

February 2024

The Columbus Zoo and
Aquarium Volunteer
Newsletter

ZooNews





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The mission of ZooNews is to promote awareness, education, preservation and conservation of our natural world.

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Animal Wellbeing

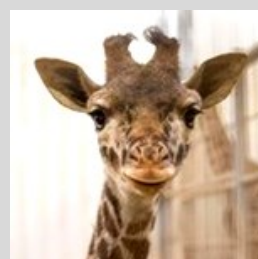
Although the condition and overall welfare of our animals at the Columbus Zoo has long been a top priority, the topic of **animal wellbeing** has risen to the forefront both here and in zoos around the country and the world. The official AZA definition of animal **welfare** is “an animal’s collective physical, mental and emotional states over a period of time, measured in a continuum from poor to excellent”, and the definition of **animal wellbeing** is “the state of being comfortable, healthy, and happy”.



Why the shift from using the term welfare to wellbeing is simply about how we communicate to our guests. People want to know our animals are comfortable, healthy, and happy and our program takes an approach to analyze all aspects of their lives to demonstrate using welfare science.

Since there is a need for all staff and volunteers to understand and be able to discuss with the public this new official focus, The *Volunteer Newsletter* will be posting a series of articles aimed at various aspects of animal wellbeing and how our institution will be handling AZA requirements.

To get a better handle on what this means for our staff and animals in our professional care, perhaps thinking about our own wellbeing would be useful and illuminating. How are we “coping and thriving” in our



environments”? Most of us working or volunteering for the Zoo have the resources to govern our own lives and to initiate decisions that affect our daily behaviors, activities and choices. For example, we volunteers decide when we will come to the Zoo to work a shift in an area or activity we have selected, whether we feel well enough on a given day to come, how we will dress for the weather and how much interaction with guests we will engage in at any given moment. Presumably, we have eaten what we wanted before coming, and can leave with the satisfaction that we have spent time doing something we chose to do. The freedom to volunteer or not to volunteer is a satisfaction in itself.



The animals in our care do not possess all these freedoms, obviously because they need to stay in a secure location, eating what they are provided, mingling with cohabitants they have not chosen, seeking companionship, solitude, solace or any other

circumstance they require at the moment within specific boundaries they are not able to circumvent. How do they

cope and thrive within their environment?

Our Animal Wellbeing Program assesses all of these aspects to see to it that whatever needs to be done to assure an animal's sense of freedom, power and agency will be addressed for that individual and species-specific group, and ensuring resiliency to an ever changing world. Guided by the requirements of AZA and ZAA and with the certification of American Humane, our Zoo is building resiliency in our animals' lives by making the lives of our animal residents more independent, satisfying and individually rich. We will be expected to know about this crucial program so that we can be part of the care team in a very real way, and as always, we need to be able to express to the guests what wellbeing means here at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

—Cindy Payne

Thanks to Adam Felts for his guidance and comments.

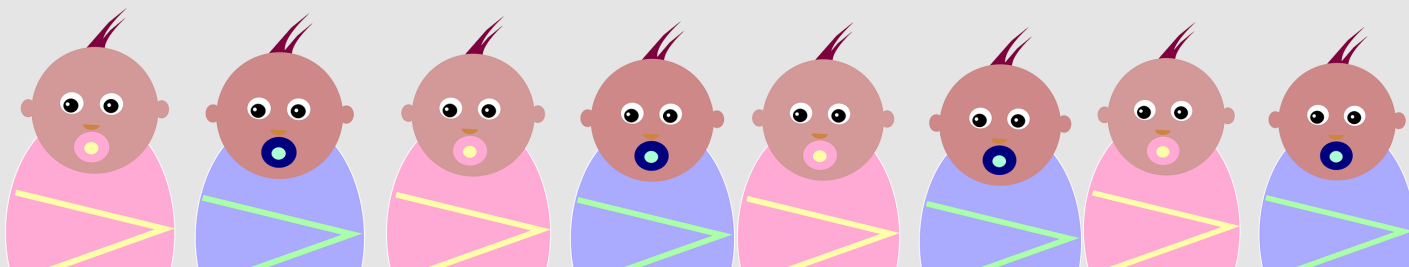
Photos courtesy of Adam Felts



Stingray Bay

Did you know that stingrays have no bones in their bodies? Their skeleton is made up of flexible cartilage.





