

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Asia Quest



Greetings from Asia Quest! The big excitement here lately was, of course, **red panda** Kora's big adventure outside her habitat. The Zoo guests who spotted her were gifted with a special red panda experience and showered with many thanks. Because of them, Kora is back home and caring for her cubs.

There isn't much to report from the rest of the region. **Tiger** breeding is suspended for now but all four cats are doing well, as are the **elephants**.

Our new **markhor** babies are three girls and a boy!

There are two new additions to the **aviary**, a female azure-winged magpie and a female red-crowned crane named Thaddie Mae.

This isn't news but bears reiterating: If you see **flying fox** Barb wearing an inflatable neck cone, it's to help her deal with recurring wing sores.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Australia and the Islands



Tree kangaroos Lenah and Cori have bred again, so keepers will be doing another pouch check in early September. Fingers crossed!

The **loris** twins, Havarti and Ricotta, have moved to another zoo. Since lorises are primates and ours are behind mesh (where enough social distancing can't be guaranteed with the public aisle), Muenster, Gouda and Cheddar are all housed behind the scenes right now due to COVID-19.

Siamangs Olga and Rashid had a baby in late May. They may have indoor access at times but, usually, they prefer to stay out. We do not have a name or know the sex of the little one yet.

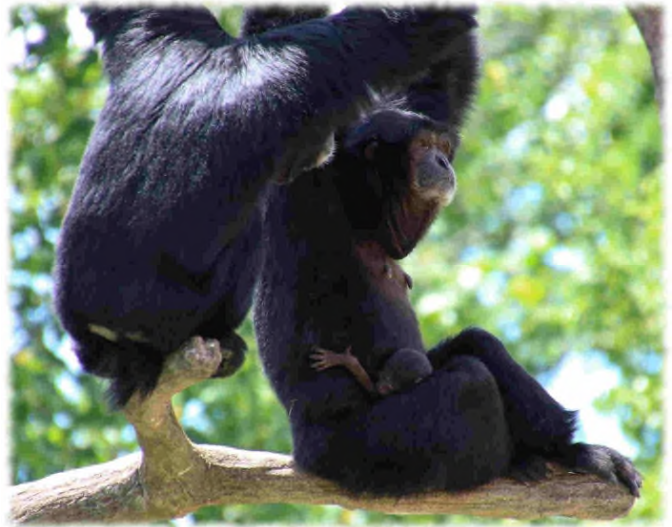


Photo courtesy of Alissa Chenetski

Oopsie! We had a male **Asian small-clawed otter** born behind the scenes in July. The little guy's mom is Ariel and, though she had birth control implanted, it obviously didn't take. The pup does not have a name yet. Currently, there is only one group of otters that will be out all day. The birth may or may not be formally announced to the public so, for now, that information is not to be shared.



Photo courtesy of Alissa Chenetski

Last but not least, **koalas** Katy and Thoar bred and the keepers haven't seen any signs of estrus in Katy since. Therefore, they are crossing their fingers and toes that she has a joey in her pouch. It will likely be months before anything can be confirmed but Katy is being monitored very closely.



Photo courtesy of Bill Blair

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Congo Expedition



Gorilla Sue sustained a mysterious injury to her leg several weeks ago. Care staff immobilized her and confirmed that there are no broken bones but were unable to identify a specific issue. Rest and relaxation were prescribed, so keepers moved the group into the old building as there is less climbing needed and it is very relaxing. The group goes to the habitat every morning and has been enjoying their outside time.

Jamani is growing quickly and is often walking in front of Cassie for short distances. She has been doing a little back riding as well. She will be 5 months old on September 15. Mac's group is still doing a bit of fission/fusion while Tabibu's wrist continues to heal. She allows Care staff to take voluntary radiographs, so they have been able to monitor progress closely and are pleased to say that her wrist is almost healed.

The **colobus monkeys** are doing well with their new structures. More diatomaceous earth is going to be spread on the ground so, if the ground ever looks white, that's why. The application helps control potential parasites that live in the soil.

Dumplin **orangutan** celebrated her 46th birthday in style. She is doing great as are Sulango and Khali.

Saffron has been spending time with both of our "old ladies" and the two younger **mandrills**. You may only see a group of two in the yard at times. She enjoys going back and forth between the groups and is generally in with Mosi every day, even if only for a short time. Staff are still hoping she will get pregnant. Matilda is on birth control due to the current COVID situation at the Zoo. Julie and Eebi have been balking at going outdoors but the keepers are still trying frequently. They miss seeing visitors and will enjoy the day when the indoor area is accessible.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

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Speaking of the indoor viewing area, the **leopards** have been given access inside due to the extreme heat we were having. However, the viewing area is now open for guests to see them (one group at a time). An A-frame sign is put out when that happens. When they do not have access to the inside area, the sign is removed and the big gate goes up. The boys, Jaime and Tyrion, are doing well as is Sita. Sita is now 23 years old and, thanks to some added arthritis medication, is moving really well these days.



