

# REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

Congratulations to the 48 docents and adult volunteers whose dedication to Animal Programs resulted in reaching service-award milestones in 2021 and receiving certificates, animal photos, cheetah pins, backpacks or polo shirts based on hours logged in the area. Their achievements mark the conclusion of the program. From 2022 on, we will all be united under the awards program administered by the Zoo's volunteer management team. Thank you to each and every volunteer who has spent time with the animals in this region over the years and shared facts as well as stories about them with the public.

By the time you read this, the acrylic floor panels in the Adventure Cove Tunnel will have been replaced. The tunnel was closed while this work was being performed.

During our Zoom meeting in July, we learned that **sea lion** pups begin training as soon as they can follow their mom, which can be as early as one week of age. Sea lion moms are good trainers themselves and can help reinforce the behaviors of a learning pup, especially for the first eight to nine months. Beginning at about 10 months, pups start training with fish. Training occurs at least once daily to ensure the well-being and appropriate stimulation of the animals. Animals typically learn to target prior to the set-up position where they are sitting still and attentively in front of a trainer. Other cues include water, down, flipper presentation and other husbandry behaviors before moving on to additional behaviors you may see in presentations. Some of the cues are based on American Sign Language.

Sea lions Bodega and Qizai receive massage and laser therapy. They are encouraged to do amazing behaviors like "handstands" to continue to use their muscles.

Trainer Katelyn Nance provided an update on enrichment for the animals in which the public may be engaged through impromptu defining moments, such as hose play, the training game and sessions at the acrylic window. Animals are trained to follow a target since not all of the behaviors the animals can do are demonstrated first by a trainer (e.g., entering the water).



*Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis*

Rut is a noisy time in Adventure Cove when you'll see male sea lions gain a lot of weight, be more vocal and aggressive and spar with each other. They also may act disconnected, like a distracted teenager.

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The **harbor seals** are doing well and are being trained to go on a scale, open their mouths, present their flippers, enter a crate and more in the Central Pool and inside. This is quite an advancement since this is a new species for the Zoo and staff did not work with these animals in Florida as they did with the sea lions prior to their move here. Pups are not expected this year. Next year, contraception may be utilized for the females, being respectful to prioritize the welfare of wild harbor seals being rehabilitated that may need homes over creating offspring here.

Ashton Jerger explained the format of the **African black-footed penguin** presentations being held on the schoolhouse stage in Heart of Africa. These are one of the most endangered types of penguins in the world. The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) is a beneficiary of the Penguins on Parade lapel pins for sale after the programs.

In Animal Encounters Village, guests are now enjoying walking through the **tortoise** habitat — when staffing permits — to make close-up connections with the radiated and sulcata tortoises. Katie Stevens has reimagined the Dive into Adventure presentations this season to showcase the aerial capabilities of the animal ambassadors, including **toucans** and **scarlet macaws**.

Looking for a simple conservation message to share with guests? Consider that a plastic water bottle can last 450 years in its original state. In the Education Building alone, there were 36,264 times that the water bottle refilling station had been utilized instead of single-serve plastic water bottles as of July 17. There are seven refilling stations throughout the Zoo, so you can imagine how quickly the impact builds. The only “cost” is having a beverage container to fill!

The next Enrichment Day in which Animal Programs will participate is the Block & Roll event on Aug. 13. Our next Zoom meeting is Sept. 6, the day after Labor Day — please join us!



*Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis*



# REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

After a tough June for Asia Quest and a shortened region update, we'll be checking in with all the animals this month!

The **tufted deer** and **cranes** are all fine; Tuffy tufted deer may be moving to a new home soon.



Inside the Asia Quest building, there is a new **sloth bear** resident! Shiva will be with us for probably at least a year while her home at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is being renovated. Shiva is a Christmas baby; she was born on Dec. 25, 2014, so she will turn 8 years old this winter. Right now, Randhir and Heiderose are still together but breeding is possible for Randhir and Shiva.

The **flying foxes**, **honeyeaters** and **chevrotain** are all fine. The newest baby **langur** born in February at last has a name: Cardi (short for Cardamom, keeping with the theme of her mom's name, Nutmeg). Cardi is being treated for cataracts.

