

# **CONGO AND STEVE**

*An Animated Series for all Primates*

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**M\*A\*S\*H meets SpongeBob when Congo and Steve, two sarcastic primates, try to have a little fun while driving everyone around them crazy.**

## **PREMISE**

**"Congo and Steve"** is a gag oriented animated series about the misadventures of two wisecracking **gorillas** at a private zoo. They are likened to a couple of high-school chums. They are the best of friends and are of one mind, most of the time. They pull pranks on one another, but know its just good clean fun. They also never miss an opportunity to pull a fast one on some of their neighbors at the zoo, but the other zoo residents don't always find their humor appealing. All in all they are very good-hearted creatures and their mischievous ways usually end up doing more good than harm.

Congo and Steve believe **Dr. Huegnoburg (HEWG-no-berg)**, the conniving administrator, is trying to shut down the zoo for "Evil" real estate purposes. So they rig up a transfer to bring in **Charlie Green**, a hot shot zookeeper, to help save the zoo. They end up breaking the rules of the "Animal Rules and Regulations Handbook" and start talking to Charlie, and only Charlie.

Charlie and **Monica Michelle**, the overly goodhearted assistant zookeeper, try to keep the zoo in shape despite Dr. Huegnoburg's schemes. **Rita the orangutan** and Charlie try to keep the gorillas in line but often get themselves tangled up in the two gorilla's crazy adventures.

Their nemesis is **Archibald the lion**, who takes his "King of Beasts" title a little too seriously. They love watching T.V. and get many of their hare-brained ideas from their beloved television. They also hear about what they're missing from their racoon friend **Rock** who is wild and free, living on the outside.

Their episodic adventures can range from shows about nothing to perpetuating the soap operaesque quest to save the zoo.

## **SETTING**

### **"THE WILD ANIMAL ZOO"**

(AND ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN GET OUR HANDS ON)

A privately owned zoo, founded for the misfit animals nobody else wants. The animals at the zoo have human characteristics, and can be molded to incorporate any social, political, or environmental storyline. The zoo's enclosures are more like residential homes. The animals can go to other locales in the zoo much like walking through a small town.

Congo and Steve's place is set up more like a bachelor pad than an animal enclosure, at least behind the scenes. They have become pretty savvy at ordering off the internet.

# CONGO

**Silverback mountain gorilla**  
*(gorilla sarcastica)*

Congo is a mountain gorilla of great stature. Towering above his gorilla peers. Although a giant he is of the gentle kind (at least physically). He can hurt you with his words. His sarcastic wit is legendary.

Congo comes from an upper class gorilla family. His father, Ward, was the main attraction at the Brooklyn zoo. And his mother, June, was the face of Gorilla Goo brand adhesive products. Congo was definitely privileged growing up. But he could never quite fit into that type of social scene. He was always joking around and pulling pranks. His attitude soon wore thin on his family and social acquaintances.

He was shipped off to the Indiana Primate Sign Language Academy to help with his discipline "problem". Congo always thought of it as an "asset". Anyway, he soon excelled in his studies, becoming head of his class. If it wasn't for a jealous rival smashing Congo's hands in a piano, just before the final exam, Congo would have gone on to a life of touring mini-malls, VFW's, and late night talk shows. At the final exam his hands were in so much pain he could only sign obscenities at the judges. After that incident the only facility that would have him was the "Wild Animal Zoo".

# STEVE

**Eastern lowland gorilla**  
(*gorilla smart-alecus*)

Steve is an Eastern lowland gorilla. He is small for his age and is a little sensitive about it. What he lacks in size he more than makes up for it with his rapier wit. He is relatively low key, but can get worked up over ideas and philosophies that differ from his own. He believes mainly in common sense. Steve likes to find the easy way out to life's trials and tribulations whenever possible. His best friend Congo often stirs up his more rambunctious side.

Steve comes from a poor up bringing as a carnival ape. Performing for many years in a traveling circus. He often got the short end of the stick. But through his friendship with Congo, he's starting to see a brighter future.

When his circus finally went belly-up, he was sold to the "Wild Animal Zoo" for some cardboard boxes.

