

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

The Holiday Hootenanny enrichment festivities on Dec. 11 were fun for guests as well as the animals. When given the signal by the trainer from the Adventure Cove Deck, guests tossed gelatin prepared in holiday shapes to the eager **sea lions** and **harbor seals** below. In Jack Hanna's Animal Encounters Village (AEV), treats were hidden within festive cardboard structures for the animals, including "Organic Snowman Noses" for the **sand cats**, a "stove" with the oven set to "350 degrees" for **prehensile-tailed porcupine** Percy to explore and more.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis

Even though winter is a slower season at the Zoo in some ways, training is ongoing. You might catch spontaneous sessions on the Adventure Cove Deck and in the Tunnel, which may include a trainer standing on the bridge between the pools directing a sea lion in the pool to report to another trainer stationed in the Tunnel. Then, the sea lion returns to the first trainer. This is accomplished with a series of cues given to the sea lion and radio communication between the trainers. You can also catch sessions in AEV. For instance, you may see indoor, around-the-corner flights by **macaws** from one trainer to another and animals emerging into the public aisle from the big tree inside.

When there are unseasonably warm winter days, you might see the **cheetahs** running around in their yard. Sadly, the region lost **ambassador dog** Coby, an English lab who helped raise cheetah cubs and spirits alike. He was also a canine companion to Cash and Cullen. His time with us ended as the result of health concerns but, fortunately, we have vivid memories of him that will last forever. His versions of chasing the lure in the Cheetah Run are legendary and his splashing sessions in the Watering Hole will be fondly remembered as they delighted guests surprised at first to see a dog within a Zoo habitat.

Speaking of dogs, that's what sea lions and harbor seals feel like. When they are wet, they feel like a wet dog with short hair. According to Pablo Joury, director of pinnipeds, they feel like a very smooth furry or plush animal when they are dry.

We extend our best wishes to Hardy Kern of Animal Programs as he leaves the Zoo for a new role with the American Bird Conservancy.



Remembering Coby

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

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Greetings! Here are a few updates about our residents in the region:

Despite initial optimism, it looks like we won't be seeing any cute **sloth bear** babies this year. Heiderose will be back in the habitat in a few weeks. We'll keep our fingers crossed for next year!

The newest arrival to the region, Tiina **Pallas' Cat**, is out of quarantine and is acclimating to her new home before meeting Moose. Tiina comes to us from the Dakota Zoo and will be 2 years old in March.

Both Chowlei and Peanut **muntjac** have now been spayed to prevent any more surprise babies. The **tufted deer** fawn born the day after Thanksgiving has been with Joslyn and will be meeting the other deer soon. Hopefully, you will be able to see all of them in the yard together before much longer.

In **Asian elephant** news, Rudy and Sunny now spend most of their time with Phoebe and Frankie. Connie gets some girl time too, with Rudy and/or Sunny, and continues to be best buds with Hank. Frankie is now eating solid foods (but will continue to nurse for a while); carrots are his favorite training reward.

In sadder news, the **markhor** herd recently lost Hayley and Julie. Both were humanely euthanized after a decline in quality of life due to age-related concerns. The herd now numbers eight.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Brian **greater one-horned rhino** is doing great with blood collection training, and staff hopes to have an official weight on him soon with a bit of help from the giraffe scale. Meanwhile, Jupiter **Amur tiger** has been inside again to allow his tail wound to heal; he is doing better. Natasha and Mara are in their respective yards and the **red-crowned cranes** still live at the tiger boardwalk as well.



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

All is well and status quo with the **langurs**, **red pandas**, **bats** and **musk deer**.

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS



Photo courtesy of Lindsay DeMuth

Unfortunately, the region had a couple of losses over the last six weeks including **Asian small-clawed otter** Ariel and **binturong** Ben. Ariel's death was sudden and there is still not a conclusive cause of death. Ben was humanely euthanized after declining rapidly due to complications from diabetes.

On a happier note, **Matschie's tree kangaroo** Luka is being introduced to the habitat. Luka and Cori look distinctly different. Luka has a very pale face, and that color extends all the way back to her ears. Cori's white patch on his face is much smaller and is shaped like a heart. Luka came from the San Diego Safari Park. She was born in March of 2019, so she will be turning 3 in a few weeks. She came to us at the recommendation of the SSP to breed with Cori. Staff are currently tracking her cycles through fecal collection and analyses to make sure that she is cycling regularly before putting the pair together.