Congo Baby Boom!

For the first time in the history of the Zoo, every primate species in the Congo region (along with the orangutans in Australia and the Islands, who are under the care of the Congo keepers) has a baby. Yes, that means when you visit the regions, you can see (or will soon see) colobus, mandrill, gorilla, bonobo and orangutan babies! Here is a look at all the youngsters.

The **colobus** began the “baby boom” with the birth of **Jif** (male) on January 15, 2022. Jif is the son of Sekani and



Jif—photo courtesy of Amanda Carberry and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Jabari. Jabari is an experienced mother, having raised two offspring here at the Zoo. Jif is Sekani’s first offspring, and Sekani is a great dad to both Jif and Jif’s younger sister Marmalade. Although well past weaning age, Jif continues to comfort nurse since the birth of his sister. According to keeper Hannah, he LOVES to train!

Keepers began that process when Jif was only two weeks old by offering him small bits of solid food. He is already trained for hand injection (which he was interested in because he observed the females training for this) and knows several body parts along with a few other behaviors such as “target” and “jump.”

Marmalade (female, b. 3/16/2023) was mother Bernadette’s first live birth. Colobus monkeys alloparent, and Bernadette is very close to her mother Claire. She wanted to be near her mom during labor, and after the

birth the three of them were separated from the rest of the group for just a few days. Jif was very interested in

Marmalade when she was born. Bernadette made sure he kept his distance at first. She allowed him to approach, but not touch, little

Marmalade. Because Marmalade was born

in the summer and was outdoors most of the time, she did not train regularly until she was four months old, when the weather got colder and she was indoors most of the time. She is not overly excited about training, but does choose to participate sometimes.



Marmalade—photo courtesy of Amanda Carberry and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Both little ones are playful and outgoing (for colobus, who tend to be cautious in new situations). They like to “bug” Sekani but are appropriately respectful. Both little ones prefer to be outside more than some other members of the troop, and will almost always choose to be outdoors if they have access. They spend most of their time playing together and are active both indoors and out. (Once they are six months old, the colobus can all be outdoors when it is 40 degrees or higher.)

Some favorite enrichment items include onions, browse, the kiddie pool (filled with shredded paper when indoors) and watching cartoons - indoors only, of course. The yard is now set up so that keepers can target train in

the yard. It will be fun for the visitors and docents to watch the keepers interacting with the colobus when the weather is warmer.

Hannah said what she likes most about colobus is how they are “unapologetically themselves. They do what they want ...what pleases them and nobody else.”

Next came the **mandrills**. **Bernard** (male, b.10/16/22) is the son of Malaika and Mosi, our only adult male. Malaika is a first-time mom and has been a great mother since day one. Mandrills typically wean at around six months. Bernard



Bernard—photo courtesy of Amanda Carberry and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

was beginning to wean, but started nursing regularly again when his sister Izzy was born and is still nursing occasionally as of this writing. Keeper Alexis described him as sweet and rambunctious, but like most mandrills, initially cautious in new situations. Alexis said that he is “go, go, go!” She said he has literally found his voice and can be a noisy little guy. He loves playing with sticks and walking around “barrel hugging” large plastic jugs. A favorite treat is figs - his mother’s favorite.

