



P.O. Box 67981, Los Angeles, California 90067 • Tel. (213) 274-3169



THE GIRLS FROM LAIKIPIA SCHOOL CELEBRATE THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR FIRST VISIT—JOINED BY RETIRING MINISTER OF WILDLIFE & TOURISM WANJIGI.



## DIRECTORS

Stefanie Powers  
Deane Johnson  
Don Hunt  
Iris Breidenbend  
Paul Ziffren



P.O. BOX 67981, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A. 90067  
Telephone (213) 274-3169

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Dear Friends,

In the last few months, things have been very busy at both the Education Center, and the adjoining Mt. Kenya Game Ranch.

The ranch hosts our students who come to familiarize themselves with African animals. Most of these young people have never seen the animals of their own country.

The rains came abundantly this year, people and animals were grateful - unfortunately the disasters of draught and famine in the neighboring areas only helped to point out the desperate need of spreading the knowledge of the importance conservation of animals play in the preservation of the land.

Proper eco-balance can avoid the horrors of the past few years. It is still not too late to recover, but education is clearly the only eventual solution.

In this issue we are featuring a story on the Bongo. The concerted effort to preserve this rare species is taking on the most exciting new scientific advancements. I hope you will join me in supporting these efforts.

Warmest regards,

*Stefanie Powers*  
Stefanie Powers  
President



# THE EAST AFRICAN BONGO



The bongo is an extremely shy and elusive forest-dwelling member of the antelope family (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*). A fully-grown male stands four feet at the shoulder and weighs nearly 500 pounds. Chestnut red, with white vertical stripes down the chest and black markings on the face and legs, make the bongo one of the most beautiful and rare creatures of the underbrush. Because of their shyness, behavioral studies in the wild have been very difficult. Some sources say they travel in groups of 2 or 3 and that old bulls are often found on their own. However, the bongo has never been an animal easy to find in the forest, let alone study.

The combination of habitat destruction, poaching and illegal trapping is responsible for the decline in the bongo population. This makes our captive herds most essential for the survival of the species. The largest herd of captive bongo is located on the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch with births every year. It is because of the efforts of William Holden and Don Hunt that bongo have been sent to zoos around the world and active breeding programs are now in progress.

Dr. Warren Thomas, Director of the Los Angeles Zoo, has been in the forefront of the captive breeding of bongos in zoos and is the most successful breeder in the world, second only to the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch.

One of the greatest problems with captive breeding is refreshing the gene pool. Often adult animals must be transported on breeding loans from parks and zoos at great expense and occasionally, risk to the animals. In pursuit of safer methods, Dr. Thomas, along with others in the zoo community, have looked to frozen semen and embryos as an alternative. In 1985 another breakthrough occurred—Dr. Betsy Dresser took seven frozen embryos from Dr. Thomas' bongo back to her research center at the Cincinnati Zoo. These were implanted into host females of a prolific species called the eland. The eland is the largest of the antelope and beige in color, but as a ruminant has the same cardiovascular and digestive system as the bongo. The results were that a healthy female bongo was born with no genetic interference by the host mother. This could be the future for endangered species who are also difficult breeders.



**Dr. Betsy Dresser, Dr. Warren Thomas, and Dr. Earl Pope.**

Visitors to our animal orphanage feed this rare and precious creature by hand. Sadly, this animal is hardly ever seen today, in the wild. It is clear to see from its beauty why the Bongo became the symbol of the Ranch and the Foundation. It is our pride and joy!

—Research by Leslie Bogart

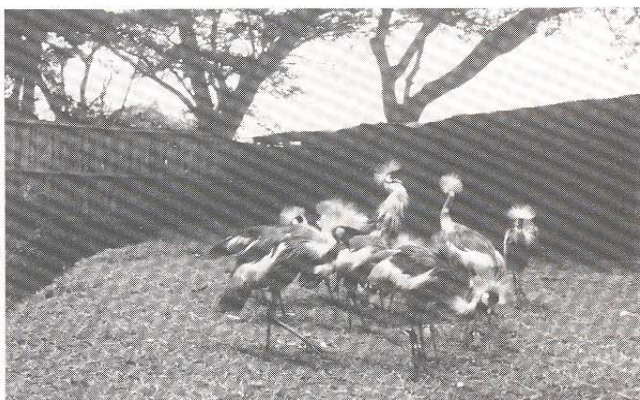




*At the Alexander III Bridge in Paris, president Peter Mentges of Vuarnet-France and president Roger Pouilloux of Pouilloux S.A., present a check to Stefanie Powers, president of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation.*



*Winners of our Safari Raffle, Marsha Wolf and John James, as seen at the Education Center.*



*The Mt. Kenya Game Ranch proudly announces the birth of two crown cranes.*



*Tamu, a female cervil cat, was hand-raised at the Ranch. Here she meets her prospective husband, brought from the wild. We hope they will get to know each other a lot better.*

Just a reminder that the Foundation has WHWF t-shirts!  
The shirts sell for \$10.00 plus postage (\$2.00 handling).

Checks can be made out to:  
THE WILLIAM HOLDEN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION  
P.O. Box 67981, Los Angeles, CA 90067

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