

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

For the first time, the Zoo celebrated World Sea Lion Day! Observed on May 30, the festivities included our 10 **sea lions** and 3 information stations staffed by docents. The stations featured sea lion coloring pages, a conservation display explaining the work of the Marine Mammal Center – with proceeds from the sale of pinniped pins and badges for the day donated to the facility – and an array of enrichment items that the sea lions play with in their pools. With each pin or badge purchase, guests were entered into a raffle to win a behind-the-scenes tour. Guests also had an opportunity to write personalized messages in permanent marker on recycled fire hose that will be made into an enrichment item for the animals to interact with and for guests to observe their handiwork in action on a return visit!

New information resources added to the portal include a roster of animals residing in Animal Encounters Village (AEV) and fact sheets provided by the pinniped team about **harbor seals** and sea lions, including one from the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums.

Hyena Banzai is medically fine; her weight and diet are within normal ranges. However, she has experienced weight gain that may be a residual effect from being spayed, like what is sometimes seen in pet dogs and cats. Other zoological facilities are also seeing weight gain in mature female hyenas.

Even though the Tunnel will not be staffed from June through Aug. 13, docents and adult volunteers are encouraged to continue to register for shifts on the Adventure Cove Deck. The Tunnel will remain open for guests to explore and Sunshine and her friends will be ready to play. Imagine all the behaviors that 9 trainers in the department have worked on with 14 pinnipeds!

To assist guests when asked for clarification, please remind them that the AEV behind-the-scenes experience meeting point has moved inside the AEV building and direct them there.

Due to an increase in medical complications, **Virginia opossum** Ethyl was recently euthanized. We have fond memories of Ethyl, an AEV resident born on July 23, 2020; she will be missed.

Our next Animal Programs Zoom will be on Aug. 1. Tune in to learn more about our animal friends and their care!



Remembering Ethyl

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Summer is upon us and it's a beautiful time to work in Asia Quest and the Asia Quest Aviary!

Female **tufted deer** Sunflower has joined male tufted deer Angus in the western yard as you enter the Asia Quest building. The introduction of the two deer went beautifully. Sunflower presented herself as very energetic and was quite interested in Angus. On several occasions, she crawled under him by entering between his front legs and exiting between his rear legs. Angus did not know what to make of her! Sunflower was born on Sept. 11, 2021, and arrived from the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Asian elephant Connie has been spending more time with the other female elephants as staff wants to increase her socialization. Sisters Rudy and Sunny will be spending more time with male elephant Sabu as they cycle. So far, Rudy is interested in Sabu but Sunny is not.

Asia Quest welcomes back **silver leaf langur monkey** Linus. Linus was with us from 2012-2018 before moving to the Minnesota Zoo. He is now getting reacquainted with the bachelor group.

Pallas' cats Moose and Kaarina are currently in the habitat while Rooster and Tiina are spending time behind the scenes.

The **tortoises** in the **bat** area will be moved outside once temperatures at night stay above the critical low of 35 degrees. On a down note, our oldest **Malayan flying fox**, Barb, passed away in May due to a variety of issues. She had stopped eating, her health was declining and a known mass in her stomach had developed an abscess. Barb was born in 1993.



Photo courtesy of Laura McGlothlin

Reticulated python Jackie passed away due to nerve damage and loss of function in her rear extremity.

If you notice majestic 16-year-old female **Amur tiger** Mara looking a little “fancier” than usual, below are the reasons why. Feel free to use the information as talking points to share with our guests.

- Mara has been fitted with a special GPS collar that she will wear for six weeks. It is providing important data about tiger behavior and movement that will help scientists better understand her wild counterparts in Nepal.
- The collar measures extremely fine-scale movements that help scientists learn how much energy is spent doing certain behaviors. For example, how many calories do tigers use when hunting, mating, feeding, sleeping, etc., and how does it impact their fitness?
- Data collected in human care will assist with providing a baseline of understanding that can be used to help estimate energy used by tigers in the wild to determine their response to human disturbance near human infrastructures, like roads.
- This research has never been done before and could lead to major advancements in steps that can be taken to protect endangered tigers.
- The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is proud to have a direct role in science that is benefiting wildlife.



Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

When you sign in or out at the old Education Building, you may want to check out the bulletin boards for Asia Quest as well as the other regions at the Zoo. They contain information and photos that can help support your volunteer efforts in the regions.

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Great news: all areas within the region are finally open and the animals are in their yards or have access outside! If you are working the region, you will probably see most of the animals choosing to be outside. The dinosaurs should be open by the time these updates are circulated. Many thanks to Aleisha Stanley for a wonderful Zoom presentation on May 16.

Habitat modifications have been completed for the **gibbons** and **siamangs** on the outside island. Eyebolts for hanging enrichment and food have been added along with two new hammocks.

There is a lot of action going on in the **koala** habitat. New koala Koen, who is two years old, is now out and can be seen in the outside yard. He rotates time there every other day with Katy and Kora (weather dependent). Kora celebrated her first birthday in May with an awesome party. A big thank you to the volunteers who came out to watch the koalas get acclimated to the outside yard. Come on out to see the three Ks – Katy, Kora and Koen!



Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

The Nocturnal Building and Aviary have been very busy with the addition of the **weedy sea dragons**. Shores personnel care for them so, if there is a question concerning them, don't hesitate to call them for assistance. If you are working that area, please remind our guests that the dragons are very sensitive to light, so taking pictures without flash is important. Stanchions are still up to avoid anyone from touching the glass.



*Photo courtesy of Amanda Carberry and
the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*

Male **binturong** Paco has returned to Columbus from his “vacation” at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden. He will rotate in the habitat with female Penny.

Pygmy slow loris Cheddar has finally been out in the habitat after almost two years inside due to COVID restrictions. **Porcupine** Saffron is in the same habitat as Cheddar but has access to go into the back holding area.

World **Tree Kangaroo** Day was celebrated on May 21 with a beautiful display table in the region. Many thanks to the docents who manned it!

While **kiwi** Haka has access to his nest box, he still spends plenty of time roaming his habitat. Be sure to look closely for him!

The **feathertail gliders** are speeding around their habitat. Animal Care staff count them about once a month and the most recent one came to 22.



Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

In the Aviary, you may notice stanchions and a curtain in front of the **kookaburra** habitat. Staff noticed that they were not adjusting smoothly to the opening of the building, so the addition of those items has helped with that. They also have some additional perches and a nest box in the habitat.

All of the other animals in the region are doing well and enjoying their outside homes.

Come on ‘Down Under’ to the Australia and the Islands region – the animals look forward to your visits!

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

The **colobus monkeys** are all doing great! Marmalade is starting to change colors and looks a bit darker every day. She is also getting more adventurous and has been moving away from Mom all by herself. She is even beginning to eat solid foods and interact with the keepers. Everyone else is getting along splendidly and enjoying staying out overnight thanks to the nice weather!

The **orangutans** are enjoying the warmer days and nights we've been having as well, especially Sulango. He is rather enraptured with the yard this year.

Previous updates have mentioned how the keepers have been seizing opportunities to train the orangutans more. Well, they are happy to share that they were recently able to perform an awake cardiac ultrasound on Sulango! He did fantastic and didn't seem to mind the large amount of ultrasound gel that accumulated on his chest (his biggest hurdle during training). In the coming weeks, a scan on Dumplin will be attempted as well. As you may remember, Dumplin has limited movement due to some fused vertebra and arthritis. As a result, she cannot present her chest up close to