Izara “Izzy” (female, b. 6/6/23) is the first offspring of mother Hasina. Hasina is also a great mom. Izzy likes whatever Bernard likes. One favorite item is the triangle firehose swing. Izzy is very food motivated and is especially fond of superworms and jello. Alexis

describes her as less timid in new situations than Bernard is and more apt to explore her environment. Both little ones are fond of hiding in their large black food tubs. It is fun to see the two little heads pop up at the same time. The siblings are close and spend much of their days chasing each other around the yard. Alexis smiled when she described the two of them playing with bowls of snow that the keepers brought indoors.



Izzy—photo courtesy of Amanda Carberry and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Mandrills don’t alloparent, but the bond between sisters Malaika and Hasina has grown stronger since the babies were born. Dad Mosi is appropriately uninvolved but may show more interest as the little ones get older. Alexis said that “Getting to know each one of them and learning their personalities has been the most rewarding experience.”

Oh, Baby! This next arrival was totally unexpected.

On July 12, 2023, keepers closed the **gorilla** building as normal for the night with 14 gorillas in their care and ready for sleep. On the morning of July 13, keeper Joe Ream and assistant curator Shawn Bell arrived at the gorilla building to find not 14, but 15 gorillas. A totally unexpected infant had arrived overnight. They fairly quickly realized that Sully, who was thought to be a male, was the mother. The infant was named **Kwame** (female) by a long-time donor family. It is pronounced Kwah- mee, rhymes with mommy and means quiet ruler in Swahili or teacher/guide in Hausa. This has been a happy surprise for everyone!

Mom and baby are doing “amazing” according to Karen, a Congo keeper. Kwame weighed 8 lbs on November 9 and 13 lbs on January 8. Her weight was calculated by weighing Sully while she was holding and then not holding the baby. Kwame is starting to develop the white spot on her bottom, which is characteristic of juvenile gorillas. This happens when a baby is no longer being constantly held by the mother. It is thought that the purpose of the white spot is to make little ones easier to spot in the dense jungle. Kwame has some pink fingers and toes which will help with visual ID as she reaches adult size.

Sully allows Kwame an appropriate amount of independence. She always has her eyes on her little one and is vigilant at all times. Sully’s mothering style is to let other troop members take the baby at times. Karen describes Sully as “kind of a tomboy.” She is comfortable allowing Kwame to have as much distance as she wants. She doesn’t hover but always keeps an eye on Kwame and responds quickly if Kwame vocalizes for her.



*Kwame—photo courtesy
of Karen Treadway*

All troop members adore the baby, especially Kamina and Zhara. Zhara, while younger, is the more dominant of the two younger girls and will sometimes take Kwame from Kamina. Both the older girls love the little one as well, and Sully allows them both to take the baby. While Tabibu and Kinyani have less interest in holding the baby, they have been more attentive to Sully since Kwame was born. When JJ and Kamoli, the father, were part of the group, they, too, showed a lot of interest. The boys only wanted to play, but Sully was not always comfortable with their kind of play. This was an important factor in the timing of the formation of a

bachelor troop. Mac, of course, is amazing with the baby and accepts contact with her. Sully allows Mac to have as much contact as he wants, and for the most part he is always with Sully and Kwame.

Speaking of a bachelor troop ... this was planned prior to the unexpected birth. Kwame’s well-being came above anything else. Zoo Atlanta was already in place for placement of our bachelor troop when it needed to happen, so that was helpful in the decision making.

Kwame has a BIG personality and lots of energy. She is interested in all the other animals and the keepers and seeks attention from all of them. Kwame interacts with enrichment and particularly loves the black nibble nets (hanging hay nets). She likes anything she can manipulate and is interested in the chow feeders located on the mesh. Kwame is a confident, playful and energetic little one. While at this writing, she still moves mostly on all fours, she can stand and climb 15’ feet up on the mesh. Kwame has started back-riding and is also carried on an adult’s abdomen or arm.

