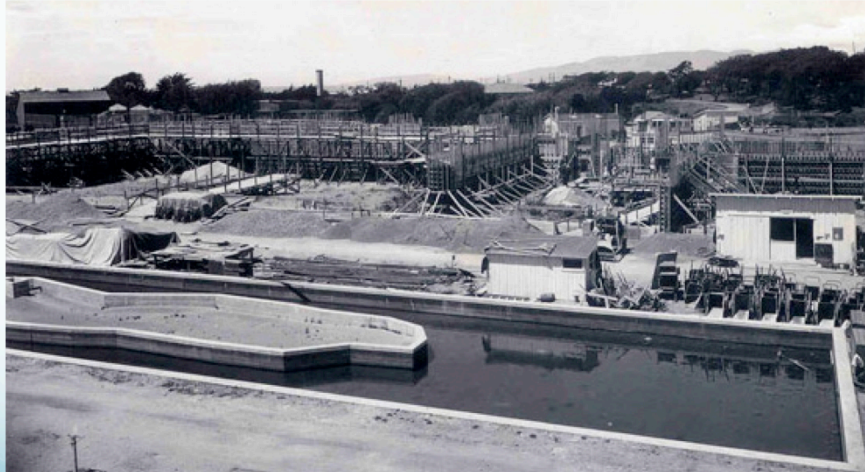
Initially, in 1866, the zoo was housed in Woodward's Gardens (it was a combination amusement park, museum, art gallery, zoo, and aquarium operating from 1866 to 1891) in the Mission District (btwn. Mission & Valencia/13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Street) and was later moved to the Golden Gate Park and it exhibited bears, emus, beaver, sheep, kangaroos, moose, goats, elk, and bison in the park meadows as well as a two-acre aviary full of birds. When Herbert Fleishhacker wanted to exhibit other animals such as lions, tigers, great apes and elephants, the zoo's current site was proposed.

A grizzly bear named Monarch was the first animal in what would become the SF Zoo. Monarch was California's last captive grizzly bear, and he became an important symbol of the state's evolving relationship with vanishing wildlife. Monarch's affiliation with the San Francisco Zoo began in 1889 when San Francisco Examiner media magnate, William Randolph Hearst, engaged one of his reporters, Allen Kelly, in a heated debate over whether grizzlies still existed in California. Hearst ended the argument by challenging Kelly to go out and find one. After six months of searching, Allen Kelly found Monarch the Grizzly Bear in Ventura County.

Monarch lived more than 20 years in captivity; first at Woodward Gardens, then in Golden Gate Park. He never made it to the Zoo's current location, but is credited for causing Fleishhacker to find the Zoo's current location.



## Early San Francisco Zoo



The San Francisco Zoo that we know today was established in 1929. The new location was next to the largest swimming pool in the country, “Fleishhacker Pool”. The Mother’s Building, a playground, and the Dentzel Carousel were already on this site.

The Zoo was originally called The Herbert Fleishhacker Zoo, after its founder. The name was officially changed, on February 27, 1941, to the “San Francisco Zoological Gardens”, following the suggestion of Herbert Fleishhacker. It occupies 100 acres along the Pacific Ocean.

The major exhibits were built in the 1930s and 1940s as part of a depression-era **Works Progress Administration (WPA)** project at a cost of \$3.5 million. The animal exhibits were, in the words of San Francisco architect Lewis Hobart, “ten structures designed to house the animals and birds in quarters as closely resembling native habitats as science can devise.” The new structures included Monkey Island, Lion House, Pachyderm House, a sea lion pool, an aviary, and bear grottos. These spacious, moated enclosures were among the first bar-less exhibits in the country.

Penguin Island, as seen above, has one of the most successful captive breeding colonies in the world.



## San Francisco Zoo & Gardens



- In 1954, the San Francisco Zoological Society is established as a non-profit membership organization
- In 1968, the Zoo Docent Council is established
- In 1993, the Zoo's operation is transferred from the city to the Zoological Society
- In 2014, the zoo's name officially became: San Francisco Zoo and Gardens

Founded in 1954, the **San Francisco Zoological Society** is a private, non-profit, membership organization dedicated to increasing interest, concern and knowledge about wildlife.