Our **bonobos** are all enjoying their outdoor time. The kids are growing fast! If you have not had a chance to get over to see them, come soon. You will not regret it.

Miliki **okapi** recently had a hoof trim and the keepers are hoping that will help her move a bit better. Damisi and Dini are doing great. Dini is spending about an hour with access to the holding yard around once a week. He is finally old enough to thermoregulate but is still in the nesting phase. Staff are working on plans that will enable him to venture into the other yards if he chooses but there is no time frame yet concerning when that will occur. He is getting really big – 126 pounds at the beginning of July!



Nothing new with the **red river hogs**. Harold and Harriet are just as adorable as always.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Heart of Africa



The dog days of summer are upon us and Heart of Africa continues to be a very popular region no matter the temperature!

The **camels** are doing well, and the rides continue to be very popular. The keepers continue to give two camels “days off” in the former baby camel yard.

The **lion** girls are all doing well and our new male, Roary, has moved into the building from quarantine. He has been introduced to all the females and is learning his place with them. There have been small tiffs here and there but, so far, nothing too overwhelming. All of the lions are currently inside and have access to the holding yard during the day. Hot grass has been set up for Roary to touch and learn boundaries in the holding yard before the keepers can let him out to the public yard.



Due to some social issues and a major injury to **vervet** Sassy’s foot/heel (she is all healed now), the keepers had to break down the group for a few weeks. Toward the beginning of August, they slowly started integrating the group again and, as of this writing, the entire group is back together. The little boys need to be together so they can play and give the adults a break.



The HOA fowl (ostriches, guinea, East African crowned cranes and saddlebill storks) are all doing well.

The **greater kudu** and **wildebeests** are doing great.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

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The three castrated **slender-horned gazelle** males are on the Savanna for the summer while the family group is currently enjoying the holding yards near the hoofstock barn. The keepers were not able to send the calves, Mike and Amy, out on the Savanna safely during spring introduction. Therefore, they opted to move them to the holding yards where there is lots of sunshine and grass to live on.

All **Thomson's gazelles** are doing very well. Due to COVID-19, the move for Sturgis to another zoo is delayed. Consequently, he is still here and currently living with his dad, Ducati, in the hoofstock barn. Scout had a recurring swelling on his jaw due to a broken piece of a tooth. It was surgically removed and he is recovering well.

All of the **Dama gazelles** are doing great. The keepers are not currently breeding any of the females, so Zultan is near the hoofstock barn in a separate holding area from the slender-horned gazelle family. He is a very happy boy as he seems to be loving life outside!

Zebra Holly was recently immobilized for a hoof trim. It went very well and she looks great. All of the other girls are doing well too.

There continues to be big news in regard to **giraffes**. Zuri is such a wonderful mom and her little boy is doing great. The keepers are head over heels in love with him! His personality is very calm and free spirited. As of now, he mainly lives with Zuri and Digi. However, he has also been with Nitro, Kipawa and Logan. He has been in all of the spaces in the barn and, as of this writing, has been given access to a small portion of the feeding yard. Soon, he will have full access to that yard. Depending on how it goes, he may only be out for a few hours. The goal is to avoid interrupting feedings while still giving our guests a chance to see the newest addition. Of course, his appearance in the feeding yard is dependent on weather and keeper availability. For those working the Shamba and wondering where our slobbery favorite giraffe has gone, the keepers have been keeping poor JP inside on soft bedding to let him rest as he has some soft tissue swelling in his right knee. Hopefully, he will start to feel better soon and the keepers will be able to send him out.

The awesome HOA keepers are all doing well! There is so much happening all at once that the days go by very quickly. Nevertheless, they are handling everything well – just as they always do!