Fresca **Pygmy slow loris** is officially now Fresco, a discovery that was made during an immobilization to look at his teeth. In case anyone is wondering, his teeth are perfect! The lorries have been reintroduced to the public aisle. We are excited to have them back out for everyone to see since they have been behind the scenes for almost two years.

We have some **glider** joeys. A photo of a mom with a joey (an obviously older one based on its size) can be found [here](#).



Photos courtesy of Katrina McCauley



Photo of Muenster courtesy of Pam Hancock



Remembering Ben

Photo of Ben courtesy of Katrina McCauley

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

The **orangutans** are still in the gorilla building awaiting repairs to be made to their new indoor habitat. To help prevent the winter blues, keepers mix things up for them. For example, the “old gorilla building” has a room which can attach via a chute back to the “orangutan area.” Soon, that room as well as the one next to it will undergo a deep cleaning. Afterward, the orangutans will be granted access to those spaces to give them different environments to explore. When the orangutans are occupying those areas, the gorillas will not have access near them. Keepers will keep a room empty in between to act as a buffer, so they will never be mesh to mesh. All three orangutans are doing fine and getting along well – just playing the waiting game!

The **mandrills** are fantastic! Mosi is growing like a weed and last weighed in at 65 pounds! His coloring is changing bit by bit and, consequently, he is looking more mature. Matilda had a recent health check and looked amazing; she is healthy as can be! Malaika has a breeding recommendation with Mosi, so we will see what happens. She is fitting in well. Malaika and Hasina groom each other often in all sorts of yoga positions to make sure they tend to all areas; it’s pretty funny and adorable. Hasina is cute as can be and just as sweet! She often grooms Malaika and Matilda but is keeping some distance from Mosi. They are a very fast and agile group, especially compared to our previous “oldies” that were loved so dearly.

Our **leopard** boys are doing great! They were recently sedated for routine health checks and everything looked good. They allowed Karen and Sarah to hand inject them voluntary! Staff discovered the “kink” at the end of Jaime’s tail is actually due to him missing some vertebrae at the tip of it. Both boys recovered well and received an A+ from the vet team.

All of the **okapis** are getting along just fine. During the winter, each one is given four stalls to hole up in. Three are bedded with wood shavings and the other with cypress mulch. This enables them to choose which substrate they want to be on and when. Other substrates, such as grass, hay and leaf filter, are occasionally used as enrichment. Damisi recently participated in multiple voluntary procedures to take radiographs of her jaw and teeth, something that was done several years ago as well. Damisi remained fully awake during the process and no anesthetics or drugs were used. None of that could have been achieved without extensive training (thank you, Jennifer and Sarah), and getting yummy romaine lettuce as a reward certainly didn’t hurt. Staff are awaiting results from the dentist’s assessment of the images that were collected.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

The Congo boardwalk is mostly completed and looks wonderful around the **colobus** yard! The monkeys did well with the noise and having to stay inside for the duration of the project. They now have the ability to venture out again on warmer days – 40 degrees or higher with sun. Otherwise, there is nothing new with our troop. They are as cute as ever!



Harriet **red river hog** was having discharge and, after immobilizing her, an old fetus was discovered. It was removed surgically. She handled that procedure beautifully and is doing well. She and Harold have been separated for over a month and a half in order to aid her recovery but will soon be reunited. They have been getting lots of extra enrichment this winter to help with the separation.

Jamani **gorilla** has been playing more with dad Ktembe. It has been lovely to watch him steadily thrive in his new role as a dad. Jamani is weighing in at a whopping 25 pounds. Speaking of weight, the kids in Mac's group are also growing like weeds. Kamoli is 198 pounds (his hands and feet are massive), Kamina is 141 pounds, Sully is 147 pounds, JJ is 81 pounds and Zahra is 67 pounds.



Bila Isia **bonobo** participated in his first ever awake cardiac scan (yay Bila and Danessa). We celebrated some recent birthdays this past December.

Jimmy is estimated to be 42, Donnie turned 28, Gander 18, Wilbur 11 and Birtie 5. The Broadway play, "Come From Away," will be playing at the Ohio Theatre Feb. 8-13. Gander is named after the small town featured in the play that welcomed flights rerouted during 9/11, including the one transporting his late mother, Unga, from Europe to the U.S.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

In the hoofstock barn, team members have really enhanced the way they house the **Thomson's gazelles** and the **dama gazelles**. Typically, the two species are separated for the winter but, this year, they are living together. It is absolutely adorable and such a nice way to house them. In early December, staff made a "creep" so the **guinea fowl** ladies can come and go from the gazelles' stalls. Again, very cute!