As a newborn, Kwame nursed about 20-30 minutes a day in perhaps 10 sessions a day. (This was during the time animal care staff watched between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm.) Nursing has decreased but will continue until she is weaned as an older youngster. She is starting to mouth food that the adults eat, starting with Sully’s starch ball. Spoon training has started with applesauce. When asked to describe a behavior she found particularly cute, Karen replied, “Everything she does is adorable!” Staff, volunteers and the public will continue to enjoy and be in awe of this wonderful little addition to our gorilla population.

Volunteers and the public have not yet met the next addition to the baby population. **Bonobo Bob** (male) was born on November 7, 2023, to Faith and Gander. This is Gander's first baby, but Faith is an experienced mother. While living at the Milwaukee County Zoo she had one baby, who only lived a few years. Since Faith and Gander are both extremely genetically valuable, this birth is not only a delight for the Zoo but is especially significant for the entire bonobo global population.



*Bob—photo courtesy
of Karen Treadway*

Bob's name also has special significance. Because the Zoo did not have a donor that wished to name the baby, the Congo keeper staff was given that privilege. With Congo curator Audra Meinelt in mind, they cooked up a scheme. While merely going through the motions of suggesting and voting on names, they surprised Audra by naming the baby Bob. Audra had always wanted to name a bonobo Bob after her father and grandfather, who inspired her career, and this was the staff's Christmas gift to her.

Faith had had a few miscarriages, and this was an exhausting pregnancy. We do not always do bonobo birth watches, and there was not a birth watch with Faith. The keepers realized she was in labor when they arrived in the morning. Faith's labor and delivery went well. Faith showed her strong maternal instincts from the start. Females Bertie and Kibibi had been with her during labor, and Faith appropriately controlled their access to the baby after he was born.

As is typical with bonobos, Faith and Bob have been with other bonobos since the birth, and they can be with all the members of the troop. At this writing Faith has not allowed any other bonobo to touch the baby. She still holds him all the time, and at this young age he does not do much but look around. By the time we see him, it is

likely that while he will always be close to Faith. She will no longer carry him constantly. Audra describes Faith as an "interesting" mother. Faith dislikes having a camera in her face, so we are lucky to have this rare photo of him taken when he was almost two months old. Audra went on to say, "Faith does like to spin around while holding Bob, which is one way I think she is playing with him."

It is still hoped that the bonobos will be ready for public viewing in their new building by June, so we can continue to look forward to meeting Bob in the near future and watching him develop and grow.

The highly anticipated and most recent addition to the primate collection cared for by the Congo care team occurred at 12:34 am on November 28, 2023. Chelsea, one of the **orangutan** focus team members shared her time and expertise in talking about this newborn. The first words out of her mouth were, "She is perfect!"



*Clementine—photo courtesy
of Chelsea Massaroni*

A name for the newborn was decided by an animal care team vote. Chelsea said she describes the overwhelming choice of **Clementine** (female) as “she's cute and sweet (and orange) like a clementine.”

Khali (Clementine's mom) came from Toledo at 11 years old as a lively pre-teen. Chelsea said, "Khali had a few extra years to mature while waiting for the new building and allowing the group to continue to bond." The team also tried to plan her conceiving during a time frame that would allow her to give birth in the "off-season". Khali loves spending time in the yard, but with her being a first-time mom and the yard being difficult to access if there were issues with the birth, the colder months were more ideal to welcome our new addition.

Khali was on birth control until everything was well-established and in place. Pregnancy occurred quickly - during her second cycle post-birth control. Visual confirmation of orangutan pregnancy is labial swelling, and Chelsea was the first to notice that with Khali. Not all pregnancy tests work for orangutans like the other great apes, but the team was then able to confirm the pregnancy using a brand of tests recommended by the SSP.

The day of the birth was the final day of the keeper-calculated birthing window. Labor and delivery were nearly textbook in nature. The biggest change in Khali's behavior that day was that she was more her normal self than she had been in recent previous days. She ate well and rested more. Labor began between 8:30 and 9:00 pm on November 27, 2023, and lasted a very normal $\approx$ 4 hours.