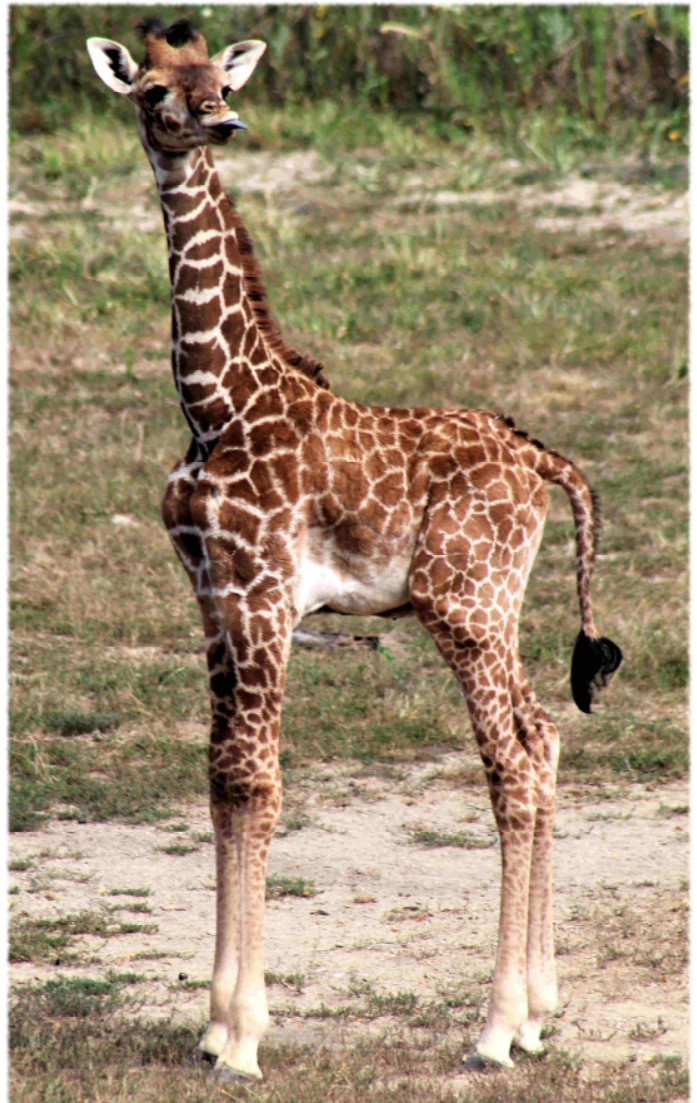


Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

North America



Swans Cher and Georgeanne are doing great. Georgeanne laid four eggs this year.

The **goats**, **cows** and **sheep** are also doing very well. Sadly though, we lost Fiona this month. Staff are working on getting the cows comfortable with fly spray application and preparing to train them for hoof trims. The **chickens** are spending more time outside of the coop on warm days.

The **Mexican wolves** are doing just fine.



Banjo **pronghorn** is doing well. Regrettably, we lost Beth this summer.

Bison Clover and Hermie are doing great as are **beavers** Acorn and Zucchini.

Otter females, Paso and Catori, will stay in their own group as they and Wildcat just didn't mesh as well as hoped.

The **eagles** did not lay any eggs this year but are doing well. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources recently announced that their citizen science program found 707 nests in Ohio, which is a 151% increase from 2012. Ottawa, Sandusky and Erie counties had the highest nest counts. Delaware now has 13 nests and Franklin has 5.

The **aviary** welcomed some new residents, including a Virginia rail and two mourning doves.

Montana **bobcat** continues to be one of the most spoiled residents in the region.

The **lynxes** are doing well and working on emergency recall and target training.

Stevie and Joan **black bears** are training for blood draws.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

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Jessie **cougar** is doing very well. She had a voluntary blood draw last month and her values all look good.

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** are enjoying their privacy as the cabin viewing area is still closed due to COVID-19.

Guests will not be able to see the **sandhill cranes** for the rest of the season as we near rut.

Oji and Bertha **moose** have been separated for rut. Once his velvet sheds, you'll see Oji in the bull yard and Bertha out in the larger yard.

The **reindeer** should shed out their velvet in early September. Sugar did have some growth from her broken antler and the antler on the left has also grown to make up for what's missing on the right. It's super cool!



The **prairie dogs** are active on warm days but prefer to hide out in their burrows on cooler days.

The **arctic foxes** are nice and grey/brown now but should be turning white again soon.

Brown bears Brutus and Buckeye are doing well. They were recently switched over to their fall hyperphagia diet so they can pack on some weight before winter.

All of the **polar bears** are doing well. The keepers are preparing to den Anana and, by the time you read this, Kulu will likely be over 300 pounds!



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Shores



The **manatees** recently had physicals and all are doing well. Bananatee weighs 657 pounds, Tostone is 472 pounds and Stubby weighs in at 2,300 pounds.

Nesting season has come to a close for our **flamingoes**. All together, over 15 eggs were laid. They have begun molting, so you will see a lot of feathers in the yard. Conversely, our **penguins** have all finished molting. They have crisp new feathers and are looking good.