In 1968, the **Zoo Docent Council** was established. The primary purpose of the council is to provide educational services in conjunction with Zoo's education department.

In October 1993, the San Francisco Zoological Society entered into a new partnership with the city of San Francisco and through a lease agreement, now manages the entire zoo. The city continues to partially fund the zoo and to participate in decision making on major projects and policies. The Zoo is governed under the Recreation and Park Commission and a Board of Directors governs the Society. The **Joint Zoo Committee** is made up of three members of the Recreation and Park Commission and three members of the SF Zoo's Board, which oversees policy and provides a public forum.

Since then, the Society has made dramatic improvements and rebuilt exhibits throughout the Zoo. In 2014, the zoo's official name became the San Francisco Zoo and Gardens to reflect the bountiful gardens and plentiful plants. With our year-round mild climate, the zoo can grow a wide variety of plants from all over the world, including beautiful California native plants. (Mention Greenie's Conservation Garden and the new fragrance garden – "Gail's Fragrance Garden".

## AZA

- The **Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)** was founded in 1924 as an organization dedicated to the advancement of accredited zoos
- As an accrediting organization, it inspects member zoo and related facilities every 5 years, holding them to rigorous standards for exhibits, animal care, education, conservation, and research
- The SF Zoo and Gardens is one of over 238 accredited zoos and aquariums in the United States



**The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)** was founded in 1924; it is the organization that is responsible for establishing high standards of practice and care for all facilities that fall under their jurisdiction. Every 5 years, zoos go through an accreditation process; the AZA inspects zoos to insure that each zoo is maintaining their rigorous standards for exhibits, animal care, education, conservation, and research.

The San Francisco Zoo is AZA accredited and represents a uniquely successful partnership between the City of San Francisco and the San Francisco Zoological Society. As of September 2019 there are a total number of 238 AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums. Accredited zoos develop public confidence by knowing that an institution meets or exceeds current professional standards.

### **World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)**

Founded in 1935 WAZA is a global alliance of zoos and aquariums that promote conservation and welfare of animals and their natural habitats. WAZA does not require it's members to undergo an accreditation process. Currently there are about 400 zoos and aquariums who are members of WAZA and according to their visitor demographics over 700 million people visit zoos and aquariums annually.

## Enrichment & Wellness

- Enrichment promotes a species natural behavior by giving the animal options and choices for behavior.
- An animal's wellness involves both the physical health of the animals (e.g., preventing and treating illnesses and injuries), as well as their psychological well-being.

