

P R O G R E S S R E P O R T

Summer 2003



Alejandro

Emilia

Christina



LEMUR CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

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L to R: Alejandro, Emilia and Christina
May 2003



LEMUR CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

Dear Lemur Conservation Foundation Friends,

In the wake of the socio-economic foment we have experienced over the last year, I'm happy to present this Progress Report replete with positive advancements on the lemur front. This good news begins with the birth of another mongoose lemur, Emilia. Seen on the cover with her mother, Christina, and year-old brother, Alejandro, she is named for Emily Fisher Alexander, one of our greatest champions. This wonderful event, combined with our other progress over the past year, has been possible because of the tremendous support and community spirit of our friends and colleagues. For if the real meaning of community is to inspire and encourage each other with wit, intelligence, and compassion, then LCF indeed qualifies as a caring community.

I've become ever more mindful of how much energy and imagination (fueled by funding of course) it takes to accomplish our mission of securing the future of lemurs. Every aspect of our growing operation has been articulated by someone in our own dedicated LCF community of Board members, scientists, staff, and contributors. For instance, it was Ian Tattersall (scientist) who thought up the very idea for the reserve. It was Bob Sussman (scientist) who suggested we try to establish the Center for Lemur Studies (the future library). It was Linda Taylor (scientist) who came up with the idea for the wonderfully successful Field Training Program.

It was Emily Fisher Alexander (donor) who asked how we might make better use of our idle land, to which Jim Toomey (board chairman) suggested we plant a forest. Plant a forest! From a simple collaborative idea a plan is created for another forest home for more lemurs. And every single day, Brian Grossi and Monica Hoffine (lemur care staff) provide innovative ideas to improve the lot of the animals themselves.

In sum, I'm endlessly wowed by the creative guidance and dedicated counsel that drives our conservation foundation. Every one of you is involved in our shared vision. Many of you have come to the reserve and volunteered your time -- planting trees, painting houses, and building the greenhouse, to name a few projects. Others have provided professional expertise and services to the LCF.

To those who can neither come to the reserve nor contribute services but remain our staunch financial patrons, we celebrate you. After all, you insure the lifeline of the whole operation and without your gifts, we could not possibly succeed. We value your input. The more engaged you are the more tangible and recognizable are our efforts to save one small part of our ailing earth.

Please keep your ideas, insights, and assistance coming our way and visit us if you can.
Warmest personal regards,



Penelope Bodry-Sanders
Executive Director

Changes and Additions in the LCF Team



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

We are happy to report that **James K. Toomey**, who has served on the LCF Board of Trustees for the past three years, has been elected as the Foundation's first Chairman of the Board. His leadership has helped move the Foundation forward, and through his vision and drive to realize ideas he will help see us succeed into the future.

FUNDRAISING CONSULTANT

Mackarness M. Goode, who has served as LCF Treasurer since 1996, has rotated off the Board but will continue volunteering as fundraising consultant for LCF. Mack led LCF through a successful first campaign to establish the Foundation as a viable force in the conservation community. We are most grateful for his dedication and ever-ready counsel. Board Member **Gail Erickson** takes over the responsibilities of Treasurer.



NEW BOARD APPOINTMENT

Michael T. Martin is LCF's newest member of the Board of Trustees. He has a long history of unfailing advocacy in preserving the natural world. Michael has served on the board of Sarasota's prestigious Mote Marine Laboratory for over 13 years, three of those as chairman. He is currently Chairman of the Mote Foundation, an overseeing committee, and serves on the boards of Animal Rescue

Coalition, based in Sarasota, and the Morris Animal Foundation, based in Denver. Michael has a special passion for thoroughbred horses, which he owns, breeds, and races. But it is his fascination for lemurs that brings him to LCF, along with his desire to see them survive into the next century. With Michael's participation on our team, we believe that shared vision will come to fruition.

New Member Of The Scientific Advisory Council

Eleanor Sterling is Director of the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC). In her capacity as a conservation biologist, Dr. Sterling also conducts fieldwork, studying the distribution patterns of biodiversity in tropical regions of the world and translating this information into recommendations for conservation managers. Her work combines analyses of resource use by local communities and examination of faunal and floral distribution patterns in order to identify potential and actual threats to biodiversity.

