

TPO Readers Give Back

Spotlight on Dr. Ed Shagam

Practice Locations: Medford and Mt. Holly, NJ

Years in Practice: 32

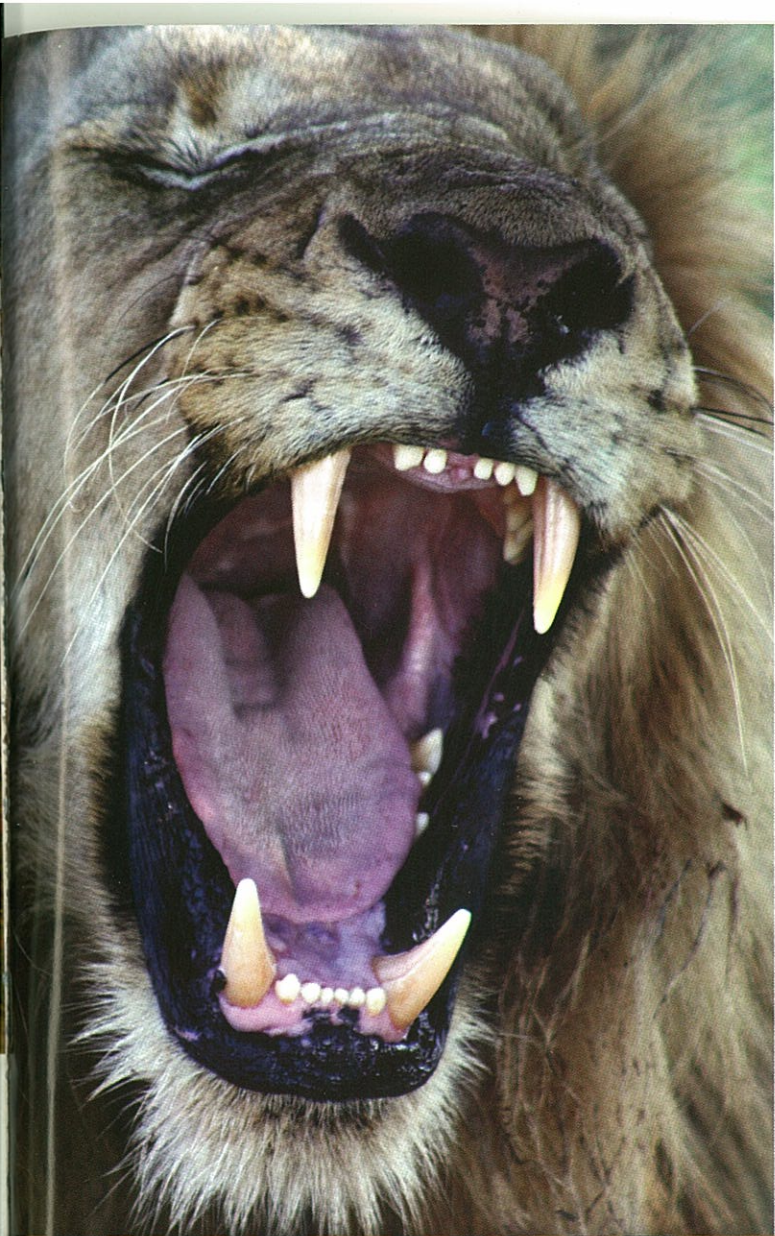
Education: SUNY-Albany,
Howard University (D.D.S.),
Temple University (Ortho), Disney University

Hobby: Zoological Dental Consultant



Dr. Ed Shagam has been in orthodontic practice for 32 years and has an interesting way to spend his free time. Over the years, he has performed thousands of sometimes complicated procedures on tigers, bears, lions, giraffes, hippos, monkeys and various other endangered species. Dr. Shagam, who completed his orthodontic training at Temple University, has made it a family affair. "I trained my wife in exotic family dentistry; she now not only runs my orthodontic practice, but assists with my exotic animal assignments. My two sons, Justin and Josh, did everything from assisting to equipment set up, and animal care." Dr. Shagam's youngest son, Josh is now a biomedical photographer.

For Ed, this has become something much more than a hobby; it's become a passion. "My goal is to educate and raise awareness for exotic and endangered species." Caring for these majestic creatures and ensuring that they're happy and healthy is expensive. Dr. Shagam, who donates all of his time and equipment, says, "It is so important that we ensure our grandchildren are given the chance to appreciate the beauty and importance of these magnificent animals. Given the opportunity, I always ask groups to donate – to volunteer, financially, however they feel they can give."



There are many ways that you can get involved so the entire family can help. Visit and donate to your local zoo. Organize a "patient day" at the zoo to foster an appreciation for animals. There are numerous associations who would also appreciate your support. Dr. Shagam supports these organizations and provides care for animals at the following:

- The Cape May County Park Zoo, NJ;
- The "Popcorn Zoo" in NJ;
- The Philadelphia Zoo, PA;
- The Bronx Zoo, NY;
- The Professional Zookeeper Association;
- Six Flags Safari Park, NJ;
- The New Jersey Cohansick Zoo;
- Lion Kingdom, FL;
- The University of Tennessee;
- The Miami Metro Zoo;
- The Western States Conference of Zoo Veterinarians;
- The Ringling Brothers Circus;
- The Eastern States Working Dog Association;
- The Chicago Zoo, IL;
- Jenkins Aquarium in NJ;
- The Bermuda Aquarium;
- The Zoo in United Arab Emirates;
- The San Diego Zoo, CA;
- and numerous other private zoos and organizations

For more information on how you can become involved, contact Dr. Shagam at biteright@aol.com or visit www.bracez.com.

