

Mission Statement

The Indianapolis Zoo will empower people and communities, both locally and globally, to advance animal conservation.

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Indianapolis Zoo

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Rob Shumaker Joins Indianapolis Zoo Staff *Experienced Zoo Professional to Lead Curatorial Team*

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Zoo is pleased to announce that Dr. Rob Shumaker has joined the staff of the Indianapolis Zoo as Vice President of Life Sciences. Dr. Shumaker will be leading the Zoo's curatorial team in all aspects of the management and care of the Zoo's animal and plant collection. Shumaker has exceptional credentials for this role, with over 25 years of diverse experience working in Association of Zoos & Aquariums accredited institutions, including 20 years at the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo. He comes to Indianapolis from Des Moines, Iowa, where he was Director of Orangutan Research at the Great Ape Trust.



Two of the special projects that Dr. Shumaker worked on at the National Zoo were the design of the national award-winning *Think Tank* exhibit, and the design and implementation of a ground breaking cognitive research program with orangutans. While best known for his work with orangutans, Dr. Shumaker has a great deal of experience with and interests in a wide range of animals, as well as a deep passion for plants and gardening, as evidenced by his serving as President of the Board of Directors at the Des Moines Botanical and Environmental Center.

Dr. Shumaker has authored a number of scientific articles that have been published in peer reviewed journals and scholarly books on a wide variety of subjects. He is currently on the faculty at Drake University, Iowa. He is the author of two books, *Primates in Question* and *Orangutans*, and has a third book (dealing with animal tool use) that will be published in 2011. Along with being widely published, Dr. Shumaker has also appeared in dozens of documentaries and programs airing on National Geographic, Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, the BBC and PBS. He is widely consulted on animal welfare issues, particularly those involving primates, and has been invited to lecture on these topics around the world.

Dr. Shumaker is active in orangutan conservation issues and currently serves on the boards of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, Indonesia, and the Orangutan Conservancy, United States.

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Shumaker Joins Zoo

Rob Shumaker received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D., from George Mason University. He is an Affiliate Professor at Iowa State University and an External Research Associate at the Krasnow Institute at George Mason University.

Dr. Shumaker will enjoy a transition period this spring as he prepares to re-locate to Indianapolis.

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About the Indianapolis Zoo

Located in White River State Park downtown, the Indianapolis Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the American Association of Museums as a zoo, aquarium and botanical garden. The Indianapolis Zoo will empower people and communities, both locally and globally, to advance animal conservation. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.