

Primates to Receive Physician Care

ALBANY, NY – July 3rd 2007 – As a result of legislation (S.2135 Young/A.295 Pheffer) signed today by Governor Spitzer, many of the primates in zoos across the State will receive the treatment they need from qualified medical doctors.

The new law will allow New York State licensed and board certified physicians to provide medical care, under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, to a limited list of nine non-human primates at the ten premier non-profit zoos in the State accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) in cases in which a veterinary specialist is not available.

The legislation, which has been a priority for the Wildlife Conservation Society since its first introduction in 2005, achieved final passage by the Legislature in mid June.

“With the passage of this legislation, zoo veterinarians can now call on the expertise of their colleagues and specialists in human medicine to work with them to provide a cure,” said Robert Cook, Senior Vice President and General Director of Living Institutions for the Wildlife Conservation Society. “The loss of such noble and oftentimes endangered animals to illnesses that are otherwise treatable with the proper human medical expertise would be tragic.”

The new law, Chapter 176 of the Laws of 2007, took effect immediately upon signage.