FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

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Go wild about zoo photography



At Home

MONTE A tremendous opportu-MAGLER nity to the photogra-

MAGLER nity to the photographer who wishes to capture an animal on film in its natural surroundings. Let's begin with equipment. In addi-

Let's begin with equipment. In addition to your camera body, a long telephoto (300-400mm) and a short telephoto (85-135mm) will work just fine. A flash for indoor exhibits will round out the essential equipment. Provisions for closeup photography will come in handy too.

Like people, animals have distinct personalities. Some are active, some lazy. Some are interested in us 'humans' peering at them, and some couldn't care less. Take time to study their movements and habits. Watch their routines — animals tend to be repetitious. Focus in on the part of the act you like and shoat. Animals are alert and active right before feeding so you be on the alert too. Shortly after feeding, most animals clean and groom themselves, and then it's siesta time. Each of these phases of animals behavior will offer rewarding photographs.

As always, be sure to check out your backgrounds. Make them as natural as possible, avoiding fences, telephone poles and other zoo visitors. If you have to shoot through a fence, don't worry. Just place the lens as close to the fence as possible and use a wide lens opening to minimize depth-of-field. In the final picture, the fence work even be there! Don't let those snakes and lizards

Don't let those snakes and lizards behind glass in indoor exhibits scare you off. If you press your camera and flash against the glass, all will be well, and unwanted reflections will be eliminated.

nated. Did you know that zoos offer much more than animal photography? In addition to being a fantastic place for flower and other folinge photography, zoos are a great place to observe other people, especially youngsters. Children and their reactions to the different kinds of animals and animal behavior can result in prize-winning candid pictures showing amazement, humor and surprise.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Nikon

Camera



Sot. 10-6

include Nikon USA



Gin and hear it: A 400mm lens enabled Monte Nagler to "move in close" and capture this polar bear's playful moment.