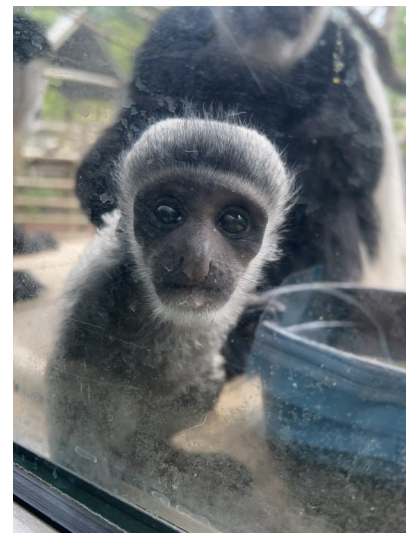


Photo courtesy Hannah Gebhardt



Photo courtesy of Keith vonStein

the mesh, so keepers had to get creative. They have a PVC tube that the ultrasound probe fits onto, which allows them to reach a few inches into the room to touch her chest. She has been doing wonderfully with training and is far more interested in the juice reward than the probe. Additionally, keepers have been giving the orangutans more nesting materials, including shavings, straw, woodwool and many different types of fabrics. Here is a picture of a nest that Khali recently made. It was pretty impressive!

The **okapis** are doing well. Staff continue to give El Jewar and Damisi breeding access. There were several water pipe breaks just outside the barn that took a few weeks to repair. The okapis were inside with white noise and extra enrichment while the loud construction work was being done. All did very well. Matoke and Miliki alternate days in Y3. El and Damisi alternate days in Y1 or Y2.

Baby **mandrill** Bernard continues to grow and thrive. He has started receiving a handfed diet of his own rather than just eating some of his mother's food. He has also begun training and is already doing well with the "target" behavior. He has developed a very curious and boisterous personality. He can often be seen foraging out in the yard as well as playing with mother Malaika and aunts Hasina and Matilda. He has made a favorite game of using the hammocks in the mandrills' front room as a trampoline as he will repeatedly jump in and out of them. Bernard got a new playmate on June 6 when Hasina gave birth to a baby girl. *The Zoo will be sharing an announcement on social media soon. We respectfully ask that you not share any information until the official announcement is made.*



Photo courtesy of Pam Hancock

Leopard Tyrion went through an illness recently with keepers noting that he appeared lethargic and uninterested in food. An immobilization showed no major issues other than a swollen lymph node. After a round of antibiotics, Tyrion has shown great improvement and is almost back to his old self. He has been playing with brother Jaime and is spending more time outside as the weather has gotten nicer.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

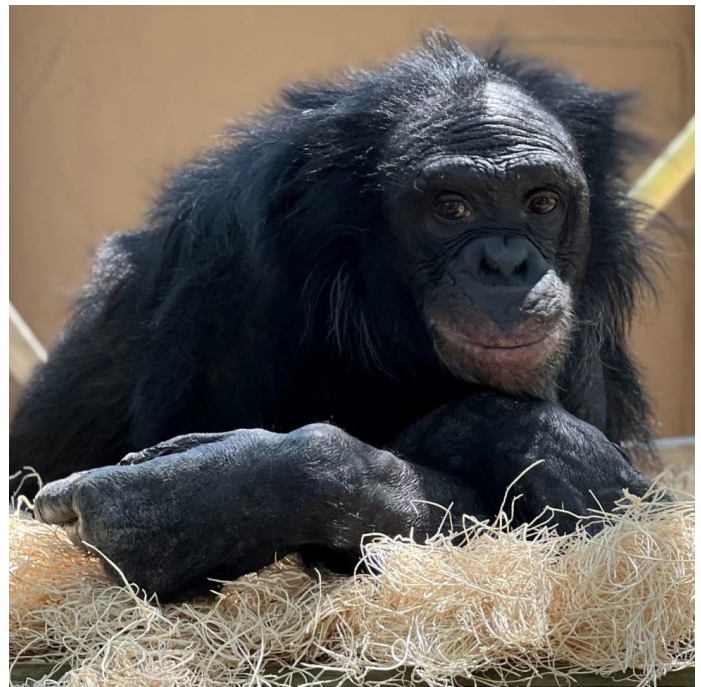
The **gorillas** have adjusted well to their new neighbors and are willingly shifting over them to go out to the habitat. Staff have put recycled plastic runners on the chute floors and blocked the visible parts of the chute they go through with wood, but they still can see one another from certain points. Naturally, both are curious about the other.