# CHARLIE GREEN

*(zookeeper extrodanaire)*

Charlie is your typical English bloke. On the outside a fairly serious person but on the inside really enjoys a good laugh with his mates. He is a little absent minded at times, and oblivious to co-worker Monica Michelle's admiration of him. When approached by Congo and Steve about their ability to talk to him he couldn't have been more excited. Charlie is the only person that Congo and Steve trust with their secret.

Originally from Liverpool, he moved to the states to study biology and follow in his father's footsteps as a great zoologist. But when his father was lost in an African jungle he made it his life's goal to one day find his father. In the mean time he has to work to save money for his eventual expedition to Africa.

While working at an animal preserve in Costa Rica, he was given a strange transfer to the "Wild Animal Zoo" (secretly arranged by Congo and Steve). Upon arriving he was mortified to find out that the director of the zoo was none other than Dr. Harrison Huegnoburg, his father's rival. Come to find out Charlie was brought to the zoo to help save it from Dr. Huegnoburg's scheme to sell the zoo to real-estate investors.

# MONICA MICHELLE

*(clumseaus scientifica)*

Monica is the shy but very hard-working assistant zookeeper. She's in love with Charlie, but can't quite get him to recognize her signals. She is great with the animals but often gets tongue tied with her own species especially when Charlie is around. She also has an innate ability to be clumsy. Her clumsiness usually gets in the way of her getting close to Charlie.

Working at the zoo has been her life long dream. She is quite the over-achiever. And her many talents and past experiences (like selling Mary Kay in Ecuador and being an underwater welder) makes her seem older and wiser than her twenty-some years. She is very intimidated by her boss Dr. Huegnoburg.

She will often confide in Rita with her problems not knowing that Rita can understand her. Rita then tries her best to help Monica out without giving up the big secret of animals talking.

# RITA

**Borneo orangutan**  
(*nagus pygmaeus*)

Rita is a feisty orangutan of Puerto Rican heritage. She is very attractive in ape terms. Both Congo and Steve have a little crush on her. But she keeps the boys in check. And tries to help them through their hair-brained schemes. She is also Monica's silent confidant and tries to help her out also.

She is a staunch animal rights advocate, as long as the animal in question rhymes with borangutan. She likes to right letters and e-mails to whoever will listen. She says she's not trendy but will always be seen in the latest fashions.

She came to the zoo because of her unwillingness to conform to the gentle side of orangutan life. Her father is quite the big shot in the animal kingdom, and couldn't be "embarrassed". Congo and she were childhood friends at the Brooklyn zoo.

# DR. HUEGNOBURG

*(jerkus windbagus)*

Dr. Harrison Huegnoburg is the pompous, arrogant, jerk of all jerks administrator of the zoo. He was Charlie's father's rival back in England. He ended up at the "Wild Animal Zoo" through his sheer stupidity. But he soon hatched a plan to sell the zoo's land to some real-estate developers. He has been trying to convince the owner of the zoo, the great humanitarian Mr. Poptopolous, that the zoo is a lost cause, filled with misfit animals, but Mr. Poptopolous is a hard nut to crack.

Dr. Huegnoburg is a balding, overweight man in his sixties who has been coniving his whole life. He fired almost the entire staff of the zoo just so the animals would suffer. But he underestimated the dedication of Charlie and Monica to care for the zoo's residents.

## **SUPPORTING CHARACTERS**

### **Rock -**

The fast talking, shifty raccoon on the outside. He gives Congo and Steve information on the outside world, when they're not getting it from TV. Always trying to get them to come live in the wild like him. He is also a clean freak.

### **Paul -**

The wise old walrus, who Congo and Steve go to for advice.

### **Archibald (Archie) -**

Male lion. Pompous and cajoling, comes complete with "King of the Jungle" type attitude. Always hearkens back to the time when he was in a car dealer commercial. He longs for his return to "the theatre". Congo and Steve just have to pick on him for his lousy attitude. For that, he would love to see Congo and Steve gone for good.