In the pachyderm building, life continues after the sad loss our **Asian elephant** group suffered in June. Weighing in at nearly 1,200 pounds, baby Frankie is doing great! Cross your fingers for the success of recent AI attempts on Rudy with semen from Hank. Please remember not to share specific details with the public, a vague statement about "high hopes for Rudy to become a mother" is more than enough. It's fine to discuss the general fact of AI used with the elephants; we just don't want to create premature expectations for a pregnancy with guests or imply a timeline.



**Greater one-horned rhino** Brian has been enjoying the puddles and mud that come to his outdoor yard with the heavy rains. If you see Brian being sprayed with a red liquid from a bottle, it's a treatment of scarlet oil for bug bites.

*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*



Continuing around the region, **red pandas** Kora and Santi continue to share the main habitat. Madeline is living out of the public eye behind the elephant and rhino building.



Lannister **Reeves' pheasant** is still in time-out but is expected to rejoin the **aviary** in the next few weeks after getting a hormone implant to help regulate his testosterone. Danny magpie goose is getting a similar implant so he can rejoin Sandy in the aviary. A new resident is expected soon, a very cool Waldrapp ibis (aka the northern bald ibis). Stay tuned for more information! If you haven't seen the new **Chinese hwamei** in the aviary, they are very cute.



All is well with the **markhor** group. If you haven't seen young male Gambit lately, you may be amazed at how long his horns are getting! He is now easily distinguished from his sisters by their length and curl.

The **Pallas' cat** kittens continue to be adorable and fun to watch. They can often be seen chasing each other and practicing their stalking skills while mom Tiina watches from a safe distance.

**Amur tigers** Natasha and Mara are both fine as are guest **cheetahs** Eddie and Jake (in the south yard).

It's been a hot summer so far but, remember, the Asia Quest buildings are cooled and there's lots of shade!



*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

## REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

As is to be expected, staff are still heartbroken due to recent losses and are adjusting to working in the buildings without them. On a positive note, they were finally able to open the base camp aviary.

Everything is going great with the **lorikeets** and **kangaroos**.

The rest of the animals in the region are enjoying the summer as much as us humans! No news yet regarding a start date for construction to begin on the nocturnal building.



### *Remembering Thoar*

*Photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*



# REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Both **gorilla** troops are doing well. On Aug. 16, Kamina will turn 8 and Cassie will be 29. Staff are adding more fans to the habitat to help with the hot days. Several keepers recently visited Oliver's group at Milwaukee County Zoo and report that they are all doing well at their new home.

**Red river hogs** Harold and Harriet have been inside while Harriet's incision from her MGA implant heals. Hopefully, they will be outside soon.

El Jewar and Damisi **okapis** are being bred. Keepers will be using their behavior toward each other (i.e., lack of breeding interest) and a blood test to confirm pregnancy once they suspect it. To help El Jewar have more traction and stability when mounting, a thick layer of mulch has been laid in the stalls. The breeding pair will only spend time with each other indoors, so do not expect to see them out in one of the yards together. Female okapis cycle once every two weeks year-round.

Unfortunately, there is some sad news to pass along. On July 8, male **mandrill** Brody passed away unexpectedly. Brody was born at the Zoo to mom Mandisa and dad Doug. He was out on a breeding loan to the Peoria Zoo in Illinois. He was beginning to mature into an adult, and the team at Peoria Zoo believed he was on track to become a great troop leader. Those who cared for Brody in his early years at Columbus are devastated and will miss him dearly. On a much happier note, we celebrated Malaika's fifth birthday on Aug. 3.

The mandrills have received some new benches in their holding rooms. The fresh set-up will provide more climbing opportunities for our young troop!

**Leopards** Jaime and Tyrion continue to do well. Tyrion is now only being treated weekly as a preventative for the wound on his tail. Both boys will be celebrating their sixth birthdays on Aug. 29.





The **orangutans** are still loving life in their new building! Dumplin celebrated her 48<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 21 and is currently the third oldest female Bornean orangutan in the country! She had a great birthday party until a certain gift was opened. In the first photo, she is opening a gift. Unfortunately, the keepers forgot to put the treats in it. Thus, the next photo is the look she gave them after realizing there were no treats; she knows what she wants!