Kamoli celebrated his 10th birthday on May 23 and the team threw him an octopus-themed birthday party. The keepers continue to engage our gorillas through training and several are working on new behaviors. Ktembe and Mac are champions at presenting their chests, so staff can download the data from their

ILR devices weekly, and JJ has shown his aptitude for learning as he has acquired many new behaviors over the last few months. During the recent renovations, our maintenance team installed three new ports to allow for blood draw training. Staff are excited to get our gorillas and **bonobos** started with that.

The bonobos have settled right into their new building. They are loving the firehose, hammocks and being so close to the keepers working in the kitchen (they did not have that view in their previous building). The team continues to do an amazing job with cardiac training, getting valid blood pressure readings and awake cardiac scans on multiple individuals as well as weekly ILR downloads on Jimmy, which really helps our vets make real-time decisions about medications and other treatment needs. In fact, it was all their hard work that enabled full understanding of the significant cardiac challenges Maiko was experiencing, a gift that doesn't usually materialize outside of examinations.

Please check out the newsletter as it contains an article about our bonobos and their move.



Remembering Maiko

Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA



Each of our **lions** is doing well.

The **ostriches** are LOVING their new space.

Our **donkeys** arrived on May 23 and are already a Zoo favorite! The smaller female is Cocoa and the larger gal has not been named yet. They are adjusting very well to their new home.

The **vervets** continue to live together peacefully.

We have two new **giraffe** arrivals! James is a 2.5-year-old Masai from the LA Zoo. He has already met our males, explored the holding yards and most spaces in the barn. He will be castrated in June before being introduced to the females later in the month. James is as sweet as can be. He and Ralph are the best of friends!



Bobbie arrived on May 24 and will be our breeding bull. Bobbie is 3.5 years old and comes to us from the Houston Zoo. He is very handsome and a sweet guy. Zuri is already "making eyes" at him.

The hoofstock barn has seen the arrival of 0.2 **slender-horned gazelles**, Reagan and CeCe. Both are sweet little ladies that love people! They have been introduced to Layla (dama) as well as Brick (slender) and all is going well. In the next few weeks, we will be receiving a male to add to their herd.



Everyone else is doing great and enjoying the nice weather!

Photos courtesy of Shannon Borders

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

It is hoped that we might see some breeding behaviors from the **trumpeter swans** this year but, so far, none have been observed. Both swans are young, so that isn't abnormal.

The **Mexican wolves** are doing well. Both have been enjoying laying in the sunny spot near the window, which is great for guests.

The petting yard at **My Barn** is in full swing! Please come volunteer and help our guests have a memorable experience with our goats and sheep. By the time this is posted, construction will still be in progress or just completed on the fencing modifications around all the yards where the cows have access. This will allow them access to more spaces within the My Barn area again. You might also see the new grit area in the petting yard. It was made to give our goats/sheep an alternate substrate option, if preferred. The new San Clemente Island goats will likely have joined the herd when these updates come out. Their names are Al, Mo, Furby (Kitsy Furball) and Buster (Buster Peanut).

Our **black bear** girls have been much more active. You might see Joan sleeping away in the outside den or find Stevie sunning herself on the platform.

The introduction with all four **moose** went swimmingly! They can now choose where they would like to be for the day and will have access to the big yard, the bull yard, and a stall during the hotter weather. If you see guests having a hard time finding the moose, please tell them to check both habitats.

Reindeer Sugar is having some ongoing mobility issues due to arthritis. Staff are trying new therapies, including regular physical therapy sessions and chiropractic care, in an effort to provide her relief.