Preparations are underway to release a group of **hellbenders** soon.

Stingray Bay is open for feeding and touching, which is going well. Everyone is very thankful to have some of the **volunteer divers** back. Their cleaning efforts help keep Manatee Coast and Stingray Bay looking great.



Komodo dragon Sapo is doing well after being treated for some mobility issues. He will continue to stay inside whereas Ursula, the female, will spend time out in the yard.

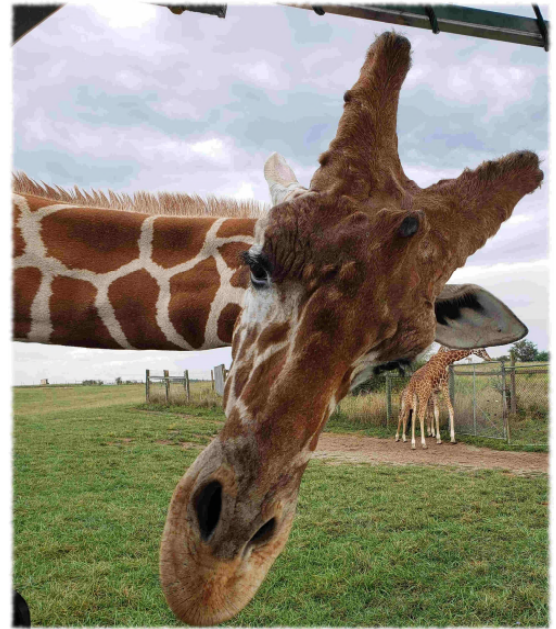
Thank you to our **tortoise snugglers**. The **aldabra tortoises** are enjoying the extra attention.

The corals from the **Florida Reef Tract Rescue Project** have been moved from the warehouse in Powell to a back area in Discovery Reef. They are doing well.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

THE WILDS

It was a pretty uneventful winter at The Wilds. Preparations started in mid-September when the **giraffes** were moved from open pasture to the giraffe barn. They are probably the most temperature-sensitive species at The Wilds as the rest of the animals still do well in cooler temperatures and are able to be viewed during regular daily tours until it's time to begin moving back into their winter holding areas at the end of October. As the animals come into their barns for the winter, staff take the opportunity to do annual exams and vaccinations for many of the herds.



Once everyone is settled into winter

mode, things stay pretty quiet. Staff members go from providing daily tours to several tours a week as part of the Winter at The Wilds Tours. The biggest shift for them though is having barns full of animals again – cleaning and feeding 18 **rhinos** takes a lot of time and work! Once the holidays are over, they spend a couple

of days doing annual exams on some of the herds that live out in pasture year-round. After that, it is time to start getting ready for the new visitor season.

Sichuan takin birthing season comes up first. The main takin herd is brought into the smaller pastures near the main compound before the end of February because it is a lot easier to find and safely catch a newborn in 30 acres of land than in a couple hundred. After the takin, the **Pere David's deer** fawns are typically born. Care staff usually don't see **Bactrian deer** fawns until May.



Photos courtesy of Kathy Ragsdale

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By April, staff are closely watching the weather again to determine when it is safe to get herds back out into pasture. Breeding animals is timed to make sure that calves are born after the worst weather has passed but early enough in the season so they can grow before the weather turns cold again. This spring brought us new **sable antelope** and **eland** calves.

The **American burying beetle** program is going strong. This spring, beetles that survived the winter for the second year in a row were caught. The Wildlife Ecology team released another 220 beetles from our breeding colony at The Wilds this summer to help build the free-living population. Meanwhile, the **hellbender** head-start program sent another 20 Wilds-raised hellbenders to West Virginia to support the reintroduction program there.

The most notable passing this year was Arthur, one of our takins. At 16, he was one of the oldest takins on record. A few years ago, the animal management staff started moving Arthur into one of the smaller pastures to keep him out of the way of younger males looking to establish their dominance during the breeding season. Eventually, he ended up staying in that pasture year round. Arthur became a favorite of guests because he could almost always be found resting under a shade structure right off of the tour road.

Almost all of your favorite Wilds experiences are still available this year. A few changes have been made to them to help keep guests, staff and animals safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two exciting new opportunities include

Wildside Tours led by The Wilds' stars of "Secrets of the Zoo" and WildNights at the Outpost: a chance to sleep in a tent at the Outpost in the middle of pasture with rhinos, giraffes and other animals just outside the camping area. Check the web-site for more details.



Photos courtesy of Kathy Ragsdale