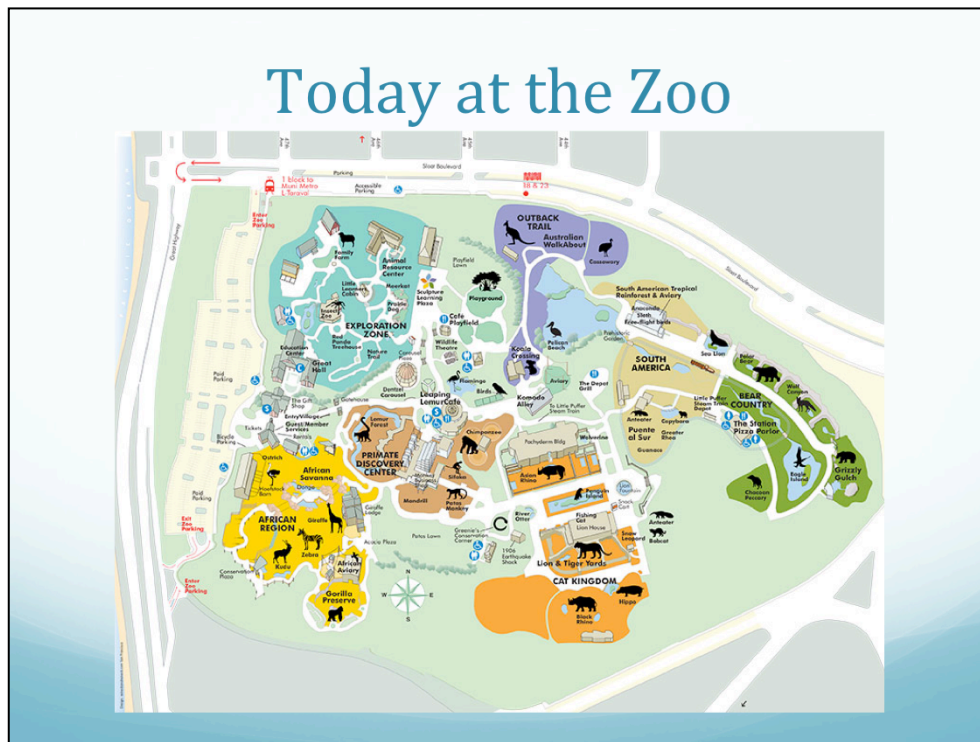


The San Francisco zoo staff promote positive environments for their animals so that they can thrive. An enriched captive environment is one that is interesting, allows animals to perform natural behaviors, permits animals to be more active, and provides animals with additional choices, which increases the animals' control over their environment leading to an improvement in the animal's mental state.

Enrichment is offered to our animals every day with varied food choices, often hidden to encourage foraging and problem-solving; large "boomer balls" that are not only toys, they can also be filled with feed pellets that fall out when rolled a certain way; items sprayed with scents from other animals; or even the design of the exhibits to resemble a natural habitat.

Although most of the animals in zoos were bred in captivity and have never lived in the wild, captive breeding has not removed their natural, wild instincts. Since everything is provided for them – food, water, shelter, and safety – enrichment provides psychological and physical challenges to keep them active and interested in their surroundings.

The zoo's animals are trained to do certain tasks such as a cat presenting its tail for a blood draw or to lie down on a platform so that the vets can perform an ultrasound and a bear presenting its rear for an injection or raise its paw for inspection. These simple things allow veterinary care of some of the larger animals without having to put the animal under anesthesia and reduces the stress on the animal.



Today, some of the highlights of the zoo include:

The **Leanne B. Roberts African Savanna (2004)** - a 2.5 acre mixed-species exhibit with mammals and birds. Keepers have the ability to separate the space into two halves for animal management. The space demonstrates herd dynamics and the exhibit itself promotes enrichment.

The **Lipman Lemur Forest (2002)**- the largest outdoor lemur habitat in the country and one of the only ones to give lemurs access to climb numerous large, natural trees throughout the exhibit. This multi-species habitat exhibits the plight of lemurs in Madagascar and brings global awareness to Madagascar as a biodiversity hot spot.

**Greenie's Conservation Corner (2010)**, which was unveiled as part of the Earth Day celebration in 2010. This lively, sustainable space interactively engages visitors and helps inspire "green" practices at home, school, and within the community.

The **Exploration Zone (2001)** - introduces children to animals and includes the Children's Farm, a red panda exhibit and the Insect Zoo, which teaches the importance of biodiversity in nature and the significance of preserving entire ecosystems.

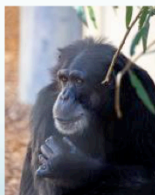
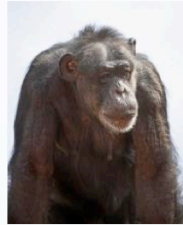
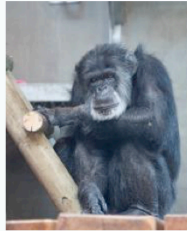
The **Elinor Friend Playground (2013)** is modeled after three distinct bio-regions, which take their themes from specific ecosystems and appeal to distinct age groups. The **Animal Sculpture Learning Plaza (2015)** is a complementary piece to the playground. Nearly 100 sculptures and reliefs illustrate the amazing array of adaptations from some of the world's most unique species. The Sculpture Learning Plaza was designed by Scientific Art Studio and is intended to be explored through touch.

