

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Asia Quest



The region is busy winterizing the aviary and preparing for the possible arrival of **sloth bear** cubs. It is not yet known if Heiderose is pregnant but there is definitely hope – keep your fingers crossed!

Our love and thoughts go out to the Asia Quest staff on the loss of beloved, longtime resident, Rosie **black rhino**, who was humanely euthanized on November 9 after an age-related decline in health. Rosie was a phenomenal animal ambassador and will be missed by guests as well as all of us.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Australia & the Islands



The loop around “the islands” closed last week for the winter. However, guests will still be able to view the gibbon courtyard and the **komodos** until 5 p.m. Then, that area will shut down for Wildlights.

Hari is in fat camp. Therefore, Haka is the only **kiwi** in the public aisle right now. The camp is working! Haka has gained weight and Hari has lost some.

The Congo Aviary is shut down for the season.

Lorikeet tours are done for the year but it is anticipated that they will start up again in the spring.



Photo courtesy of Bonne McGowan



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Congo Expedition



Jaime and Tyrion **leopards** can go outside when the temperature is as low as 35 degrees. Having said that, it also needs to feel that warm out, so things like windchill are taken into consideration before a final decision is made. Additionally, though they will have access to go outside on days that meet those requirements, they may choose not to do so.

Our leopards have been trained for/to do the following: lay down; being touched with a long stick to desensitize them while being injected; learn to do more target training with a target stick ; open their mouths; stand on the mesh; sit; getting on a scale.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

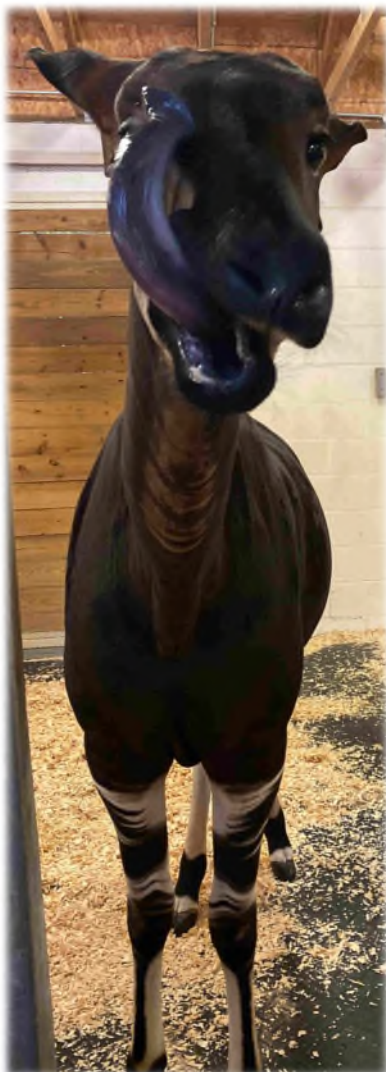


Photo courtesy of Lindsay DeMuth

Mosi, Eebi, Matilda, Julie and Saffron **mandrills** can go outside when it is as cold as 40 degrees. The Animal Care team trains them to sit, stand, present hands, feet, shoulders, forehead and their rear ends to the mesh. Training for hand injections to the hip or shoulder is also on the schedule. In addition, the mandrills are trained to: trade objects by pushing them under the keeper door; open their mouths; present their backs to the mesh to allow A&D ointment to be applied to their swellings when they get dry and cracked; get on a scale; target their hands anywhere a target stick is placed along the mesh; station in a spot where a carabiner is located; get in and out of crates; paint. Julie is also being trained to get her nails filed. Julie has long nails and, with her arthritis, she cannot file them naturally as the other monkeys do. Therefore, Julie sits on the floor and keeper Karen presents a file through the mesh. Julie holds on to the mesh as she presents her nails outside of it where Karen can move the file on her nails. Julie then scratches her nails on the file. This is a work in progress. It is hard to reach all of her nails and she does not hold her nails out for a long period of time. Karen is also trying to desensitize her to nail clippers, but they are a bit scary. Thus, for now, a file works best.

Dini Darweshi **okapi** continues to grow and is regularly consuming hay. He enjoys having access to the stall next to Karatasi. The two interact through the mesh. El Jewar, Miliki and Damisi are learning new behaviors for hoof work and are doing really well with their training.