### **Felderman -**

This nerdy ferret, is a wiz at computers. He is trying to build up his internet army to one day free his "people" from captivity. He will help Congo and Steve at times, for a price.

### **Mr. Poptopolus -**

Extremely wealthy owner of the zoo. And grandfather of Chase. He is never seen in the show. He makes his impact known through telephone calls and the possible surprise visits to the zoo.

### **Cider-Man and Captain Banana -**

Congo and Steve's superhero alter egos in dream sequence episodes. Cider-Man's main powers are related to apples in various ways. Captain Banana uses banana based items for utility-belt devices.

## **STORYLINES**

### **1. "When Charlie Came to Town"**

Charlie Green's first day at The Wild Animal Zoo. Monica, the other zookeeper, shows Charlie around the zoo introducing him to all the various animal characters. When they meet up with Congo and Steve the boys try using sign language to tell Charlie that the zoo is in danger of being sold by Dr. Huegnoburg, but Monica cannot read the signs properly. So they eventually have to start talking to Charlie and break the animal code of silence. Charlie then has to whip the zoo and the animals into shape to show the owner that the animals are thriving.

### **2. "The Apes That Time Forgot"**

Congo and Steve have a meeting with Charlie to discuss plans to help the animals. But they just can't seem to get out of the house. Situations beyond, and well within, their control keep getting in the way, not to mention their own short attention spans. Meanwhile Charlie is waiting for them in his office trying not to let Monica destroy it with her clumsiness.

### **3. "Chugga Chugga Boo Hoo"**

Steve becomes obsessed with model trains, so he neglects his friendship with Congo. Then the story is told with a 1950's public school film style of Congo's steps through the grieving process. For example, denial, blaming, making amends... Steve's obsession just gets weirder and weirder throughout the show. Finally Congo accepts his friend's love for trains but Steve by this time has no idea what Congo is talking about and has sold all his train stuff on E-Bay.

### **4. "America Fears a Survivor's Idol"**

Congo and Steve try their hand at their own reality T.V. show. American Idol meets Survivor meets Fear Factor. This puts their friends through humiliation and danger, while the two of them are the judges. Events include singing "We Built This City" while dangling over a fire pit. Eventually the animals get wise to what is going on and turn on Congo and Steve making them go through all the competitions trials.

1.

2. **5. "Just the Circumstantial Evidence Ma'am"**

Paul the walrus loses his glasses, and the boys believe it was foul play. They start an investigation of the zoo residents, ala Dragnet style, with Congo doing his best Joe Friday impersonation. The show ends up with them thinking everybody's in on it, and out to get them so they become so scared to go outside.

**6. "Ape-liens"**

Aliens come to Earth to take over the planet. But their huge mistake is landing at the zoo. Congo & Steve, realizing what's going on, falsely befriend the aliens and take them on a roller coaster ride of pain and destruction, for the aliens anyway, ala Bugs Bunny and the gangster. Eventually the aliens flee Earth and Congo and Steve have saved the day once again.

**7. "Late Time with Congo O'Brien"**

Congo and Steve finally get their "big break" when Charlie takes them on a late night talk show. Their story of how glorious their appearance was on the show turns out to be quite different from what their animal friends see on T.V. later that night. Congo and Steve's version includes that they were both very witty, bantering back and forth with the host, doing what typical guests do. But what their animal friends see on T.V. is that Steve went crazy, when the lights spooked him, cornering the host and scaring him half to death. Congo refused to even come out of the cage. The entire set is destroyed when all the other animals get loose.

**8. "I Coulda' Been a Contender"**

Bobo the world famous sign language using gorilla is brought to the zoo on a world tour promoting his new book and home video. Little does he know his rival from sign language school, Congo, is living there. Congo was always the better of the two and should have went on to world renowned fame. But Bobo ruined Congo's sign language career by smashing Congo's hands in a piano right before his big test. All Congo could do is sign obscenities and violent outbursts. So Congo was sent to the Wild Animal Zoo. Congo then schemes to get back at Bobo. Then realizes Bobo's life is too crazy and hectic and that Bobo is miserable.