



Atis and Paul Zikmanis

Atis and Paul are longtime supporters of the Lemur Center. They recently spent an entire day here, participating in our "Keeper for the Day" program. Afterwards we sent them a list of five questions asking why they support the Center, but they were too excited about their Keeper for the Day experiences (recounted below) to answer all the questions!



Why we love lemurs and support the DLC.....

We love lemurs because they are so fun and so beautiful. Just look into their curious, playful eyes and you can't help but love them. We support the DLC for two reasons. First, to say thanks to the staff who do the hard work of caring for the lemurs. Second, to lead by example in hoping many others will help sustain and preserve forever these natural treasures.

We have been supporting the DLC for more than 11 years. Each year we have adopted a different species of lemur. As long time supporters we made a special trip from California as we wanted to experience all the DLC had to offer!

We started our day at 6:15am prepping meals for the lemurs with Julie and Mack, two very fun lemur technicians! We learned that each lemur receives a unique diet and learned how to read all the diet prep boards.

We then attended the daily technician meeting to learn what each technician was responsible for each day and to hear about the priorities for the day. After the meeting, we had breakfast with Charlie Welch and Andrea Katz. They are responsible for the conservation work in Madagascar and managing the DLC colony of lemurs.

After breakfast we were off to hang out with the lemurs in the forest while they ate the food we prepared. Steve, the keeper introduced to each of the lemurs and we were able to watch their personalities on display during feeding and play time.



We were treated to lunch with the DLC education department and Dr. Cathy Williams, the senior vet and were able to ask all about her daily work and her exciting adventures in Madagascar saving wild populations of lemurs.

After lunch we changed into scrubs and made aye-aye gruel and had the glamorous job of cleaning out enclosures! This gave us close up time with the enclosures residents! Paul had his phone stolen by a red ruffed lemur and Atis had his bald head tapped by an Aye-Aye!

After 11 years of support, we were able to spend 11 hours at the DLC meeting nearly the entire staff and, of course – the lemurs! The lemurs did not disappoint! We had an amazing time at the DLC! This is one day in our lives that we will never forget!
