

Kovler Lion House: a “purr-fectly” stunning landmark building; home to many rare cats!

What: Lincoln Park Zoo’s Kovler Lion House is home to some of the world’s rarest and most stunning big cats. Built in 1912 this historical landmark features some of Lincoln Park’s most beautiful architecture. The interior design was renovated in 1990 to increase the size of the exhibits for our beloved big and small cats. In 1997 the outdoor lion and tiger habitats were also renovated. The great hall was intentionally preserved and is an integral part of the building’s historical significance. A photo booth and gift shop located within the building allows visitors to capture their experience and bring home their own beautiful plush cat or souvenir. This unique historical landmark, home to gorgeous wildlife, can be reserved for private parties or various special events.

Size: 32,700 square feet

Opened: 1912; Newest exhibit renovations in 2007

Featured wildlife: Afghan leopard, African lion, Amur leopard, Amur tiger, Jaguar, Pallas' Cat, Puma, Red panda, and Serval.

Noteworthy Awards:

- **Chicago Landmark Award – 2006**
Preservation Excellence at the *Kovler Lion House* – Commission on Chicago Landmarks

Conservation Science Underway at Kovler and abroad:

- **Serengeti Health Initiative (Tanzania):** Lincoln Park Zoo is leading a consortium of researchers and wildlife health experts in Serengeti National Park, Tanzania working to protect threatened African lions, wild dogs and other carnivores (as well as people and domestic dogs) through a vaccination campaign to prevent transmissible diseases, such as rabies and canine distemper virus (CDV). The need for this project began in 1993, when scientists found lions dying from CDV. The disease swept through the interior of the park, decimating the lion population and driving the park’s resident African wild dogs to extinction. Lincoln Park Zoo’s on-going program offers free vaccinations throughout the year to thousands of domestic dogs living in villages and communities near the national park in order to protect those communities and prevent disease from spreading to wildlife inside the park. If this conservation action had not been taken quickly, the Serengeti ecosystem could have been forever changed.

- **Species Survival Plans**: Lincoln Park Zoo is part of the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's Species Survival Plans (SSP) which coordinates conservation education and field conservation efforts for threatened and endangered species.