

Wild at Metro Zoo

Metro Zoo numbered including more than between the first of re 104 births and 81 ch are endangered sts approximately ton of herbivore

pellets is consumed daily and weekly one ton of meat, one ton of vegetables, 1,000 pounds of fruit, 1,000 pounds of fish as well as hay, browse and miscellaneous grocery products such as Hershey's chocolate and Dainty Rice for the gorillas.
The tropical plant collection includes 500 species - 400 trees, 4,000 shrubs, and endless

ground cover, plus 6,000 square feet of tropical sod which stays green all year round.

The day starts at 6 a.m. in the main kitchen at Metro Toronto Zoo. Sergio Oyarzun, the Commissary Supervisor and animal nutritionist, oversees a staff of eight full-time assistants (and one extra in the summer) who prepare and distribute the food for all the Zoo animals, making certain the portions are fresh, clean and the right quantity. Each different diet, from mixtures of carrots and apples to pigeon grain and "Exotic Fowl Krumbles", is individually packaged and marked with the animal's name. The contents are fed to the animals by the Zoo keepers.

The food is of the highest table quality, most of it identical to the food consumed by humans. The grocery list, in general, reads like any householder's, but in somewhat larger quantities. In the kitchen coolers, apples by the basket, crates of grapes, pears, bananas (over 1,000 pounds a month), oranges, melons, boxes of lettuce, tomatoes, celery, carrots, yams, potatoes, eggplants and cabbages, along with packaged spinach, cartons of eggs and even cottage cheese, are delivered daily to ensure freshness. Orange juice and baby foods, boxes of raisins, figs, dates and nuts add to the aura of a thriving marketplace.

Zoo officials urge visitors to wear comfortable walking shoes during a trip to the zoo as there are more than six miles of walkways in the 710-acre complex.

Visitors planning on a day at the zoo and travelling from Halton should take the Meadowvale Rd. North cutoff from Highway 401.

The cutoff is signed and the zoo is easy to find once off the highway. Visitors shouldn't plan on seeing everything there is to see in one day at the zoo.

Families with young children should make arrangements for a stroller. Strollers and wheelchairs are available for rent at the zoo and the buildings have been constructed to accommodate both strollers and wheelchairs.



GROUP of Sitatunga, swamp dwelling antelope from Africa, near their pool in the African Pavilion. Two Comb ducks keep them company.

(Photo by Metro Zoo)



TWO RARE Rhinos wander outside the African Pavilion. Their compound is three and a half acres.

(Photo by Metro Zoo)



THIS CHARACTER ENTERTAINS visitors. He flips about an enclosed area with a great degree of flexibility.



THE FLORA AND FAUNA at the Zoo is impressive for visitors.



EVEN MacDONALD'S RESTAURANT is made to conform to a natural setting for wild animals.



A GROUP OF ELEPHANTS prove interesting to zoo visitors. Often visitors can come within close range of the huge animals.

By
Bob Burt