Sulango and Dumplin were separated from Khali during the labor and delivery, calmly sleeping in the rooms next to her through the event. The morning following the birth, Sulango was immediately interested in the little one and has remained interested, but respectful. Khali and the baby were separated from the others for a few

days. Once reunited, Dumplin seemed unaware that the infant had been born for a day or two as Khali was protective and kept her distance.

The group reengaged in normal relationships quickly and were back to normal in a week and a half after the birth. Khali regained her energy and was back to participating in normal activities after 3 weeks of life with Clementine. Gender was determined with many good pictures which were sent to orangutan experts for confirmation.

Khali currently wrestles and plays with Sulango as she did before baby. Dumplin now spends a lot of time near Khali and Clementine. She has gently touched her and seems to enjoy looking at her. This is her first experience with an infant. Sulango has been calm and appropriate with Khali and the baby. He was even observed sweetly sniffing her toes while holding them with his giant fingers. Sulango is an experienced father, having been a part of his son Satu's life before coming to Columbus.

Khali has been caring, calm and a super mother. The keepers were brought to tears when Khali brought Clementine to show her to them. She showed she trusted the keepers and offered the baby's foot for the keepers to touch. As observation was being done to confirm nursing, Khali allowed the primary orangutan keepers, Chelsea and Keith, to help put Clementine to the nipple. This action confirmed that there was a strong suckling response and that Khali was being accommodating.

Clementine is a relaxed baby with amazing maternal care. From day one, she has been bright and strong and holds on tight. Every day she is more engaged, looking directly at her surroundings and the staff. According to Chelsea, she seems “super smart, but we may be biased!” She went on to say, “Orangutan babies are usually so ugly they are cute. Clementine just happens to be unusually pretty.”



Chelsea shared some information about orangutan development and life in the wild. Here are some of the points:

- Orangutan infants weigh 3-4 pounds at birth.
- They have an extended childhood and slower development compared to other primates. Mother and a little one have very close contact for an average of six months.
- They have the longest mom-dependency of any of the great apes. They learn everything directly from mom, so they need that time together.
- Youngsters can be 2 – 18 months old before breaking mother's physical contact.
- At about 12-18 months buddy travel/walking may occur, which means walking while holding on to some part of mom. Independent travel may also occur within this time frame.
- The baby will likely attempt climbing before crawling/walking.
- There will be no solitary play by the baby for at least three months - usually closer to five months.
- In the wild there is no father/child contact.
- Young orangutans may nurse up to 7 years of age; at around 3 months they start getting teeth and begin chewing on everything, including dropped food.
- Young females may linger in mom's territory until they have their own kids.

This orangutan birth has been exciting for the entire team and, after all these years, for the whole Zoo. It has been the fulfillment of a career goal for Chelsea ... seeing the process of an orangutan birth start to finish. When asked the question about the best thing about orangutans, Chelsea said, "I think they make you work for relationships more than other primate species. They have thicker walls. Once you break through those walls, it is very special, actually magical."

This article was made possible with the help of the amazing Congo Expedition team, specifically, Audra Meinelt, curator, and animal care team members, Alexis Fisher, Hannah Gebhardt, Chelsea Massaroni, and Karen Treadway. Special thanks is extended to them for their willingness to generously share their time, passion, knowledge and love of these animals.

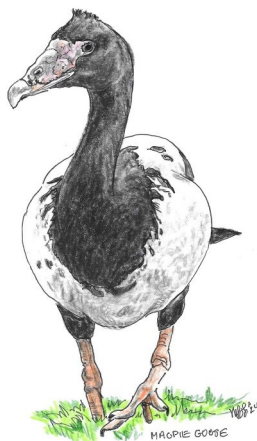
—Kathy Goldsmith/Cathy Shade

The Perfect Place to Spend a Cold Day

On a cold winter day, like the day this article is being written, the aviary in the Nocturnal Building in Australia and the Islands is the *perfect* place to volunteer. It feels like you are entering a tropical paradise, complete with exotic birds, a waterfall, and towering plants that put my houseplants to shame. Not a bird expert? No worries! The signs are very helpful and after a visit or two you will be hooked!