The **otter** girls have been quite active and can usually be seen outside, taking a dip in their pool on nicer days.

Chipmunks in the **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** have been disturbing some of the birds, so staff have decided to move a few of them inside for now. You will see a new duck in the pool; he is a lesser scaup. During quarantine, he became quite attached to a decoy duck staff gave him, so you might see a fake duck in the aviary for a little bit as he gets used to spending time with his more "lively" friends.

Animal Care staff have started a watch on Brutus **brown bear**, which might be done by the time this is posted. He has been acting a little off, so they want to collect as much data on him as possible to see how he is using his habitat throughout the day.

The **lynxes, wolverines, cougars, eagles, polar bears** and **Arctic foxes** are all getting along fine.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Dave Ackerman retired after 37 years at the Zoo – congratulations! Kevin Kollar will be moving to an aquarist position and our new terrestrial keeper, Melissa, will be starting before the end of the month.

Unfortunately, Jackie – the largest of the two **reticulated pythons** in Asia Quest – was euthanized a couple of weeks ago.

Five **garter snakes** have been born at the Zoo this year.

Physicals have been completed on all our **flamingoes** for the year.

Three juvenile **gators** will be moving to the yard when temperatures are in range for them.

We received more **weedy sea dragons** and there are 9 juveniles at the reef, which puts us at a grand total of 25. Since moving to the Australia and the Islands system, the weedy sea dragons living there have had three egg drops. Hopefully, this is the first step toward successful egg transfers!

The **tortoises** that spend their winters in the bat habitat in Asia Quest have started to go out to the aviaries as the weather allows.

Our **stingrays** had their spring barb clippings.



Remembering Jackie

Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS



The Wilds is now open for the season. They officially opened for regular tours on May 1 but had so many groups wanting to book visits that they had to sneak a few in early through the last week of April.

The **Pere David's deer** fawns are growing quickly and are now up and moving around with the herd. The **Bactrian deer** are the next group to start giving birth. They are a challenging species since they have about 130 acres of lush grassland to hide their fawns. Staff have started to use a drone to spot

the fawns from the air and guide teams in to catch them for their neonate exams.

The team has also been busy with a number of animal transfers. They have sent a **sable antelope**, two **eland**s, a **giraffe**, a **rhino** and two **cheetah**s out to other zoos. Additionally, they brought in two breeding male cheetahs that appear ready and willing to start their new perspective jobs.

Outside of the pasture fences, The Wilds ecology team is continuing their work with the **American Burying Beetle** Recovery Program. They have started their annual beetle trapping project to help Care staff follow the beetles as part of the release project at The Wilds.

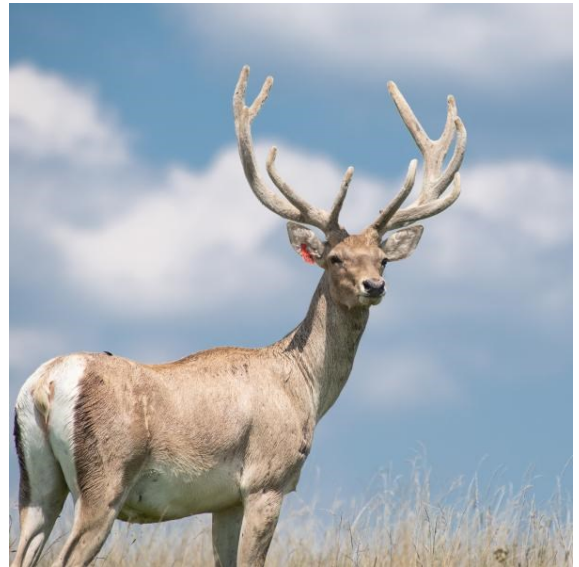


Photo courtesy of The Wilds

When you plan your summer trip to The Wilds, please remember that all tours are by reservation. You can book seats in advance for your tour time of choice and everything else you need to plan your visit is available on the website.