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Photo courtesy of Bonne McGowan

Dumplin, Sulango and Khali **orangutans** are settled inside for the winter as they await their new building. They are cautiously curious about the construction that is going on outside. The keepers are ramping up extra training and enrichment to help keep them stimulated. There are certain enrichment items they can only get inside due to safety reasons, which in turn makes the experience fun for the keepers as well. Observations regarding their activity levels and behaviors in their current space are being tracked while construction is occurring.

Shalia **gorilla** is recovering nicely after her surgery. She is a model patient and has left her incision site alone, which is awesome. She has been mesh to mesh with Mac's group and is calm. Mac's group is enjoying this time in the old building. They love watching the keepers work in the kitchen. As of now, it is expected that they will be in the public viewing space in late December.

Jamani gorilla continues to explore her surroundings and is loving climbing the mesh in each room. She is at a really fun age, so if you have a chance to come and see her, you will not regret it.

The **colobus monkeys** are all doing well. Now that the colder weather has arrived, they are adjusting to their new routine of not going outside all the time. You'll see them on sunny days when it feels like it's 40 degrees or warmer. Although they will have access to go out on such days, they may choose to stay inside. They do love sunbathing when they can though! Bernadette had a little patch on her face that required a topical treatment. She did a wonderful job of allowing the keepers to use a paint brush on her face every day to help resolve the issue.

Our **red river hogs** will most likely be indoors by the time you read this. They can be in the yard when it feels like it's 45 degrees or warmer but, again, they will always have the choice to stay inside. There is also a behind-the-scenes side yard for them to use during the winter. Scale training is an important behavior for them. Right now, keepers are working on desensitizing Harold to a more hands on training session. They are working on having him lay down on his side in order for them to safely reach him to feel/scratch him all over. So far, he really enjoys it!

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By the time this update comes out, the **bonobos** will probably be done going out into the yard for the season as it will be much too chilly for them. There are still 17 bonobos and they are not being bred currently due to lack of space. They rotate through the different rooms and take turns being in the public aisle areas. It's much more difficult to do the normal fission/fusion of our bonobos when they are all inside, so don't be surprised if you see the same members together for longer periods of time. The front windows do not fog up in the winter like they used to, so make sure you stop by and see everyone!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! HAVE A SAFE, HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

Our deepest condolences to the Animal Care Team since the passing of Sita **leopard**. Sita arrived at the Zoo in 2000 with her sister and has been a visitor favorite since her arrival. She was indeed a beautiful girl. Many visitors were always around the leopard habitat when she was out. Although her health began to decline over the last few years, she received excellent care and always managed to greet her visitors.

The portal has a more detailed article on remembering and honoring Sita.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Heart of Africa



Despite COVID-19, the region ended 2020 strong. We welcomed handsome lion Roary, Mike and Amy slender-horned gazelles, vervet monkey boys DJ and TomTom as well as two **giraffe** calves (a male and a female)! Even though the start of giraffe feedings was considerably delayed this year, the season still ended with 131,406 feedings – only slightly short of last season’s total! The continuous feeding really helped bring people to the giraffes, and the calves touched the hearts of many.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

All of the giraffes are doing well. The calves are doing great and gaining weight like crazy.

The keepers obtain weights on both weekly and, when this was written in the middle of November, “Little Boy” rang in at 250 pounds and “Little Girl” at 285 pounds (both are in healthy ranges). Yes, she is a couple of months younger and weighs more. She is all muscle and built like her mommy, Jana, with the attitude to match. The weather in November was beautiful on several days, so the keepers were able to give the giraffes access to holding yards as well as the savanna occasionally. Hopefully, mild temperatures will be seen in December so the keepers can open a few of the barn doors and let them have some fresh air.

The **saddlebill storks** and **East African grey-crowned cranes** will be spending their winter months at the Animal Health Center. They are moving for several reasons: it will free up some stalls in the hoofstock barn; the keepers will be able to give the birds outside access during the day when the weather is mild (cranes can be out when temperatures are as low as 35 degrees and storks can have outdoor access when lows are in the 40s); the region does not have enough holding yards to give the birds and the hoofstock access to them if they all remained in the barn. Since there will be a bit more room in the hoofstock barn, the keepers are planning on keeping the **zebra** girls in there this year. In doing so, they will be able to let them out on the savanna with the **wildebeests** as temperatures allow. The **slender-horned gazelle** breeding pair was moved back to the hoofstock barn and they have been reintroduced to the other males. The **ostriches** will winter in the camel barn again and we will have five camel boys for the Wildlights season: Lippy, Ghost, Riddle, Harry and Steve.