Here are some hints and a few facts to make your volunteering experience more pleasurable.

- Wear layers because it is very warm in the aviary.
- Do not lean on the handrails or stand under the large tree that hangs over the visitors' area. (I swear that the Straw-necked Ibis uses us as targets!)
- Make a checklist of the birds that you see. If you watch them long enough you will learn where the various species like to hang out. Keep in mind that some days a species may not be on view.
- Tell guests that it is best to look at a bird first then find the sign to identify it rather than the other way around because some birds may be off view or hard to find.
- Learn to recognize some of the birds' calls. The low cooing or humming sound is most likely the Victoria Crowned Pigeon. The shriek is the Masked Lapwing, and the honk is Allen, the Magpie Goose. (Speaking of the Magpie Goose, did you know that it is considered a "living fossil" because it is only distantly related to geese, ducks and swans.)



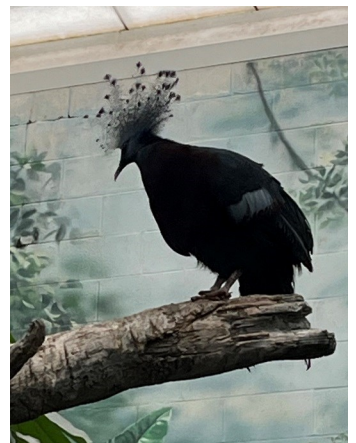
Please do not play recordings of birds while in the aviary. Last fall some visitors played a recording of a kookaburra, in hopes of getting our birds to respond. The Masked Lapwings were very alarmed and began to shriek because the kookaburra is a predator!

Commonly Asked Questions

- Will the birds land on me? No, but remember what I said about the Ibis! All the birds can fly with the exception of Allen who is pinioned.



Straw-necked Ibis



Victoria Crowned Pigeon



Masked Lapwing

- Is that a peacock? When guests see the lacy crest on the bird's head, they may mistake it for a peacock, but it is the Victoria Crowned Pigeon, native to New Guinea and the largest (and arguably the most beautiful) species of pigeon in the world. There are no peacocks at the Zoo.
- Where are the kookaburra? They are off view for the winter, but you may be able to hear them at times. Saffron, the Indian crested porcupine, has taken up residence in the kookaburra's habitat.
- What is wrong with that bird? Is it injured? The Luzon Bleeding Heart Dove may look like it has been shot but it is just fine. During mating season males attract mates by fluffing up their breast and displaying their "heart."
- Which bird is the most endangered? That would be the Bali Mynah. They are nearly extinct in the wild, with an estimated 60 birds remaining in their native range.
- Are we having babies? The only birds that currently have a breeding recommendation are the Scarlet Faced Liocichlas. Many birds do make nests and lay eggs, but they are replaced by "dummy" eggs.
- Is that a banana tree? Yes, there are several banana plants in the aviary. You may recognize some common "houseplants" that are native to tropical regions, including schefflera (aka umbrella tree), hibiscus, fiddleleaf fig and creeping fig. There are plans to refresh the plants in the aviary in the near future.
- What is that green and black iridescent bird? That is the Nicobar Pigeon, the closest living relative to the dodo bird. We have 10 of them!
- Is it true that "birds of a feather flock together?" Yes, they generally do stay with their own kind.
- My favorite birds in the aviary? The Crested Wood Partridges! If you have been volunteering at the Zoo long enough you may remember Jeffrey, the Crested Wood Partridge that lived in the Asia Quest aviary for a time. The current pair of Crested Wood Partridges can often be seen "dancing" on the left side of the aviary, using their feet to probe for insects, fruit and seeds on the ground.

I hope that you will come visit the aviary soon and often, no matter what the season or the weather!

