

Region News - July, 2021

Animal Programs

Sea lion Lovell's new pup was born on June 17. The female pup has been named Lenore, and nicknamed Lennie by the trainers. Lennie arrived just before the first birthdays of Lovell's first pup (Sunshine – June 25, 2020) born at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and Baby's pup (Norval – June 30, 2020). We can look forward to Lovell and her pup appearing on view together in the North and Central Pools following a bonding period and swimming lessons in the inside pools progressing at the animals' preferred pace. Until the new pup graduates to swimming in the exterior pools, the Behind the Marina Sea Lion Tour that can be booked via the Zoo's website is your best bet for a live sneak peek. Lovell is being very attentive to her nursing pup, whose gender has not yet been determined. Since sea lions reside together most of the year in a social group including several males, the pup's father will be determined through a blood test.

You may see Bodega sea lion float on his back – sometimes with a pectoral flipper extended straight up in the air for heat exchange – when the North Pool waves are on a higher setting. This illustrates how relaxed Bodega is in the pool and how he can thermoregulate his body temperature.

On some hot days, piles of ice are given to the animals for enrichment. Shade cloth shields the animals from the summer sun in multiple areas.

As the summer progresses and the males are in rut, the volume of vocalizations, the weight of males and sparring activity between them for dominance will increase.

Sea lion presentations have begun in the Adventure Cove Lighthouse Theater. Dive Into Adventure presentations featuring the sea lions and Animal Encounters Village animals are scheduled at noon and 2 p.m. daily whereas the Sea Lion Training Tales presentations are scheduled for 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. The latter focuses on the behaviors, health care, training and research involving our sea lion friends. Several sea lions appear in these presentations – ranging from massive Nana to pup Norval.

Cheetah runs are occurring at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Watering Hole. If a tour is not booked at the same time, an unannounced run will take place at 1 p.m. on those weekdays. On Saturdays and Sundays, cheetah runs are at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Cheetah Lucy sustained an injury that necessitated the surgical removal of a back left toe. She recovered quickly though and is doing just fine without it. The Zoo prefers that animal statistics shared with the public include only those animals residing at our Zoo rather than counting animals on various types of loans to other facilities. As a result, the current number of cheetahs residing at the Zoo is 14.

Animal Encounters Village has come to life with the warmer weather and the ability to use the outside yards. Guests are enjoying the return of the tortoises and other favorites to public view. Trainers are also utilizing the small enclosed yards near the public aisle for casual animal talks, providing guests with the opportunity to see an armadillo or other animal up close. The capybara location within the building has changed and, with it, the parade route that the capybaras take to reach their outdoor pools. Visitors are intrigued as they watch the large, VIP rodents walk by them. On occasion, a curious capybara will make a detour along the way, including Delta hopping into a side enclosure to munch on the delicious grass there.

Please view the portal and daily updates throughout the year for additional news and resources regarding Animal Programs.

Asia Quest

It's an amazing update from the region! For starters, the elephant herd has grown from six to a very adorable seven! Phoebe **Asian elephant** gave birth to a male calf on June 16 to much rejoicing among staff and volunteers. The calf is active – nursing, sleeping and exploring his home – and appears to be healthy and strong. He weighed 261 pounds as of June 18. (For comparison, Beco's birth weight was 305 pounds and Bodhi's was 285 pounds.) If all goes according to plan, he will be viewable to the public by the time this update is available. Needless to say, there will be many opportunities for everyone trained in the region to assist with line management in the near future. Please watch for information about signing up to do so on Volgistics and come by to see the new baby when you can!

Elsewhere in the Pachyderm Realm, **greater one-horned rhino** Brian has been exploring his outdoor yard for short intervals. We are looking forward to him being on a more regular schedule soon, so guests can plan to see him. But that's not all the news from the region!

Jupiter **Amur tiger** has been off view as he is back to licking the hot spot on his tail. He is enjoying some private time until it's resolved. He and Natasha have been observed breeding; the staff will start looking for signs of pregnancy in July. Cross your fingers for tiger cubs! Let's also hope for good baby mojo for Randhir and Heiderose **sloth bears**, who have been observed breeding as well. It'll be a longer wait for them – sloth bears generally give birth in December.

If you haven't been by the **Pallas' cat** habitat to see our newly-arrived male, Moose, he is a treat! Female Manda has been behind the scenes for medical treatment but should be back in the building by the time this update circulates.

Both the **tufted deer** and the **musk deer** are back in their usual yards. All is status quo with the **markhors** and the **red pandas**.

Silvered leaf langurs Eggnog and Coral underwent surgery to resolve intestinal blockages. Both are now back with the group. Male langur JZ is at the health center with a stone but is expected back soon.

Last but not least, Lannister Reeves' pheasant will be back in the **aviary** by the time you read this, as will Danny and Sandy magpie geese. Lannister will be back without spurs (one has broken off and one has been trimmed back). The one remaining white-crested laughing thrush will get a new home soon (the black-throated laughing thrushes remain in the aviary). Meanwhile, the azure-winged magpie chicks are branching out and growing up fast.