As noted in a previous update, the orangutans are getting to learn more about their new vending machine. Consequently, you will see pink tokens around the habitat. The orangutans collect them and place them into the vending machine slot on the top of the machine. Once the machine recognizes a token, it rewards whichever orangutan inserted the token with a treat! All three orangutans have participated but Khali loves to show off and will often hog the machine. There are still some “bugs” with the machine but everyone is hopeful that they will be fixed soon!

World Orangutan Day will be celebrated on Aug. 19. We are still in the works of planning events so stay tuned!

*Photos courtesy of Amanda Carberry  
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*

All of the **colobus monkeys** are doing well. Sekani and the ladies are doing great and enjoy hanging out near the

mister on hot days. Jabari recently had an exam to give her another implant as she and Sekani are not currently breeding. Meanwhile, Bernadette and Sekani are actively breeding but there is no news of a pregnancy yet.

Jif is growing like a weed and hit 4.2 pounds in July. He will be 7 months old on Aug. 15 and now has his full adult coloration. He is also starting to spend more time bouncing around away from the other females. They still keep a close eye on him though and are not afraid to grab him up when he is being too rambunctious. Jif and Sekani have been seen playing together lately!

Keepers are planning on having **bonobos** Susie and Lady’s 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party soon. (It was supposed to take place last month but needed to be rescheduled.) It will be an 80s-themed party. Bila Isia will have his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on Aug. 14 and Jerry will celebrate his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday on Aug. 27. Several of the bonobo team keepers have goals this year to add new programming and use the Ape Touch Computer more regularly for our bonobos. Therefore, you may be able to see them interacting periodically with the computer. Amelia has a visible swelling, which continues to grow and change as she matures.



# REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA



As we move into August, keepers are going to reevaluate how “big” **slender-horned gazelle** calf Linda Jackson really is. If they feel she is at the right size, they will most likely send her out onto the Savanna in the middle of the month.

It is hoped that the entirety of the **lion** habitat will be available to our pride by the time you read this.

Our hearts are heavy after the passing of beloved African lion, Kazi, on Tuesday, August 9, 2022. At nearly 16 years old, Kazi lived a long life (the median life expectancy for lions in human care is 16.9 years). Kazi was the core of our pride—no matter what was happening with the dynamics of the group, they would all gravitate towards her. Kazi was tough but also had a soft and sweet side. We will miss Kazi tremendously, and her legacy will live on with the pride. Please keep our Heart of Africa team and everyone who loved Kazi in your thoughts.



*Photos courtesy of Shannon Borders*



## *Remembering Kazi*

*Photo courtesy of Grahm S. Jones, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*



# REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA



*Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

Sloane **swan** has a new girlfriend, Stella, who joined him in the yard recently. She is not a fan of the fish but seems to be acclimating well otherwise.

The **goats** and **sheep** in **My Barn** continue to do well. The yard has been popping as the weather has been good and a lot of people have come out to pet some ungulates. Belle **cow** continues to enjoy the summer weather too. Staff have identified a few potential cow friends that might be joining Belle in the future — stay tuned!

Our **Mexican wolves** continue to have some issues in regard to pack dynamics. Although the keepers are aware of the pack picking on Winter, please let them know if you see anything concerning.

Banjo **pronghorn** and the **bison** are enjoying the summer weather. Keepers have set up a couple of misters around the yard for them to utilize as they wish.

The **beavers** have not been super active recently as a result of the hot weather. Zucchini can usually be seen in the front den.

**Otters** Paso and Catori are doing well as are the **eagles**. Cheyenne is back with the other girls but is still being monitored for potential health issues. If you see her spending an extended period of time on the ground or are concerned at all about her well-being, don't hesitate to call a keeper.

The **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** is open, so please swing in and enjoy all of our songbirds once more! Recently, we had two indigo bunting nests as well as a cardinal nest. All of their eggs were replaced with fake eggs for different reasons but it's exciting to have nests in the aviary again.

All is well with the **lynxes** and Stevie and Joan **black bears**.

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** are getting along just fine. Guillotine had a recheck after her cataract procedure and everything is healing great!

The **sandhill cranes** are back in the bull moose yard where they continue to be a guest favorite.

The **prairie dogs** have been up and active. Make sure you stop by to see how many you can find!

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*Photo courtesy of Josh Keller*

**Cougars** Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal doing great. Planning recently came down and added some more platforms for more fun places for them to climb.

