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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
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Historical Note

Prior to the early 1960s, management of the animal collections at the National Zoological Park (NZN) was primarily the responsibility of the animal keepers. In 1961, the Animal Department was created, with Waldfried T. Roth in charge as General Curator. Roth resigned in 1964, and Donald R. Dietlein was appointed Manager of the Department. The Animal Department was renamed the Department of Living Vertebrates in 1968, with Donald D. Bridgwater as Head. The Department of Living Vertebrates was abolished in 1971, and administration of the animal collection passed to Floris M. Garner, Assistant Director for Zoological Programs. Garner resigned the following year, and the Office of Animal Management (OAM) was created. Jaren G. Horsley was General Curator of OAM until 1979, when animal management was reorganized and became the Office of Animal Programs. At that time, John F. Eisenberg was appointed Assistant Director for Animal Programs. Eisenberg resigned his position in 1982.

Descriptive Entry

These records primarily document the management of animal collections at NZN from the late 1960s through the early 1980s, with a small amount of material covering the years before that date span. Included are administrative memoranda and correspondence concerning the acquisition, shipment, breeding, health, and feeding of the animals, as well as information on personnel, safety, budget, and research. Also included are annual reports, animal inventories, and keepers' reports.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Animals -- Transportation
- Veterinary medicine
- Zoo animals
- Zoos

Types of Materials:

- Manuscripts
- Pamphlets
- Serials (publications)

Names:

- Bridgwater, Donald D.
- Dietlein, Donald R.
- Eisenberg, John Frederick, 1935-
- Garner, Floris M.
- Horsley, Jaren G.
- National Zoological Park (U.S.). Animal Department
- National Zoological Park (U.S.). Department of Living Vertebrates
- National Zoological Park (U.S.). Office of Animal Management
- Roth, Waldfried T.

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