Congo Expedition

The **orangutans** are close to getting moved into their new home! They may venture out into the yard before keepers are able to give them access to the building (no exact date yet). All three of our orange friends are doing well. Staff members have had some great success lately with voluntary ECG's, blood collections and cardiac ultrasound imaging.

The **okapis** are doing well. You should be able to see more of them in their outdoor yards now that construction in the area is winding down. If there is not an okapi on view, it is most likely due to a louder than expected construction day or large equipment going down the service road behind Y1 (by the mandrills). El Jewar and Miliki are doing well with voluntary hoof trim training. Damisi is brushing up on her voluntary x-ray skills to check on a bump (of no concern in the past) she's had on one of her front legs for a few years. If you are in the area and Miliki is in Y3, please feel free to point her out to the visitors. She likes to stand in the back corner by the tortoise yard.

Our **colobus monkeys** are all doing well and made it through the roof work on the Base Camp building. They are loving being outside again! You can frequently see them sunbathing in various locations in their yard. No baby news yet, but Jabari and Bernadette are no longer on birth control. It's hoped that Sekani will breed with both females – fingers crossed!

Susie **bonobo** is no longer receiving birth control and is slated to breed with Gander and Toby. She is our only breeding female, which is making life interesting in the bonobo building. Even though she still chases Gander occasionally to discipline him, they're loving being together! Gander, Jerry and Elema are exploring all the group possibilities and have adjusted to life without their mom, Unga. While the keepers miss Unga terribly, it's comforting for them to see her kids continuing to grow and make new friends.

Training has been going well. Staff have had great success with the new ECG device to help continue monitoring heart issues with various individuals. So far, 8 of our 16 bonobos are trained to use it.

Our **leopards** continue to do well. The current routine is to bring Jamie and Tyrion inside in the middle of the day to service their yard and shift them back out to new enrichment items.

Mosi and Matilda **mandrills** have been choosing to spend most of their time outside but always have access to the building should they prefer to be indoors. Mosi is shooting up and starting to fill out as he matures. As Audra said, Julie and Eebi are doing well at Disney with their two new old-lady friends!

The **gorillas** are all getting along just fine. Based on multiple updates and pictures, Oliver's group appears to be adjusting well to their new home in Milwaukee. Everyone misses them greatly but it makes it a bit easier knowing they are being spoiled up there. They get blankets and love them.

Ktembe's group is adjusting to the changes. Nia adores Ktembe and the girls. She also loves Jamani. (Who doesn't love the munchkin though?) One morning, the keepers were thrilled to walk in the building and see Nia holding Jamani on her belly. They were facing one another, staring into each other's eyes with their noses almost touching while happily grumbling. The interaction made the keepers' day and undoubtedly made Nia's too. Ever since Nia has been part of the group, she has been wanting to hold the cutest baby in the universe. It's nice to watch Nia build new friendships with Sue and Ktembe as well. Similarly, it's lovely seeing Nia back together with Cassie since they were childhood friends. Efforts are still being made to get Ktembe's group more comfortable with spending time in the outdoor habitat. They are becoming more relaxed and, if everything progresses in the right direction, will be spending more time outside soon. Jamani loves doing so and is often seen running around the yard inspecting the climbing structures or sitting beside Dad eating grass... just like Dad. Ktembe likes to sit with his feet in the pool.

Mac's group is also doing well. They spend a lot of time outdoors. At times, you may see the entire group or you may see a "sub group" (meaning a smaller group of individuals together). The group is always given the option to go outside but, sometimes, not all of them feel like venturing out – and that's all right. When they choose to stay inside, they are offered the opportunity to still be close to their troop (family) by giving them access to the long chute that leads out to the habitat as well as other rooms.

You have probably noticed that the kids in the group are growing. In fact, they seem to be growing like weeds lately, especially Kamoli. He is now 172 pounds. If it helps you visually see how big he is, Kinyani is 172 pounds too! Does he still want to sleep with Kinyani and have her carry him on her back at times? Absolutely! She loves him and tries to carry him. JJ is 73 pounds, while Zahra weighs in at 57 pounds. Kamina looks like a little lady and weighs 135 pounds. Sully is now up to 122 pounds. They may be growing up quickly, but boy they love Mac. If you're ever around when the keepers come out to hand feed items, watch and you will see all the kids gather close to Mac to eat. He loves his kids.

The keepers are also busy training three new staff members in various buildings within the region. Please welcome Keith, Libby and Andrew to the team when you get the chance.

Jessica Linek will be moving to Australia to take on the role of head keeper. She will be moving in early July, which means the Congo team will be adding another new staff member soon. We will miss Jessica but are excited for her to take on this new role and are looking forward to adding another amazing person to the Congo team!

Heart of Africa

This will be short and sweet since we just had an HOA region meeting led by Shannon and will have another one on July 13.