Strawberry **moose** is now spending all day in the big moose yard. Keepers have set up several fans and misters around the yard to keep her comfortable throughout the heat of the summer. Presently, they are in the process of identifying some potential moose additions.



*Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

Our two **reindeer** girls are wonderful. There have been quite a few reindeer tours lately and, as always, the girls thoroughly enjoy meeting new people and chowing down on extra treats.

The **arctic foxes** are definitely not fans of the warmer weather. Keepers have placed fans around their habitat to cool them off in addition to offering them ice blocks regularly.

**Brown bears** Brutus and Buckeye are ready for summer. Brutus is sporting a very blond coat this year. Both boys have been spending time in their pool but can be hard to spot if they are up in the waterfall.

**Polar bears** Anana and Aurora continue to do well together and can be seen swimming during keeper talks as well as on warmer days. If you caught the press release on Arctic Sea Ice Day, you might have seen that staff artificially inseminated both girls earlier this year. Even though this procedure has been tried in the past, staff feel they are in a unique position in that our girls feel comfortable in their surroundings and have both had cubs in the past. The sample they used was from Lee, who fathered Kulu back in 2019 and currently lives at the Louisville Zoo. Right now, both girls are bulking up for the denning season and weigh over 800 pounds. Everyone is hopeful that this procedure will be successful from a conservation/scientific perspective but also because it would be lovely to once again have little polar bears running around in the habitat. Fingers and toes crossed for good news later this year!



*Nora at the Oregon Zoo  
courtesy of Sue Grubaugh*



# REGION NEWS—SHORES



New **brown pelicans** have joined Ken in Manatee Coast. They are Scoop (unknown sex, estimated to be 16 years old and has a yellow band) and Ladle (unknown sex, 2 years old, no band and has a condition called “angel wing”).



Keeper Rachel Bares has left the Zoo to pursue a graduate degree out of state. We wish her the best of luck; she will be missed!

The **flamingoes** are sitting on quite a few artificial eggs and their nests are getting big. As a reminder, the keepers start a small mound for the birds but the rest of it is made by them.

Our **penguins** have started to molt.

Be sure to check out the juvenile **seahorses** in Discovery Reef; they were born here at the Zoo!



There is a new resident in Stingray Bay! It is an **American Spiny lobster**, *Panulirus argus*. They live in the Caribbean. It is very unlikely that he will come close enough for guests to touch. If he does, please let us know! They like to hide in rocks and crevices and will hopefully clean up after the messy rays.

*Photos courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire*



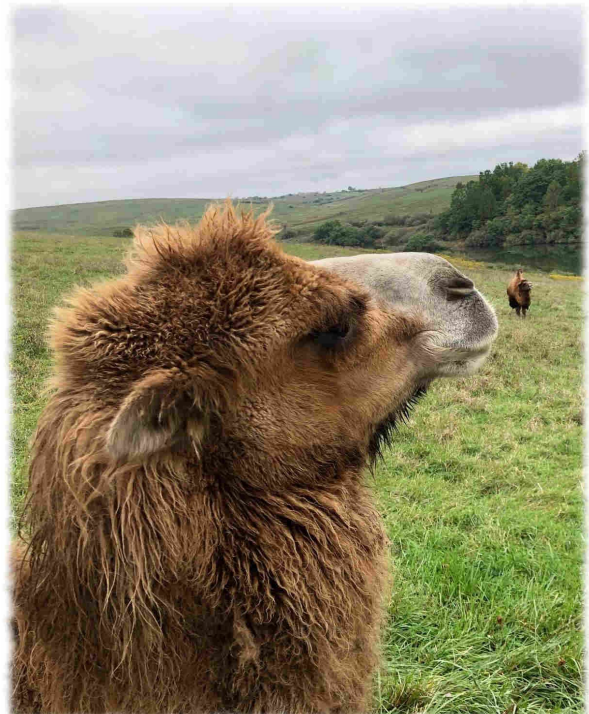
# REGION NEWS—THE WILDS



On June 30 and July 2, a total of 93 **American burying beetles** were released at The Wilds. All of those beetles were hatched at the Cincinnati Zoo's breeding colony. Follow-up checks at the release sites showed several pairs had bred and produced larvae. Staff expect to release more beetles later this summer. Surveillance trapping will continue through the season to monitor the movement of beetles on the property.



*Photo courtesy of The Wilds*



*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*