## New Exhibits at the Zoo



Great Ape Project (GAP - aka the new indoor chimp exhibit) was formerly the Pachyderm Building that housed our elephants. We had a “soft opening” during the 2019 Thanksgiving holiday and also brought in 4 new chimps and they have all been full integrated into one troop. The new indoor exhibit provides our chimps an exciting and enriching environment and allows zoo visitors to really see the chimps up close and vice versa. We also added two new orangutans to our primates/ape group.

## Our Chimpanzee Troop

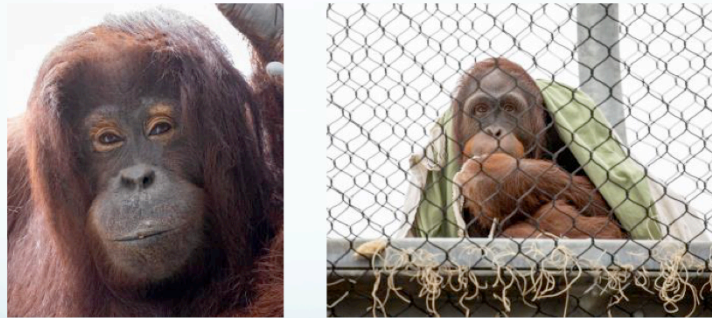


Top: Cobby (61) Minnie (51) Maggie (51)

Bottom: Gombus Beth Connie Michael



## Orangutans



LEFT: Judy – female (16 yrs.)

RIGHT: Berani – male (10 yrs.)

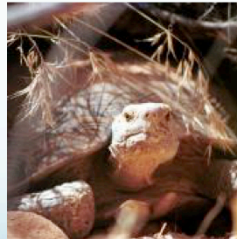
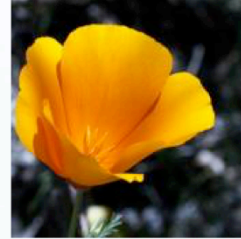
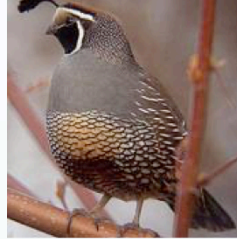
These two will be residing in the triple grotto and the new Orangutan garden outdoor habitat. The triple grotto was designed to exhibit both chimpanzees and orangutan's without barriers. In 2003, the Zoo still had orangutans there.



## The more you know...

California's state symbols:

- Tree – California Redwood
- Flower – California Poppy
- Insect – California Dogface Butterfly
- Fish – California Golden Trout
- Amphibian – Red-legged frog
- Reptile – Desert Tortoise
- Marine Reptile – Leatherback Sea Turtle
- Bird – California Valley Quail
- Mammal – California Grizzly Bear
- Marine Mammal – Gray Whale
- Grass - Purple needlegrass
- Lichen – Lace Lichen
- Fossil – Saber-toothed Cat



These are some interesting bits of information you may find useful. The California Grizzly is extinct. Try to find out which of these species are represented at the zoo.

## Zoo History Concepts

- The San Francisco Zoo, we know today, was established in 1929 with the vision of Herbert Fleishhacker and Monarch the grizzly bear
- The Zoo's mission is to connect people with wildlife, inspire caring for nature and advance conservation action.
- Environmental education and conservation are a major part of zoos today.

Corresponds with Zoo History Study Guide and Zoo History page on the Zoo's website: [www.sfzoo.org](http://www.sfzoo.org)

## Zoo History Vocabulary

- Menagerie
- Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
- Species Survival Plans (SSP)

### Definitions:

**Menagerie:** a collection of wild animals kept in captivity for exhibition

**Works Progress Administration (WPA):** a former federal agency (1935–43) charged with instituting and administering public works in order to relieve national unemployment during the Great Depression.

**AZA: Association of Zoos and Aquariums** accredits zoos and aquariums that have met rigorous standards.

**SSPs: Species Survival Plans** are management programs that oversees the welfare of endangered species in captivity.