If you are working in the region, don't forget about the baby **camels**! Their enclosure is the first place guests will see animals in the region, so it's a wonderful spot to share camel information and answer any questions the guests may have regarding the rest of HOA. Nancy Mulholand has written two great articles concerning the camels, both can be found on the portal.

You will notice that the **lions** have been given two new sand pits as a form of enrichment and another option to find relief from the heat. This has created a great opportunity for us to share with guests how our staff members use different elements to engage the animals to use natural behaviors and/or provide them with choices to, in this case, find a nice cool place to nap! The lion keeper talk is at 10 a.m. daily and is formatted slightly differently than it used to be. If you get a chance, stop by to check it out!

If you are in the Education Building taking a break, be sure to check out the HOA bulletin board. It looks fantastic (thank you, Bev Larson). HOA birthdays will be posted along with interesting facts, information and pictures of the Animal Care staff.

Perhaps you have noticed a change in the **Giraffe** Feeding/Shamba keepers. Amy Englebrecht has been promoted to a lead – camels and ponies. Megan Faulk was promoted to a part-time HOA keeper, so Hannah Whitaker (from camels), Samantha Fox Howard (who was formally an Education Interpreter and spent a short stint in camels) and newcomer Zach Jenne will be found working hard to keep the Shamba running smoothly.

There is an updated lanyard card on the portal with giraffe weights as of April 2021. It is green in color. The rest of the animals are all doing well and enjoying the summer days.



(Picture taken by Nancy Mulholand)

North America

Swans Georgeanne is doing well, but we are sad to say that the North America team had to euthanize Cher. She was battling several health issues and her quality of life had significantly declined. Cher was deeply loved by many and lived a long life. Our thoughts go out to the North America staff.

Things have been very busy in **My Barn** as lots of the goats and sheep have received dental care over the past month. Everything is status quo with the cows but, unfortunately, Reba chicken passed away.

Banjo **pronghorn**, Stevie and Joan **black bears**, Montana **bobcat**, the **Mexican wolves**, **bison**, **prairie dogs**, **beavers**, **eagles** and **lynxes** are all doing well as are **otters** Paso and Catori.

The **aviary** is busy with lots of nesting. So far this year, we have two rose-breasted grosbeak fledglings!

Jessie **cougar** was humanely euthanized due to health complications. She is greatly missed! Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are adjusting well without Jessie.

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverine** bred last month. If the breeding was successful, it is expected that kits will be born early next year.

The **sandhill cranes** and Bertha **moose** are getting along just fine.

The **reindeer's** antlers are growing quite quickly and the reindeer tours have been very popular.

Our **Arctic foxes** are doing well.

Brown bears Brutus and Buckeye are spending lots of time wrestling in their pool.

Polar bears Anana, Aurora and Kulu continue to do well together. Kulu is getting big! He now tips the scales at 612 pounds!

Shores

Summer is in full swing in the region. Kids are splashing in the play park, shopping at Mermaid's Purse Gift Shop and getting their faces painted!

OUTDOOR SHORES

The **flamingoes** are wrapping up their nesting season and will soon be walking away from their nest mounds. Thank you to all of the Shores docents who are back on grounds!

Girl **alligator** is loving basking on the beach.

Our **penguin** chicks are almost done with preschool and will rejoin the adults soon. Be sure to stop by for a keeper talk; they are at 2 p.m. every day.

Sonny and Bubba **Aldabra tortoises** are back outdoors. They enjoy going in and out of the pool!

REPTILE BUILDING

The Reptile Lab reopened on June 21. Thank you to everyone who was involved with the preparations!

Plains garter snake babies were born behind the scenes. They will be released later this summer after they get bulked up with a few meals.

Staff are also tagging over 100 **hellbenders** to get them ready for release later this summer.

Many of the habitats in the building have been “refreshed” – come take a stroll through!

MANATEE COAST

Manatee Scampi had an issue early last month and was not eating as much as normal. She is all better now though. Thank you to all who helped with watching her. All of the other animals are doing well.

DISCOVERY REEF

Discovery Reef has some new fish in quarantine that will go into the main tank.

The Wilds

The Wilds is still in the middle of their spring-birthing season. Following the **takin** and **Pere David's** births earlier this year, there are now babies in the **scimitar-horned oryx**, **Bactrian deer** and **eland** herds. No carnivore births are expected this year but some of the **cheetahs** have been transferred to make room/help team members get ready for the next round of cheetah breeding. Our old cheetah breeding males left for Texas and the three young males that were born at The Wilds were swapped for three new breeding males.

American burying beetle season is in full swing. The Wildlife Ecology teams have already captured some of last year's beetles, which makes this the third year running that beetles overwintering on the property have been documented. Our director of Wildlife Ecology and Beetle Technician travelled to Nebraska in June to help capture new breeding stock for our colony.

It is exciting to see things getting back to normal and nearly full tour busses running through pasture again. Please come visit this summer. Remember, The Wilds is operating by reservation only but everything is readily available on their website.