Dr. Sterling has more than 15 years of field research experience in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, where she conducted surveys and censuses, as well as behavioral, ecological, and genetic studies of primates, whales, and

other mammals. She is distinguished in the world of prosimian studies for her extensive work on Aye-Ayes, a nocturnal species of lemur. Dr. Sterling serves on the management committee of the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation and on the Society for Conservation Biology Board of Governors. For the last five years, she has served as an adjunct professor at Columbia University, where she has taught classes in conservation biology to undergraduate, graduate, and continuing students. Dr. Sterling is currently the Director of Graduate Studies for Columbia's Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology. Dr. Sterling received her B.A. in psychobiology from Yale College in 1983 and her Ph.D. in anthropology, forestry, and environmental studies from Yale University in 1993.



Visitors on the Reserve

Dr. Linda Sheridan and daughters Madeline and Ellie with the Red-fronted brown lemurs.



LCF trustee Michael T. Martin and Ellen McKeefe with a Red ruffed lemur.



Dr. Joelisoa Ratsirarson, National Coordinator of ESSA Forests at Tampolo (LCF's sister reserve in Madagascar), visited the reserve in June.

Kate Groode enjoys the charms of Tsard, LCF's Red ruffed ambassador



Monica introduces Nan Kanagy to Christina and Emilia. Photo by Kevin Kanagy.

Lemur Collection Plan by Ian Tattersall



At the recent LCF Board Meeting, my fellow LCF scientists and I reviewed the Foundation's original aim, which is to ensure the propagation into the indefinite future of a population of certain lemur species that reproduce readily but that other organizations have chosen to abandon. We have made the following recommendations to insure the integrity of our mission.

By zoning laws LCF is legally restricted to 90 animals (one animal per acre). This by itself limits the number of lemur species that can be supported at the Reserve, but management issues (principally, which taxa will coexist peaceably in each of the two outdoor enclosures) are also important. Currently, the Reserve has many more taxa than we can maintain over the long term: *Eulemur fulvus rufus*, *Lemur catta*, *E. mongoz*, *E. coronatus*, *E. f. albifrons*, *Varecia rubra*, and *Haplorhina griseus*. We are thus at a point at which choices about future directions will have to be made.

Given the realities of the situation, LCF should restrict the core lemur population to four taxa, so that each of them can be maintained in perpetuity. As long as the Reserve only has two enclosures, LCF is limited to two species of *Eulemur* because different species of this genus will not coexist harmoniously in the same enclosure. The suggested core *Eulemur* taxa are *E. mongoz* and *E. f. mayottensis*. LCF will continue to maintain and augment its existing (and successfully breeding) *E. mongoz* population, while we anticipate success in obtaining the *E. f. mayottensis*.

We have already arranged to out-place the *E. coronatus*, and we can probably find an organization to accept the *E. fulvus rufus*. We will continue to maintain the single white-fronted brown lemur.



Additionally, *Mayotte lemur* (*Eulemur fulvus mayottensis*)

we will maintain the red-ruffed lemur and the ring-tailed lemur populations, one in each enclosure. These animals can coexist with either of the core *Eulemur* species and will give the LCF a two-pronged lemur propagation strategy. The *Eulemur* species are "orphan" taxa that are not being bred or maintained elsewhere, and thus require the LCF to maintain a relatively high target population of individuals, perhaps of around 20 animals each if this proves feasible. The ruffed and the ring-tailed lemurs are participant species in organized nationwide management strategies coordinated by the AZA (American Zoo and Aquarium Association), and it is intended that LCF will actively participate in these larger efforts. *Varecia rubra* should probably remain in the current enclosure due to the larger selection of broad-leaved trees, and *E. mongoz* will be maintained with them. The new enclosure will then house the Mayotte lemurs and the *L. catta*. It is premature at this point to decide what will be done if for some reason the Mayotte

lemurs do not come to the Reserve. Finally, the *H. griseus* will remain where they are unless significant management issues arise.

