WVMA Goes Wild! Introducing Zoo School
When the Veterinarians Come Out to Play
By Meg Mueller, DVM, WVMA Board President

On Friday, October 11, the Wisconsin veterinary community will converge on the Milwaukee County Zoo for Zoo School—a unique educational and social event created by the WVMA in partnership with the wonderful team that makes the Zoo a fantastic place to visit. During my four years on the WVMA Board of Directors, I’ve been excited about the new events we have experimented with to connect and educate our members. However, I’m not ashamed to admit that Zoo School is my new favorite, and I am thrilled to host it as this year’s Board President. Let me tell you what the Board, staff, and Zoo team have been planning.

Peek-A-Zoo Zoo School will meld two popular events—last year’s inaugural Summer School held at Madison College and the Reconnect the Vets event held at the Milwaukee County Zoo in 2022. Both events were wildly popular, with just the right blend of energy and education that we’ll expand upon at Zoo School.

We’ll pack a lot into a single day. The zoo will open nearly two hours early for the WVMA. Our attendees can walk around in private before attending one of the memorable, intimate animal experiences designed specifically for our WVMA community (see pages 2-3). Attendees will receive scientific CE credit and behind-the-scenes access to zookeepers who will hone in on our topics of interest. As the zoo opens to the public at 9:30 a.m., attendees head off to school for relevant and timely sessions on small animal, large animal, and equine topics. Zoo School attendees can receive up to five credits of scientific CE for the day.

Roam Sweet Roam Zoo School will have plenty of time to enjoy the zoo. We’re skipping a keynote speaker and providing walkable lunches to maximize your animal time. When the afternoon CE sessions wrap up, join the zookeepers for a second up-close animal experience before ending the day with our social hour, The Wildlife Wine Down. The Wildlife Wine Down begins as the Zoo closes to the public and will feature light snacks, music, sponsor giveaways, and onsite ambassador animals.

Roar and Restore As a veterinary student, I was fortunate to visit the Dublin Zoo. I immediately recognized the overlap between caring for zoo animals and caring for the creatures most veterinarians see in clinic. Ever since, I’ve made visits to zoos a regular feature in my travels. Every time I go, I feel the energy of the animals, the excitement for their well-being, and gratitude for being a part of our profession.

I encourage you to make time to attend Zoo School and consider bringing members of your staff. This is an educational experience and an unforgettable bonding opportunity—something we all need in these busy times. Personally, I’m looking forward to visiting Big Cat Country… especially if the red pandas are cooperating that day.

Watch for full schedule, costs, and registration in the late spring or early summer.