—Bev Larson

I would like to thank Melanie Richards of the Australia and the Islands staff for her help with this article.



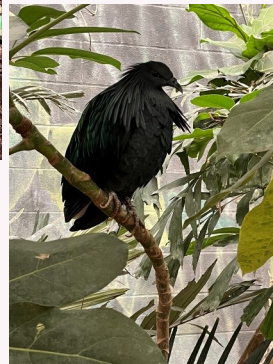
Chestnut Teal



Pied Imperial Pigeon



*Luzon Bleeding
Heart Dove*



Nicobar Pigeon



Masked Weaver

From Farcass to Carcass:

The Changing Nature of Mexican Wolf Enrichment

Animal enrichment and nutrition are ever-evolving and changing sciences. A look at the new program implemented for the Mexican wolves last year shows the collaborative work of four different Columbus Zoo departments in bettering the lives of not only the wolves but now other Zoo animals as well. Josh Keller, head keeper of North America and Dana Hatcher, director of Animal Nutrition, answered some questions regarding this new venture.

Q: Animal Care staff are always looking for ways to enrich the animals' lives and replicate natural behaviors and social interactions. Food, bones and ice have been used in novel ways previous to this trial. What was the impetus behind using a fake carcass, a "farcass", for the Mexican wolves?

A: In late 2022 the six wolves in the pack were experiencing some tension and occasional aggression. We started using a large ice block with a two-day supply of meat plus "extras" such as the bones, rabbits and rats to replicate what wolves experience in the wild - hunting together, making a kill, eating together, possibly

gorging, and then having a period of time without food. Zoo diets are nutritionally complete, but replication of an animal's eating regimen in a zoo setting can sometimes be challenging, especially in social settings. We hoped the ice block, which was a way to offer both enrichment and food, would promote natural group feeding behaviors and calm group dynamics. In addition to the social aspect of eating together, the large block of frozen meat and "extras" takes longer to eat, and a new or randomly-occurring item in the habitat provides mental and physical stimulation. Bone chewing helps to clean teeth and keep jaw muscles firm. The block was offered weekly after the first trial.



Q: How did the project develop from the ice block idea?

A: A lot happened mid-2023. By spring the young wolves had moved on to other institutions and Storm and Winter were by themselves again. We wanted to capitalize on the success of the ice block with additional feeding strategies. Other wolf institutions suggested we provide a carcass for them to eat all at once, but at the time we were not approved for this type feeding. While carcass feeding was being investigated (the introduction of a totally new food or enrichment item needs the approval of the Animal Health, Animal Care and Animal Nutrition Departments and a source of supply for a new, unusual item must be located and vetted, and this can take time) and still curious for a more realistic looking "farcass," we reached out to the Zoo's Planning Department and Bryan Swartz in particular. Bryan has made some amazing ice block molds in the past and was asked to make ribcage and skull molds. These turned out very lifelike and were dubbed "farcasses." We saw positive reactions from the wolves almost immediately and began using them randomly that summer.



By late summer deer legs were approved. At first, they were offered frozen, by themselves. Then they were inserted into the molds to given an even more natural appearance. Both trials were received by the wolves with great success.

Q: Why are deer legs used, and are you considering other prey species?

Mexican wolves are a recovery species managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). There is always the possibility that our wolves, or their offspring, could be re-introduced to their native range. USFWS specifies that animals slated for release should

not receive carcasses of domestic animals as they may lead to wolf-livestock owner conflicts after release. This is not something that needs to be taken into consideration with other animals at the Zoo. Given that prenatal chemosensory

learning (mother's diet affects preferences of neonatal pups) has been demonstrated in domestic dogs, we hypothesize the same could be true for wolves. For this reason, we cannot offer cow, pig, goat or poultry - a whole carcass would look too much like a farm animal. Game animals such as deer could be a food source for wolves in the wild and the USFWS has approved deer for Mexican wolves to provide familiarity with approved prey species. No other animals at the Zoo are approved for deer.