It is possible that LCF may be asked to accommodate breeding requests for other non-*Eulemur* SSP (Species Survival Plan) species. Given the limitations of space and resources at the Reserve, we should be cautious in acceding to such requests. Even though the lemur population at the Reserve is low now, it is important for LCF to maintain viable breeding populations for each of the core species, which may well bring us close to our legal limit. There are, of course, potential behavioral limitations that are hard to predict and that may also affect the populations we are able to maintain over the longer term. Optimal use of our acreage and resources is something that will emerge with experience, and some flexibility is thus indicated. It would be unwise, however, to lose sight of LCF's basic mission, which is to maintain the four core species.



Students Abound! by Brian Grossi

LCF hosted its first official interns in January 2003. Alison Messina, Sara Mapes, and Katie Chapman volunteered three weeks of their college winter break to learn animal care and research techniques. Alison is a third-year wildlife biology major at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Katie and Sara are both biology students at New College in nearby Sarasota. Sara is a senior and is currently conducting her undergrad-

uate thesis research at LCF this summer; Katie is a junior (with a second major in psychology) and hopes to do her thesis research here next year.

The first week of the internship revolved around caring for the lemurs. The students assisted Monica in the daily feeding and cleaning routine at the shelter. This practice also allowed the interns to become acquainted with the colony. They were trained

to distinguish the lemurs on sight while they are in the trees, and they became familiar with different social interactions, vocalizations, and favorite lemur "hang-outs" in the forest. The first week ended with the interns assisting us with the annual lemur physicals. This was a very special opportunity for them because not only did it allow a close-up inspection of the lemurs' anatomy, it was also excellent training for their future careers. They saw how lemurs respond to anesthesia, how to properly capture and restrain the lemurs, draw blood, take hand-prints and body measurements, and clean their teeth. This was practical experience that is



Beriddled, at home in the Reserve's bamboo stand.

(Photo by Kevin Kanagy.)

extremely difficult to come by at a university or even as a zoo volunteer.

The balance of the internship revolved around research and data collection techniques. With clipboards in hand, the students followed the lemurs through the forest for up to six hours a day, meticulously watching their every move and recording what they saw. Their first assignment was to write an ethogram, a comprehensive list of behaviors. Using this list as a guide, the techniques of focal animal sampling (following a single animal for a period of time) and scan sampling (recording what an individual or a group is doing at preset intervals) are possible. For peculiar behaviors that did not fit the ethogram, ad libitum notes were taken. Once the interns were trained to take data, Sara, Katie, Alison, Monica, and I all began watching the lemurs for the foundation's first research endeavor. We recorded (and continue to record) what Florida native plants are consumed while the colony is ranging in the forest. Although the project is



New college interns Sara Mapes and Katie Chapman observing lemur behavior in the canopy.

not that exciting, it is very important information to have. We will be able to compare our data with data collected by other institutions, such as Duke Primate Center and St. Catherine's Wildlife Research Center. We will be able to recommend to zoological parks new species of plants to feed their lemurs for dietary and environmental enrichment And we could potentially learn just how adaptable lemurs are in their environment, which could help identify sites in Madagascar suitable for lemur translocation or reintroduction.

The interns' visit was followed quickly by our second annual group of students from the University of Miami. Again under the leadership of Dr. Linda Taylor (LCF scientific advisor) and Marsha Fernandez (curator of primates at Audubon Zoo, New Orleans), eight students spent their spring break at the Reserve for an intensive and exhausting class in applied field methods of primatology. With temperatures in March already approaching 90 degrees, they worked from dawn until dusk diligently noting the lemurs' behavior, mapping the lemurs' daily paths of travel, and collecting food and fecal samples. One evening the students were required to follow the lemurs until they settled down to sleep. They wound up working until after 9.PM. because the brown lemurs were busy foraging on new leaf shoots under the full moon!

The final day of the class was somewhat more relaxing. In the morning we sedated several lemurs so the students could take body measurements and handprints and examine dentition and tooth-wear patterns. We also put new collars on the red-ruffed lemurs for easier identification in the trees and palpated Christina's abdomen to discover she was pregnant with Emilia! Later in the afternoon, the class planted a dozen new trees around the Reserve — guavas and a star fruit in the lemur enclosure and maples around the research center and caretaker's house. The day wrapped up with a barbeque dinner where last year's class survivors joined us, and everyone had a lot of fun.

