

ZOO AND AQUARIUM PEST CONTROL: CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR UNIQUE CHALLENGES



Millions of people visit zoos and aquariums every year. They go to see gorillas, elephants, sea lions and whales — not rats, mice, roaches and ants. Besides degrading the aesthetic quality of parks and upsetting visitors, pests carry diseases that can adversely affect animal populations. Combined with damage to food supplies and physical facilities, pests can cause significant economic losses.

Orkin knows that pest control in zoological environments requires a delicate balance of preservation and extermination. We work with entomologists, safety specialists, and veterinary and pathology staffs at some of the nation's most renowned zoos and aquariums to develop creative solutions for unique pest control challenges. A few examples:



Sitting on 135 acres, the "State Zoo of Kentucky" exhibits more than 1,300

animals in naturalistic habitats and mixed-animal settings. From bat habitats to the Forest Bird Trail exhibit, Orkin works closely with the Zoo to come up with innovative techniques to manage pests without jeopardizing the animals. When earwigs became a problem in the bat exhibit, the Orkin Man buried cylinders filled with earwig bait. Under the watch of the bats perched safely above, the earwigs dug into the ground to take the bait, quickly eliminating the infestation. Meanwhile, to battle cockroaches invading the bird enclosure, Orkin created "bait sandwiches" with cardboard and insecticide bait. The cockroaches crawled inside to have their meal, leaving the birds free to fly like ... well, you know.



GEORGIA AQUARIUM

With 8 million gallons of fresh and marine water, and more than 100,000 animals representing 500 species from around the globe, Georgia Aquarium opened to great acclaim in November 2005 as the world's largest aquarium. Orkin began working behind the scenes with the Georgia Aquarium long before opening day to protect the animal quarantine facilities from pest infestations and develop an ongoing pest management program that would be safe and

invisible to the Aquarium's thousands of daily visitors. Orkin's program relies on a combination of mechanical traps and deodorizers to stop pest problems before they start. Technicians from Orkin's Atlanta Commercial branch quietly inspect the Aquarium weekly, and specialists from Orkin's national Technical Services team conduct quarterly inspections to further ensure quality and safety.



Zoo Atlanta's urban location in the heart of one of the nation's fastest-growing cities, combined with its abundant food sources and animal-friendly environments, makes rodent prevention especially challenging. Although baits are the best way to cure rodent problems, when you're protecting the second largest primate collection in North America, chemical strategies must be implemented with great care. Primates, much like toddlers, have a tendency to get into just about everything. Keeping this in mind, Orkin works closely with zoo staff to protect the gorilla enclosures from rats and mice with a series of tamper-resistant bait stations strategically placed where they will have the greatest impact on rodent populations, yet remain safely out of even the most curious gorilla's reach.