Five of our six **grey-crowned cranes** are being housed in the giraffe barn (**Odor** is still nursing an injury, so she is in the hoofstock barn with the guinea fowl). When keepers are cleaning the community room, they are letting the cranes join them so they can stretch their legs and have a change of scenery. So far, the arrangement is going very well!

Lions, vervets, ostriches and all of the other hoofstock are doing great.



*Giraffe made by a Zoo School student;
sign made by Erin Schuler*

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA



Photo courtesy of Joy Remley

Sloane, a new young male **swan**, has joined Georgeanne.

The cows in **My Barn** are doing good. Three new Nigerian goats, Pie, Hershey and Snickers, were added to the herd. They have settled in well and can be seen in the petting yard in addition to the barn.

Our **Mexican wolves** are doing well as a family pack. As there is not a breeding recommendation for the upcoming year, all of the girls were given birth-control implants. Doing so caused a few issues in pack dynamics but things seem to have settled down. Nevertheless, keepers are still monitoring them closely.

Banjo **pronghorn** is getting along just fine as are the **bison**, Montana **bobcat** and the **lynxes**.

The **beavers** are also doing well. Both seem a little more active now that the weather is colder. Zucchini is the one you will see in the den from the glass viewing window. Acorn prefers to spend her time in the den box at the back of the habitat.

Since they are getting older, **otters** Paso and Catori usually have access inside. However, they have been outside quite a bit on nicer days.

Everything is status quo with the **eagles**.

The **aviary** is quiet in the winter. Having said that, a new species was recently added, masked bobwhites. This is the first time we have had this species at our institution. They are a subspecies of bobwhite that is found in Arizona and are currently classified as an endangered species.

All is well with Stevie and Joan **black bears**. They are staying inside more due to lower temperatures.

Cougars Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are growing fast. Poppy and Goldie both weighed 60 pounds in January and Cal came in at 95 pounds. Cal recently had surgery for ongoing issues related to injuries he sustained as a kitten from a wildfire.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverine** bred this past spring. Everyone is hopeful that kits will be born this winter. Fingers crossed!

The **sandhill cranes** are doing well behind the scenes.

Strawberry **moose** is doing well. Strawberry weighed 388 pounds at the beginning of October but is larger now. Strawberry was successfully introduced to the newly renovated big moose yard in January.

All of the **reindeer** girls are doing well. Reindeer tours are currently on hold but will hopefully start up again soon.

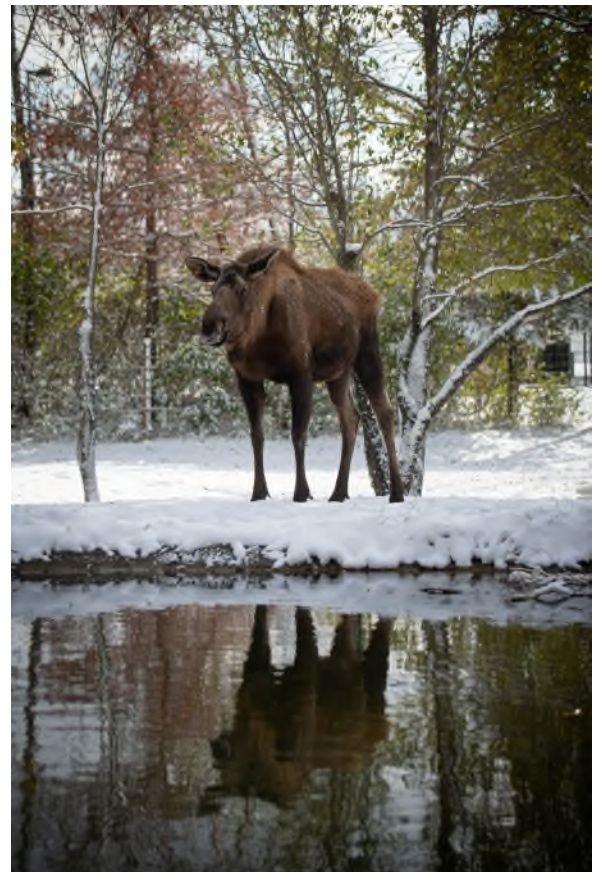


The **prairie dogs** are sleeping the winter away in their burrows.