With all these dedicated and enthu-



Redwing relaxing on a summer afternoon. (Photo by Kevin Kanagy.)

siastic students, the Myakka City Lemur Reserve is quickly becoming a campus for inspiring and building the conservation experts who will affect the sustainability of global diversity in the future.



Tracy Williams (LCF volunteer) and Alison Messina (intern from Rutgers University) perform the annual teeth cleaning recommendation of an anesthetized Ring-tailed lemur.



The Coming of Emilia

Sometime in the wee morning hours on May 5, LCF gained another mongoose lemur when Christina gave birth to a healthy female baby. The little lady was clean and dry by breakfast, when Brian arrived to discover the good news. Emilia (named after Emily Fisher Alexander) weighed 55 grams at birth – just like her brother, Alejandro. She is doing very well and seems to enjoy being the center of attention. Alejandro grooms his little sister on a regular basis. The entire family is being contained at the shelter until Emilia gets a little bigger. We don't want to take any chances with our newest addition! In a couple of months Emilia will be strong enough to move from her current position on Christina's belly to riding on her mother's back. When Christina feels that her daughter is old enough, Emilia will catch rides with Gustavo, or maybe even Alejandro. From what we've seen of Alejandro's progress, it will not be long before Emilia is leaping through the forest, foraging for food and causing general mayhem.



9 June 2003

*Penelope Bodry-Sanders
Lemur Conservation Foundation
Myakka City, Florida*

Dear Penelope,

I want to congratulate LCF on the birth of your second mongoose lemur baby! Christina has proven to be a great mom. Not only has she done a superb job of raising her baby, she's done it in a free-ranging, mixed-species environment. As you know, over the past several years we have been experiencing some reproductive challenges with mongoz. For the past four years, I've recommended seven pairings for breeding a year; however, we have not succeeded in getting more than one or two births each year. Last year Christina produced the only infant born; this year she produced one of two infants born. She's also been the only mongoz since I've been the SSP Coordinator to produce babies in consecutive years (they usually skip a year). It must be the Florida sunshine, lots of exercise, and Brian's excellent care!

Currently, space is the most critical issue we face in managing captive populations. Additionally, many facilities opt to hold only a few of the more charismatic species of lemurs, so many of the less charismatic species are being managed out of collections. I (and the mongoose lemurs) am grateful that you have chosen to work with this wonderfully feisty little lemur. Without the support of people like you, this is a species that we would not be able to maintain in captivity. The future is uncertain for so many species, though, and we need to do what we can to make a difference in their future in the hope that a time will come when their habitat is protected and they are safe in the wilds of Madagascar. Again, thank you and congratulations!

