



# Diary of a Zoo Vet

## Panda Checkups, Escaping Chimps and Life in the Wildest Clinic on Earth

**Tim Bouts**

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- A captivating book for all animal lovers
- Immerse yourself in the world of a passionate veterinarian and discover the fascinating stories from behind the scenes
- The author is an internationally renowned zoo veterinarian and the zoological director of the Sheikh of Qatar's remarkable Panda House
- From far-fetched accidents to captivating operations, from sedated elephants to escaped monkeys – thrills and suspense guaranteed!

Working as a vet in a large zoo is a dream job for many—but for Tim Bouts, it's reality. As Chief Veterinary Officer, he has spent over 20 years caring for animals in world-renowned parks like London Zoo. Today, he works at the Sheikh of Qatar's 'Panda House.' In this book, he shares remarkable stories from his diverse range of patients: a lion battling Covid, a hippopotamus with tuberculosis, a tigress with dental issues, and a gorilla suffering from chronic pain. Some of his anecdotes are heartwarming, like his first successful surgery, or welcoming baby pandas to Pairi Daiza in Belgium. Others are pulse-pounding, such as the failed anesthesia of an antelope, and the escape of two chimpanzees. And some are deeply moving, like the euthanasia of a herd of herpes-stricken elephants or the heartbreaking loss of a walrus mother and her calf. Through these stories, you'll get a front-row seat to Tim's daily work and a rare glimpse into his thoughts. He doesn't shy away from sensitive topics like euthanasia, contraception in zoos, and the challenges of quarantining animals.

**Tim Bouts** began his career as a veterinary surgeon at London Zoo and Whipsnade Zoo before working at several international wildlife parks. Today, he is the Zoological Director of the Sheikh of Qatar's renowned Panda House and travels the world on special assignments. He played a key role in rescuing the critically endangered Spix's macaw from extinction, helping to establish breeding programs and ultimately reintroducing the birds to their natural habitat in Brazil.

**1. Surgery**

The first time I performed surgery, I was in a state of complete panic. The patient was a lion, and I was the only veterinarian on duty. The operation was a routine procedure, but the lion's size and the pressure of the situation made it feel like I was performing a miracle. The lion was sedated, and I had to be careful not to give him too much. The surgery went smoothly, and the lion recovered quickly. It was a great experience, and I learned a lot from it.

The lion was a male, and he was about 10 years old. He had a small tumor on his neck, and we needed to remove it. The tumor was about the size of a grape, and it was growing in a sensitive area. I had to be very careful not to damage any of the surrounding tissue. The lion was very calm during the surgery, and I was able to complete the procedure without any complications. The lion was discharged the next day and is now doing well.

When you perform surgery on a lion, you have to be very careful. The lion is a large animal, and you have to be very careful not to hurt him. The lion was very calm during the surgery, and I was able to complete the procedure without any complications. The lion was discharged the next day and is now doing well.

**2. I am not a doctor**

I have always been interested in animals, and I have always wanted to work in a zoo. I have been a zookeeper for many years, and I have learned a lot about animals. I have also learned that I am not a doctor. I am a zookeeper, and I have to be very careful not to hurt the animals. I have to be very careful not to give them too much food, and I have to be very careful not to let them get too close to me. I have to be very careful not to let them get too close to me.

**3. DIY**

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