Q: Guests frequently see animals with bones and antlers without objection, and live fish swim with and are eaten by the bears. Dead rodents and rabbits are offered as diet and enrichment in several regions now, live bugs and worms too, but the sight of a group of animals eating a large carcass of a recognizable animal

is a new experience. Were you concerned about the public perception of a more "real life" zoo experience? Have you received negative feedback from either the farcass or carcass programs?

A: Public perception was an initial concern and we worked with Community Relations to determine the best way to advertise and alert guests to this event. The first use of deer legs was mentioned in a social media posting and a sign was placed in the area in case guests did not want to watch. Other institutions follow these same protocols and we thought it would be a nice start so that guests can determine for themselves whether they want to see this or not. During AZA week last September, deer



legs were added to the ribcage mold and you would be surprised by the number of people who thought they were actually looking at a real deer carcass. These types of events are becoming more mainstream and there is more acceptance, but we want to be mindful of everyone who might be visiting the Zoo. By and large, the feedback both in person and on social media has been

overwhelmingly positive.

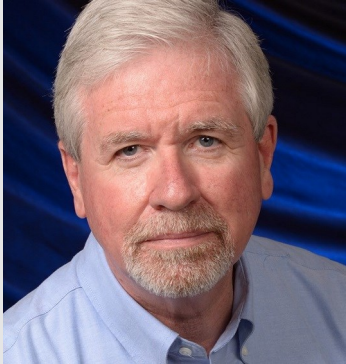
Q: What have you learned from this new program?

A: We have seen immediate positive feedback from the wolves and guests. The farcass molds have been used for other carnivores, and the wolverines are big fans too. Quite a few other zoos have reached out after hearing about our farcasses at conferences and workshops. We are hopeful we can spread the word and help others think of creative solutions to their pack dynamic issues if they are also limited in their carcass availability like we were.

—Nancy Mulholand

Photos courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

2024 REGION LEADERS



John Briney
Asia Quest



Marcie Anderson



Barb Emmets



Pam Hancock
Congo



Ellen Miller
Heart of Africa



Joy Remley
North America



Chris Hochreiter
Shores



Cindy Wesney
Wild Encounters



HOO-KNEW?

Tide Pool Encounters

Did you know that a group of crabs is called a "cast"? And some casts can number in the thousands?



Yearly Awards

Each award recipient, both active and emeritus, will receive a specialized lapel pin. In addition to the pin, the active 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 year volunteers will also get a gift:

- 15 year – Name on the 15 Year Plaque
- 20 year – Columbus Zoo and Aquarium photo box
- 25 year – Name plate on a bench in front of the old Education Building
- 30 year – Photo taken with animal of choice (within reason); framed copy hung in the break space and a framed copy for the volunteer
- 35 year – Embroidered camp shirt
- 40 year – Columbus Zoo and Aquarium sling bag
- 45 year – Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Sherpa blanket
- 50 year – Embroidered jacket



Hourly Awards

Hours were calculated from 2012 (when we started using Volgistics) through November 2023 and include all hours spent volunteering at the Zoo.

- Pins for 250 hour increments up to 1,000 hours
- 1,000 to 2,999 hours - \$25 Columbus Zoo and Aquarium gift card (gift cards are used as Creature Cash was: anywhere on Zoo grounds)
- 3,000 to 4,999 hours – Select Behind the Scenes Tour
- 5,000 to 6,999 hours – Clothing item
- 7,000 to 8,999 hours – Enrichment Painting
- 9,000 to 10,999 hours – Twilight Tour for up to 6 people
- 11,000 to 12,999 hours – Lunch with a staff person
- 13,000 to 14,999 hours – “Tortoise Snuggling”
- 15,000+ hours – Lifetime membership

When you fall into an hourly award category, you will receive that award only once.

Ginger, Carole, Mary, Kathy and Rachel
The Volunteer Team