Sincerely,

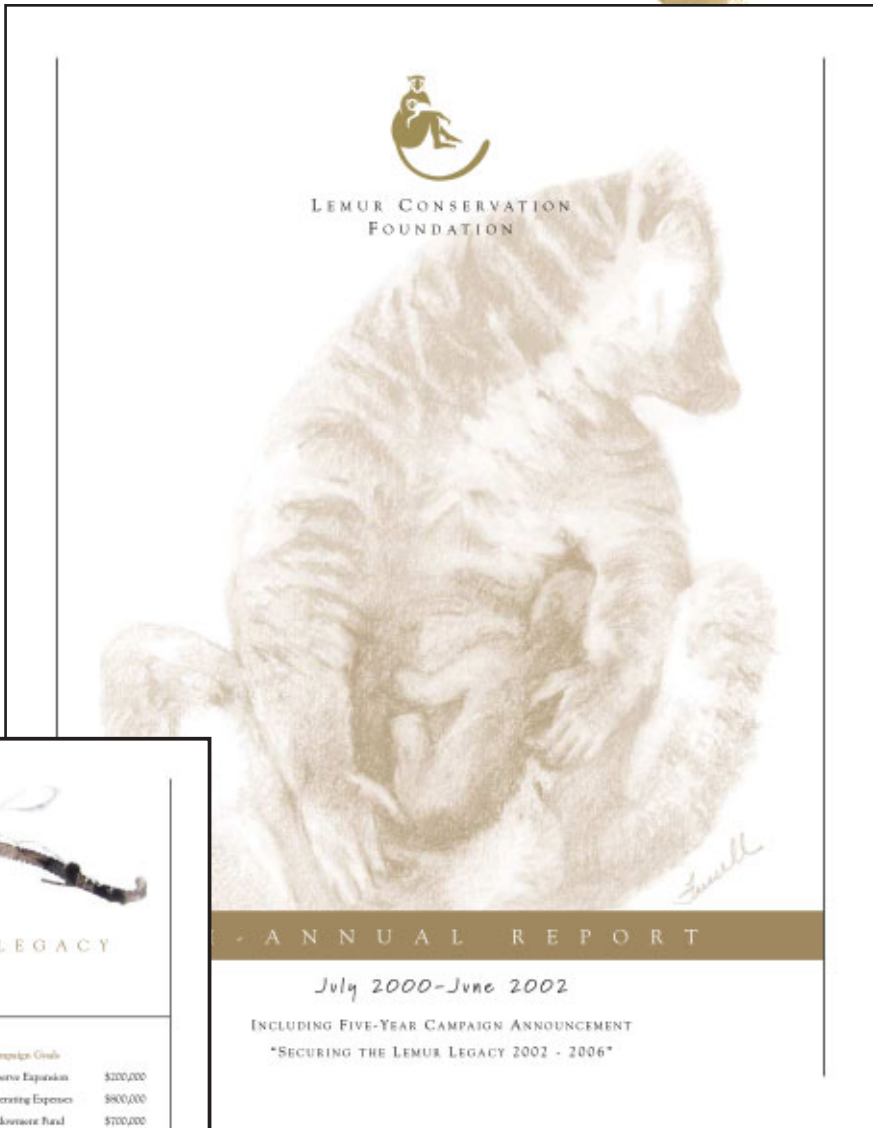
*Tammie Bettinger, PhD
Coordinator, Mongoose Lemur SSP
Disney's Animal Kingdom, Orlando, FL*

LCF Report Wins International Design Award



The DesignWorks NY team that has created our Bi-Annual Reports and Progress Reports over the last three years (including this one) won an international award for the design of last year's LCF Bi-Annual Report. The International Summit Award honors the creative excellence of smaller advertising agencies throughout the world.

"We're thrilled with the win, especially for a piece so close to our hearts," says Creative Director Kelley Briggs. "Working with the LCF team is always fulfilling. It allows us to donate our creative work to a cause that we believe in, with the added satisfaction of creating an effective and memorable piece."



SECURING THE LEMUR LEGACY
2002 - 2006

Financing by Deborah Koss

"The Campaign to Secure the Lemur Legacy" (2002-2006) is a \$1,200,000 program that will move the Lemur Conservation Foundation (LCF) into the future as we deepen our commitment to the preservation and conservation of Madagascar primates through captive breeding, scientific research, education, and reintroduction. This Campaign seeks to strengthen the general operational funds, expand the physical reserve to facilitate the arrival of additional animals, and establish an endowment fund to ensure a financially healthy future.

The overall goal may seem ambitious. However, through the spectacular generosity of our Board and a few dedicated donors, we have already secured \$1,300,000 in commitments and feel confident that we will succeed in our reach. Of a major gift from John and Emily Alexander (\$950,000), \$500,000 has been designated for the Alexander Endowment - the purpose of which will be long-term support for a variety of conservation initiatives and research and education programs. We hope that you will demonstrate your continued loyalty and generosity in making "The Campaign to Secure the Lemur Legacy" an enormous success. We are most grateful to those of you who have supported us over the last few years. We could not have reached this important milestone without you.

We will be doubly grateful if you could increase your yearly support. You may also designate your specific area of interest. To our other friends, your participation, at whatever level, will be most welcome and significant. Please help us ensure the success of this critical endeavor. We all look forward to a future full of lemurs!