Our **arctic foxes** are enjoying spending time on their platforms. **Brown bears** Brutus and Buckeye are holed up in their dens for the most part and **polar bears** Anana and Aurora continue to do well together.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Remembering Bertha

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

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Komodo dragons Ursula and Sapo were introduced to one another for breeding purposes. Thank you to all who helped watch them; I know it was cold.

More new fish have been added to Discovery Reef and there is one more batch to go. Our **puffer fish** recently underwent eye surgery to remove an injured lens. He will spend time in the back recovering and growing before he is back in the public aisle.

Check out the new structures our Planning Department made for the **seahorse** habitat.

Unfortunately, Tobias **flamingo** (#44) was euthanized due to renal failure. He was a hand-raised bird and a favorite of the keepers. He will be missed.

Penguin nest boxes have been put in and we are eagerly anticipating our first egg of the season. On quiet mornings, you can hear them calling to each other from as far away as the main lake.



Photo courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire

In mid-January, we received four rescued **manatees** from SeaWorld's Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. All four were rescued as neonatal calves and three had been orphaned. The additions brought our total number of manatees to nine. As you may have seen in the press release, the new manatees are:

- “Lizzo” – An orphaned female calf rescued in Palm Coast, Fla. on July 28, 2020. At the time of her arrival, she weighed 63 pounds and measured 115 cm in length. Her most recent weight on December 29, 2021 was 340 pounds.
- ‘Cardi-Tee’ – Orphaned female manatee in St. Augustine, Fla. on September 4, 2020. At the time of her arrival, she weighed 47 pounds and measured 115 cm in length. Her most recent weight on December 29, 2021 is 302 pounds and length taken March 2021 was 143 cm.
- ‘MaryKate’ - Female manatee calf rescued on January 14, 2021 in Blue Springs, Fla. She was observed swimming by herself and appeared to be thin. At the time of her arrival at SeaWorld, she weighed 108 pounds and measured 135 cm in length. Her most recent weight on December 29, 2021 was 315 pounds and length from April 2021 was 145 cm.
- ‘Ashley’ – Orphaned female manatee rescued on January 24, 2021 in Cocoa, Fla. She had been observed swimming around an expired adult female manatee prior to being rescued and brought to SeaWorld. She weighed 115 pounds and measured 134 cm upon arrival. Her most recent weight on December 29, 2021 was 325 pounds and length taken in November 2021 was 185 cm.

Once the animals have reached a sufficient size and weight to survive on their own, they will be returned to SeaWorld Orlando, where they will spend a brief time at the care facility before being returned to their native range in Florida.” SeaWorld has played a vital role in helping ill, injured and/or orphaned manatees since 1976. To date, they have rescued and rehabilitated 1,300 animals.



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Photo courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire



Remembering Tobias

Photo of Tobias courtesy of Joy Kotheimer

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

The Wilds is now working in winter mode. All of the animals that need additional heat and shelter were moved into their winter holding areas at the end of the regular tour season.

Since our last update, another **white rhino** calf was born. His arrival on Oct. 25 when the herd was still out in pasture marked the third rhino calf born last year (one greater-horned and two whites). His mom is Agnes, who was born at The Wilds in 2014. He is her second calf and the fourth for his father, Kengele. For those keeping score, he is the eighth fifth-generation calf (five generations removed from their wild-born ancestors) at The Wilds. The Wilds remains the only place outside of Africa that can claim fifth-generation white rhinos.

Staff spends significantly more time in the barns during the winter; it takes a lot of time to clean up after twenty-two rhinos! Nonetheless, they do manage to get some other work done. They completed their annual exams on the **Père Davis's deer** herd in January. Sixty-nine deer came off pasture and went through the chutes in one day. Care staff were able to get their hands on each individual deer for vaccinations, collecting and banking blood and replacing ear tags if needed. It was a long day for the Animal Management and Conservation Medicine staff but it went by quickly with the whole team working together. January is also the time that the **takin** herd is moved into a smaller pasture in preparation for spring births. Team members have seen takin kids born as early as late February, and it is much easier to find and catch them in 30 acres versus 200 acres on either side of a big lake.

Please make plans to visit The Wilds next season! If you can't wait until then to see last year's babies, the Winter at the Wilds tour available at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily takes you into the giraffe and rhino barns. The tour is still available by reservation (with some COVID restrictions). The Lodge and Cabins at Straker Lake are also available for booking if you want to stay overnight and enjoy a quiet weekend.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney