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The Columbus Zoo
and Aquarium
Volunteer Newsletter

ZooNews



Region-Only Exclusive Edition



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

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Our Vision: The Sustainable Co-existence of All Living Things

Our Mission: Lead and Inspire by Connecting People & Wildlife

Communiqué

Well, this is hardly the spring we had envisioned, now is it? We had so many exciting things planned for this season: from the usual visits from thousands of school children, and celebrating our team with the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner; to the unique opportunities of watching Adventure Cove near completion, and opening our new Education Building! While this time has been extremely challenging and we all miss being together at the Zoo, knowing that our team is just as strong as ever gives us hope and comfort. We are not just a team, we are a family and you are at the forefront of our hearts and minds. You have continued to support us in so many ways and we want you to know we are still here for you.

The most important thing you can do at this time is to take good care of yourselves and each other. We will get through this and when we do, we will treasure our time together more than ever.

Your Volunteer Team,

Rachel, Ginger, Carole, Kathy, Mary

This Communiqué was initially written for the May Newsletter that did not happen. We feel the words are still relevant today. —Your Newsletter Staff

Dear Zoo Volunteer Community,
We are hard at work researching and interviewing for future newsletter articles. This modified newsletter (the Region-Only Exclusive) was important for us to share with you as the Zoo welcomes guests in the coming weeks. We asked the curators to give as much detail as possible, so you'll see a few updates about animals "are fine," and you can rest assured that you have all the news that's fit to print. In a future edition, you can expect to see a write-up of each episode of "Secrets of the Zoo," along with information and updates about the animals since the show was filmed. We hope you'll continue to provide feedback on the types of information you'd find most useful as you return to the Zoo. Please reach out to anyone on the masthead, or send us an email at CBusZooNews@gmail.com. Stay safe and we'll be seeing you around!

~ Emily, Barb and Cindy

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Asia Quest



By and large, all is well with the **flying foxes**. Barb is still dealing with some sores and is again wearing a cone during the day; she hates it just as much as she did before. The **sloth bears** are also doing well. The animal care staff is unsure of when they will be cohabitating.

Pallas' cat Manda is waiting on a new boyfriend and will be doing so for an unknown amount of time as all transports are halted for the time being. Junior, the red-crowned **crane**, is in the same boat.

The **mouse deer** are doing very well; they go out every day after the bat habitat is cleaned. The birds are out in the aviary now and some new residents are expected when transports resume. Joslyn **tufted deer** is out with Dexter and Sunshine and is doing very well as she adjusts to her new environment. Lady Stetson **musk deer** is currently indoors until she gives birth.

Things are status quo with our **Asian elephant** herd. Beco is separated from Phoebe when she is cycling and the staff continues to work on behaviors as well as exercise programs. Connie has been getting training so she can receive medical attention for cataracts. Rosie **black rhino** has recently been trained to have her blood pressure taken using her tail. She is currently recovering from a foot injury and is getting daily foot soaks.



You may have seen on social media that Rosalyn **markhor** gave birth to two kids. Florence is still expecting, so look for news on that! The four female kids born last spring have departed for a new home.

Kora **red panda** is being trained in preparation of receiving an ultrasound to check for pregnancy. Although breeding has been observed, red pandas are delayed implanters.

In **Amur tiger** news, Natasha is also undergoing ultrasound training. Disappointingly, it was verified that she is not pregnant. However, she and Jupiter still have a breeding recommendation, so there may be cubs in the future. Jupiter had been dealing with a hot spot on one of his limbs but it is all healed up now. Changbai and Mara are enjoying their yards and doing well.



REGION NEWS—SHORES

Shores



Penguin chick Charmin is growing up fast. She has been separated from the colony to be weaned and fed by keepers. They are teaching her all about eating fish and swimming. Charmin has a wonderfully laid back personality. For her caretakers, she is one of the best things to come out of quarantine; they all adore her. A new penguin arrived from Rosemond Gifford Zoo. Her name is Malia and she is an SSP recommendation. She will spend some time in quarantine with Chudder – fingers crossed for a love connection.

The **flamingoes** have begun building nests and are quite busy on the nest mounds. **Nene geese** are also out in the yard and are doing well.

Manatees are still doing well. Bananatee and Tostone are eating and growing. The **ducks** that were in Manatee Coast have been moved to the North America Aviary.

You will notice some additional fish in Manatee Coast when you come back to visit. There are no new species but you will see additional **needlefish**, **pork fish** and **lookdowns**.

In addition, we have had a baby boom of **southern stingray** pups in Manatee Coast. Currently, there are seven pups that have been moved to a back holding area to grow out.

Stingray Bay is ready to go! Staff can't wait for everyone to see the changes.

In Discovery Reef, a medical procedure was recently done on one of our **blacktip reef sharks** as a result of her having intermittent buoyancy issues. Keepers were able to work with Animal Health to anesthetize her and give her a full work up. The results are still pending, but she is doing really well. As a brief aside, I was told that photos were taken throughout the process and that the keepers would love to show them all to us soon.



Sapo **Komodo dragon** is doing better after having some lameness in his front leg. He is undergoing training for voluntary laser therapy and he is doing really well. Ursula can't wait to get outside in the yard – temperatures look good for that to happen soon.

All is well in reptiles. Some of the **turtles** have recently started to go outside and soak up some UV. The **aldabra tortoises** are out every day enjoying the sunshine but missing their snugglers.

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Heart of Africa



Jambo (hello) from Heart of Africa!! If you are like me, you are missing all the animals. Need a fix? Remember, you can watch the cam as it pans from the Watering Hole to the Savanna/feeding yard. Below is a summary of what has been going on in the region over the last couple of months:

Heart of Africa keepers have broken down into two teams (a giraffe/hoofstock team and a vervet/lion team) in response to COVID-19. Both teams are attempting to create as much normalcy as possible for the animals, which has included introducing the animals back to the Savanna just like every spring. The introduction process went off without a hitch and, at this point, all of the animals are out on the Savanna and ready to be viewed.

There has been a baby boom this spring! **Vervet** baby TomTom was born March 28 to Sassy and, on April 17, Lucy gave birth to DJ James Kennedy. The fathers are Todd or Bob and all are doing very well. (You might recognize the names from the BravoTV series *Vanderpump Rules* .) According to Adam Felts, HOA curator, “The babies add a great dynamic to the group and are A-dor-A-ble.” Not to be outdone, **slender-horned gazelle** Veronica Corningstone gave birth to twins on April 7. The father is Ed Harken. They are also doing very well and have been named Amy and Mike (after Amy Acton and Mike Dewine). Adam stated that, “Vervets are cute, but these are the CUTEST of all gazelles, both under two pounds when they were born.”



Lions are doing well but with big changes. TJ, Tony, Teddy and Naomi have been transferred to another facility. They were transported by Adam and Shannon and have settled nicely into their new home. The goal is for the boys and their mother (all were reproductively sterilized) to remain together. There will be a male lion joining the pride at some point – that plan has been delayed due to COVID-19.

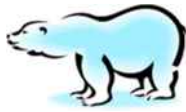
The **giraffes** miss their volunteers and docents.

Camels will be returning as soon as a date to open is set but the adult camels will be in the baby camel yard this year instead of babies. The yard will be used as a “day off” yard for the walking camels.

Hang in there. We will be together again. **#HOASTRONG**

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

North America



The keepers and animals in the region miss you all so much! Thank you for the amazing video, face masks and endless support!

Swans Cher and Georgeanne have returned to the swan habitat after residing at the barn for the winter.

The **goats** and **sheep** are missing the extra attention they get from Zoo guests at this time of year. Sheep shearing has been completed to get them ready for the warmer weather.

The **cows**, who are also missing Zoo guests, are perfecting their halter training and the **chickens** are spending more time outside of the coop on warm days.

All of the 2019 **Mexican wolf** pups are now bigger than both Storm and Winter. Male pups, August and Fresco, weigh 77 and 78 pounds respectively while the female pups, Snow and Sol, weigh 60 and 62 pounds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently reported a 24 percent increase in Mexican wolves in the wild – 163 wolves total (76 in Arizona and 87 in New Mexico). There was also a 33 percent drop in mortality rates from the prior year.

Beth and Banjo **pronghorn** are doing well. Sadly, Spoons passed away. His energy and attitude are greatly missed.



Bison Clover and Hermie are starting to shed their winter coats.

Beavers Acorn and Zucchini are doing well.

The region welcomed two new **otter** females, Paso and Catori. Hopefully, they will be introduced to Wildcat this summer. Currently, all three otters have visual access to each other and they chat back and forth all day long.

The **eagles** did not lay any eggs this year but all are doing well.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources recently announced that their citizen science program found 707 nests in Ohio, which is a 151 percent increase from 2012. Ottawa, Sandusky and Erie counties had the highest nest counts – Delaware now has 13 nests and Franklin has 5.

The **aviary** welcomed some new residents including a cowbird, goldfinch and a snow goose named Jolene. All of the birds are busy building nests for the season.

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA, *continued*

Montana **bobcat** continues to be one of the most spoiled residents of North America.

The **lynxes** are doing well and working on emergency recall and target training.

Black bears Stevie and Joan are becoming more active and leaving the den on nice days.

Jessie **cougar** is doing very well.

Since the denning season is over, **wolverines** Alvar and Guillotine have been reintroduced.

The **sandhill cranes** are back in the bull moose yard. They can be heard calling daily and, even though both are males, they are nest building together.

Oji and Bertha **moose** have been reintroduced since rut has ended. The introduction could not have gone better – both were sleeping side by side the next morning.

All of the **reindeer** have finished casting last year's antlers and beautiful new ones are coming in. Unfortunately, Sugar broke one of her new, velvety antlers. Despite the lost antler, she is doing great. Animal care staff are waiting to see if and how the damaged antler will grow this year.

Although the **prairie dogs** are active on warm days, they prefer to hide out in their burrows when temperatures are cooler.

The **arctic foxes** received lots of new mulch in their habitat.

Brown bears Brutus and Buckeye are out of their winter torpor and back to being their destructive selves. They have been keeping animal care and maintenance staff busy by moving the large logs around their habitat.



Our **polar bear** cub is officially named Kulu! Thanks to everyone who voted! He currently weighs 163 pounds. Aurora and Kulu have been getting comfortable with the larger habitat. Lee and Anana are doing well and rotating yard time with Aurora and Kulu.

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Congo Expedition



Colobus structures had renovations this winter, so they'll be brand new by the time this is circulated and the Zoo reopens. If you see what appears to be snow in the outdoor habitat, your eyes are not totally deceiving you. Once a month, the yard will be covered with diatomaceous earth to treat for parasites as it has been in the past.

Jabari colobus was in and out of the hospital this winter. She ended up staying for about a week to receive continuous treatment that was unrelated to her C-section in January. She has recovered well and is back with her group. All of the monkeys are thrilled to be together again. With the Zoo closure putting a strain on finances, it was decided to hold off on breeding Jabari for now. She received a depo shot through voluntary injection in late May. The family is doing great and is outside daily.

Bonobos are all doing well. Staff and animals are always excited when the weather turns and the outside habitat can be used once again. The horticulture team added new deadfall to the yard this spring. The bonobos are really enjoying these additions. The group returned to the biscuit based diet, which they are enjoying, to help save money during the pandemic as well as to better meet their nutritional needs. The bonobos are happy to have them again but the keepers have seen an increase in hives since changing back. They are manageable at this time though. FYI, there should be some new signage by the indoor enclosures to help with that tricky question guests have about the bonobo's swellings.

Since being treated for his ulcers, Mosi **mandrill** has been doing very well. The girls are doing great and Animal Care staff are working on breeding Mosi with Saffron. Mosi is growing bigger every day and has started to fill out a bit. He has more colorations on his rump too – all signs that he is maturing and will be a full adult male before you know it! He lives with females Saffron and Matilda. They are visible daily. Julie and Eebi are a bit hesitant to move outside, so they will not be seen as often. The pair is doing very well though and staff are hoping to convince them to spend more time in the sunshine soon.

IT'S A BOY! Damisi and El Jewar **okapi** are proud parents of a male calf, Dini, born on Friday, May 8 at 3:54 a.m. Dini is growing like crazy and has quite the personality. Damisi is doing well and is showing exemplary maternal skills. Okapi calves do not thermoregulate for the first few months, so do not expect to see the calf outside when the Zoo reopens. For further updates and adorable pictures as well as videos, please refer to the Zoo's website.



IT'S A GIRL! Cassie and Ktembe **gorilla** are proud parents of a baby girl, Jamani. She was born Tuesday, April 15 at 9:09 p.m. The group was all together and Ktembe did awesome. Both mom and daughter are doing well. The team cannot wait for everyone to meet Jamani. She is the most beautiful gorilla baby ever, and Cassie is a great mom. Sue and Nadami have shown interest in Jamani and have been allowed to interact with her briefly. Ktembe has been amazing and, while he



looks at his daughter, he gives Cassie plenty of space. The group has spent time in the habitat and were recently given a chance to spend time in the indoor viewing space. Keepers are moving them around to get them comfortable in the spaces, so it is not known at this point when guests will be able to see Jamani. Again, please refer to the Zoo's website for more updates and adorable pictures as well as videos.

Tabibu's group is doing well but she sustained a fracture to her right wrist. Staff have been breaking the group down into subgroups at times to allow her to rest. She spends most of the time in the back rooms but has been in the indoor space too. She receives laser therapy three days a week. Keepers are working on training her for voluntary radiographs. It is not known how the fracture occurred.

Orangutans went outside for the first time in late May and were extremely happy. Their new building is on hold due to the implications from the pandemic. The team

is making the most of it and has been adding new enrichment items to their daily repertoire.

Hogs Harold and Harriet are doing great. If you did not hear, they became grandparents when their daughter, Notorious, gave birth to piglets at the Dallas Zoo this spring.

Leopards – not much to tell here. Sita is doing well. The staff suspects that she may be hard of hearing these days.

Docents and Adult Volunteers: A huge "thank you" to all who participated in the "Gorillas on the Line" enrichment workshop!

Please stay safe.

As a final note, gorilla keeper Heather would like to share some information on training:

"I don't know how many docents/volunteers are aware of some of the training the keepers do with the gorillas, but I would like to share some of the training with you. As some of you are aware, some of the keepers have been working with certain gorillas for the awake cardiac behavior. The behavior is a wonderful behavior to have because it allows us to monitor the individual's heart and helps reduce the need for yearly immobilizations for each individual. Right now, we have mainly focused on the silverbacks, but are training some of the older individuals in the gorilla collection. The whole behavior is pretty neat to see happen. It takes a while to accomplish. An outside stenographer, Ashley (who is wonderful and the gorillas are very comfortable around her) comes and has the ultrasound/cardiac machine to take multiple pictures and some videos on. The keepers ask the gorilla to get positioned with their chest all the way to the mesh. The keeper then finds the "sweet spots" where Ashley can get pictures and videos of the Apical and Parasternal views. After all the views are taken, which is done within a 30 day period, they are submitted to the Great Ape Heart Project. They look at the scans and let us know if the scans are acceptable or not. Ktembe's awake heart exam, done by Mandi and Meredith in 2018, was accepted. I am happy to report that I just worked with Ashley this last month in getting scans for Mac. He did absolutely wonderful. He was patient and relaxed the entire time (sometimes we worked him for 40 minutes – a long time) but he did great. We won't know for some time if the images we got will be officially accepted by the Great Ape Heart Project, since it can take a while sometimes for them to look at all the scans taken. But, we are hopeful and couldn't be happier. As a side note, we have also been able to do voluntary scans on several of our bonobos including Ana Neema, Jimmy, Toby, Maiko and Donnie."

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Australia and the Islands



Our **tree roos**, Lenah and Cori, have bred a couple of times. There was no joey after the last breeding but, since they recently bred again, staff are hopeful that there will be one in the near future! Cori has been going in the public habitat while the building has been closed and, thus far, has been well behaved. They will rotate being out in the habitat once the Zoo reopens.

Lorises Muenster and Gouda are now in the habitat together, while Cheddar and the twins (Havarti and Ricotta) are in the back habitat. The twins are slated to leave soon for another zoo.

The **Australia Aviary** birds have been enjoying the lack of people in their space. They have decided to take over the public aisle as their own and keepers find them there much more often than before. Keepers saw some aggression issues in our Kookaburra family. Stella was moved to Asia Quest temporarily and things have calmed down in the habitat.

The **kangaroo** mob has some really exciting additions. We have two new kangaroos who both came from Promotions: one red named “Scarlett” and one grey named “Bindi.” They have integrated well with the rest of the roos and are now with the mob 24/7.

We did lose our beloved **koala** Wruwallin in March. Thoar and Katy had a good breeding but keepers are not confident on whether or not she currently has a joey. Keepers will be moving Katy to the front habitat and rotating Thoar and Katy out in the yard. When Katy is in the yard, there will not be any koalas viewable in the indoor habitat.

Our little **gibbon** now has a name, “JC,” but there is still no definitive decision on the sex of the little one.

The **storks** and the **pelicans** are loving the warmer weather and being back out on Bird Lake.

Our small **otter** family, Asta, Gus, Triton and Ray Ray, have moved to the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher in North Carolina. Word has it that they are “living the life!” The other family has now been divided into two groups and they rotate time in the yard. The pups are big now and it is really difficult to figure out who the parents are at this point!

Our **Congo Aviary** birds are outside and loving it! Keepers are in the process of introducing a female blue bellied roller and two male amethyst starlings into the aviary. We also have two new marbled teals that seem to be loving it!

The **lorikeets** are really missing the volunteers and guests and can’t wait to see everyone!