Warmest regards,

Penelope Boddy-Standen
Penelope Boddy-Standen
President

Campaign Goals	
Reserve Expansion	\$320,000
Operating Expenses	\$800,000
Endowment Fund	\$700,000

LEMUR CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

DesignWorks NY is a full-service, integrated marketing communications firm whose client list includes American Express and Pitney Bowes. We at LCF are thrilled for their global recognition and most grateful for their continued efforts on our behalf. Congratulations!



Acknowledgements July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

\$250,000+

John & Emily Fisher Alexander
(partially via the Steward
Foundation)

\$15,000+

Mark Braunstein &
Katherine McKenna (via Tower
Products, Inc.)
Judy Rasmuson & Ron Wallace

\$10,000+

Malcolm & Priscilla McKenna
Marilyn North
James & Lori Toomey
Brenda Wood

\$5,000+

Michael & Jean Martin
Nancy Taylor

\$3,000+

Stephanie Guest & Richard Ellis
Natalee Lee Quay

\$2,000+

Penelope Bodry-Sanders
& Mackarness M. Goode
Gail Erickson & Christa Rice
Cynthia Wilder

\$1,000+

Susan Givens
Carol Levy
Kathryn Myers
Donald & Margaret Segur
Ian Tattersall & Jeanne Kelly

\$500+

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Edward & Connie Bransilver
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\$300+

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\$200+

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Nancy & Ned Walworth
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\$50+

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Carla Jo & Peter Grimes
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Michelle New
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Abraham Ruttenburg
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Alicia Stevens
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\$25+

Mahalia Binstock (Judith Perlman
& Rober Binstock)
Judy Magida
Stephen & Sandy Teitelbaum

Listed above are actual contributions, rather than pledges, received during this time period. We apologize for any omissions or errors and request that you please inform us of any oversights.

Gifts in Kind July 2002 – June 2003

Allison Baron and Sharretts, Paley, & Carter _____ legal services
 Bobble-Head World _____ lemur bobble-heads
 Phil & Melissa Brewer _____ plants
 Katie Chapman _____ volunteer on Reserve
 Elizabeth Clement _____ publications supervisor
 DesignWorksNY, LLC _____ publications design
 Mackarness M. Goode _____ fundraising consultant
 Chris Hudson _____ volunteer on Reserve
 Sara Mapes _____ volunteer on Reserve
 Katharine McKenna _____ LCF artist – 2004 calendar
 McMaster's Sod _____ hosted LCF Board Dinner
 Alison Messina _____ volunteer on Reserve
 Sondra and Milton Schlesinger _____ artifacts and art from Madagascar
 Diana Shih _____ translator
 Linda Taylor _____ kitchen appliances
 Stephen Teitelbaum _____ discounted accounting services
 James Toomey _____ plants and financial support for legal counsel
 Carol Tucher _____ editing
 University of Miami Field Training Students _____ volunteers on Reserve
 Tracy Williams _____ volunteer on Reserve
 Phil Woolard _____ plants/trees



Wish List

- Portable gas powered generator (4000-12,000 watts)
- 48" Bush Hog mower
- Gift certificates to Lowes or Home Depot
- Electronic weather station capable of downloading data to a computer
- Frequent-flyer tickets for LCF staff and scientist business trips
- Hand-held computer with Windows CE (for lemur data collection)
- Veterinary equipment and supplies
- Large Rubber Maid storage shed



LEMUR
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

MYAKKA CITY LEMUR RESERVE
P.O. Box 249
Myakka City, FL 34251
(941) 322-8494

LCF is a tax-exempt publicly
supported organization
(ID 59-3359549) founded in 1996

The Lemur Conservation Foundation Team

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Dr. Ian Tattersall , Curator, Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History
Dr. Linda Tatlor , Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Miami

LEMUR CARETAKERS:

Brian Grossi	Manager, LPCF Myakka City Lemur Reserve
Monica Hoffine	Assistant lemur caretaker
Dr. Mark Davis	LCF Veterinarian

LCF Progress Report

Supervised by Elizabeth Clement
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