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Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

Our **vervets**, **lions**, **Thomson's gazelles**, **dama gazelles** and **kudus** are all doing well and the **guinea fowl** ladies will enjoy spending the winter in their coop.

A shout-out needs to go to one of the Shamba Leads, Courtney Schneider. She recently became engaged to Dave Lemaku, who formerly worked with our pachyderms, and will be moving to Wisconsin where Dave is currently employed at the Henry Vilas Zoo. Courtney, from everyone who spent time with you up on the Shamba, know that we will miss you and wish you all the best in this new chapter of your life.



Photo courtesy of Astrid Kreidl

Speaking of the Shamba, we had a wonderful season working in that area in spite of the circumstances and the keepers want to thank everyone for their help! They realize that things could be difficult at times with all of the changes but the docents and volunteers made it work, as they always do.

Happy Holidays from myself and everyone in Heart of Africa.

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

North America



Swans Cher and Georgeanne are doing great. Keepers are monitoring their ability to waterproof and, if need be, will move them to the barn later this fall/early winter.

The **cows**, **goats** and **sheep** are getting along just fine. Keepers have reopened the inside of the barn and, as of now, it will be open for Wildlights.

Emily **chicken** had a growth on a wattle that was recently removed. It turned out to be benign and she has since recovered well.

All of the **Mexican wolves** are doing well. The whole pack was put back together after the girls were given contraceptives. Their overlook is now open to the public again.

The **bison**, Clover and Hermie, are doing great as is banjo **pronghorn**. Clover had a hoof trim and the keepers will be assessing her horns in December.



Photo courtesy of Astrid Kreidl

Beavers Acorn and Zucchini are doing well. Zucchini has a tooth trim coming up in December.

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

The **eagles** are doing well.

The **aviary** is prepped and ready for winter. Keepers will close it on days it is too cold to be open.

Montana **bobcat** had a recent health check and looked pretty good.

The **lynxes** are doing well and working on emergency recall and target training. Their overlook is open to the public now.

Stevie and Joan **black bear** are slowing down for the winter, so you won't see them as much. Jessie **cougar** is doing very well.

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Alvar and Guillotine **wolverine** are getting ready for denning. Alvar will be separated out in December. The cabin will be open during the day but closed at night.

The **sandhill cranes** are currently residing behind the scenes.

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium will soon be home to three new (adorable) faces! **Mountain lion** cubs, Captain Cal, and two sister cubs (unrelated to him) will be arriving in the coming weeks from Oakland Zoo. The Cal Firefighters named the male cub “Captain Cal” when they found him limping down a burned-out road in Redding on September 30, 2020. Firefighters found Captain Cal was orphaned and severely burned. He is now fully recovered 47 days after he was rushed to Oakland Zoo’s veterinary hospital by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). With surgery, antibiotics, supportive fluids, pain medication, hand-feedings, daily bandage changes, and round-the-clock care, Captain Cal is ready to make the journey to the Columbus Zoo. He will be joined by the two female cubs, who were orphaned by the August Complex fire.



Photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones

The Columbus Zoo is proud to collaborate with Oakland Zoo and offer a home to these cubs, who will reside in the Zoo’s North America region. The Oakland Zoo staff has provided the Columbus Zoo team the opportunity to name the two female cubs. The Columbus Zoo will announce the cubs’ names in the coming weeks.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Payne

As you have probably heard, Oji **moose** passed away unexpectedly on November 16. He was 5 years old and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He will be best remembered for his warm greetings from the fence line and swimming in the pond – one of his favorite activities. Please keep the North America team in your thoughts.

The **reindeer** are loving the cooler temperatures.

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Shores



We recently received another **pelican**! Our new resident is in the midst of a 30-day quarantine. Once complete, he or she will join Ken in Manatee Coast. Despite not knowing its sex yet, the keepers decided to stick with the current theme and named it “Skipper.” Skipper is from the Texas State Aquarium Wildlife Rescue Center. He or she has an amputated wing and is not releasable as a result.

All of the other animals in the region are doing well at this time.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney