

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

Sometime in March, the Adventure Cove Deck will once again reopen for guests to enjoy the **harbor seals** and **sea lions** from an elevated vantage point. Additional information has been uploaded to the portal, including an updated seal and sea lion lanyard card and Watering Hole documents reflecting the discovery last year that Shenzi **hyena** is a male rather than a female.

The second training session about the logistics of volunteering in the Adventure Cove Deck and Tunnel areas will be offered via Zoom on Sunday, March 5 at 9 a.m. Conservation Education team members will lead the discussion.

Spring sessions of Slothvasana yoga will be held March 25-26. All four sessions are already sold out! T-shirts from the autumn 2022 sessions are available for \$20 in the Conservation Education office through March 24.

We share our condolences with staff on the loss of **cheetah** Jacob, a longtime resident of Animal Programs and, more recently, Asia Quest. He will be missed.

There are different guidelines in different areas of the Zoo but the pinnipeds in Adventure Cove, especially Sunshine sea lion, enjoy interacting with visitors. It is the animal's choice whether or not to engage with them. Provided the interaction is coming from the animal, guests can provide amazing enrichment for our sea lions. Therefore, guests, docents and volunteers are welcome and encouraged to continue to engage with the animals. As volunteers and docents, we can help ensure guests are not scratching the acrylic with keys or rings when they play with the sea lions or using laser lights.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis

The sea lions can zoom away whenever they wish. As long as they are having fun and want to interact, they can, even if it goes on for hours. The animals raised with a lot of enrichment – Columbus born sea lions Sunshine, Norval and Lennie – are really curious about their environment. We want to encourage all of the animals to be curious, play and be sea lions. Sea lions have multiple interaction opportunities that include mental enrichment through training sessions, contact with guests and habitat enrichment involving the Tunnel, acrylic, birds, wind, rain, toys, etc. In short, it's okay for our pinnipeds to play!

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Asia Quest animals on the move:

- The **red crowned cranes** are moving to the north tiger yard on the boardwalk. The **muntjacs** will then move from the Asia Quest Aviary into the yard that was occupied by the cranes.
- Staff will be working on crate training with **sloth bear** Shiva in preparation for a future move back to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.
- Male **elephant** Sabu will be spending more time with female Sunny.
- New signage is being added to the **bat** habitat for **chevrotains** (mouse deer) and the **honey eater birds**.

As the weather starts to warm, more animals in the region will spend time in their outside habitats. The following are temperature guidelines for four Asia Quest species:

1. **Langurs** have outdoor access when it is 50 degrees or warmer and are locked outside when it is 60 degrees or warmer.
2. Sloth bears have outside access when it is 25 degrees or warmer.
3. Elephants have outdoor access during the day when it is sunny and feels warm enough (no strict temperature parameters) and have overnight outside access when it is 40 degrees or warmer.
4. The **greater one-horned rhinoceros** will have outside access when it is 30 degrees or warmer.

The Asia Quest staff has suffered three animal losses in the last few months:

1. Young langur Cardi was euthanized as she had lost her sight due to a detached retina.
2. **Markhor** Sunny (see photo below) had mobility issues due to arthritis and age.
3. **Cheetah** Jacob had declining health due to diabetes and spinal fusion. In remembrance of “Jake,” **yellow labs** Cash and Cullen from Animal Programs paid a special visit to the staff.



Remembering markhor Sunny

The following new documents have been added to Asia Quest on the portal:

- FAQ Elephants 2023 (1/29/23)
- Greater One Horned Rhino FAQ (2/5/23)
- Identifying Tigers Mara and Natasha (2/21/23)

**Please stop by Asia Quest this spring where we have
Elephants and Tigers and Bears! Oh my!**



*Remembering cheetah Jake and
langur monkey Cardí*

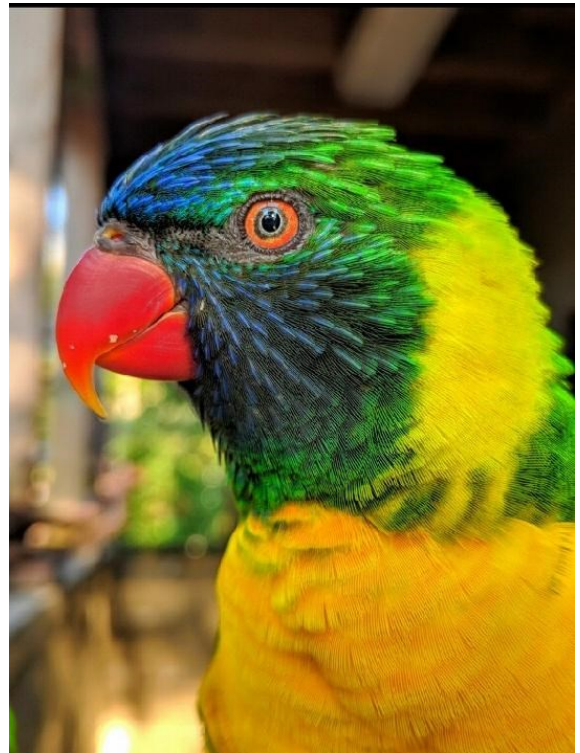
REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS



The region is fairly quiet while construction is ongoing in the former Roadhouse and most of the other animals remain inside. However, Animal Care staff and the animals have taken advantage of the warmer days we've had with some outside activities.

The Kangaroo Walkabout and the Lorikeet Garden will open for weekends only on March 18 but will be weather dependent. Please note that the **kangaroos** and **lorikeets** are anxiously waiting to see all their volunteer friends and Zoo guests.

New curator Rebecca Kollar started working in mid-February. Please welcome her if you see a new face in the region.



Photos courtesy of head keeper Jessica Linek

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

All of our **colobus monkeys** are doing great and have enjoyed their opportunities to get outside as a result of the nicer weather we've been having! As they are primarily leaf eaters, browse is their favorite food. They also really like onions and leafeater biscuits.



Photo courtesy of Alissa Chenetski

The **mandrills** continue to do well. Bernard is getting bigger every day and is beginning to form a close bond with Matilda. The two can be seen playing together from time to time while mom Malaika is busy foraging or resting on a bench nearby. The group is typically given two types of lettuce, two types of produce and a small amount of fruit daily. Their favorite produce items are corn and grapes. They also receive hard boiled eggs as enrichment once a month, which are always a hit. Their favorite type of browse is apple, especially when large logs are available.

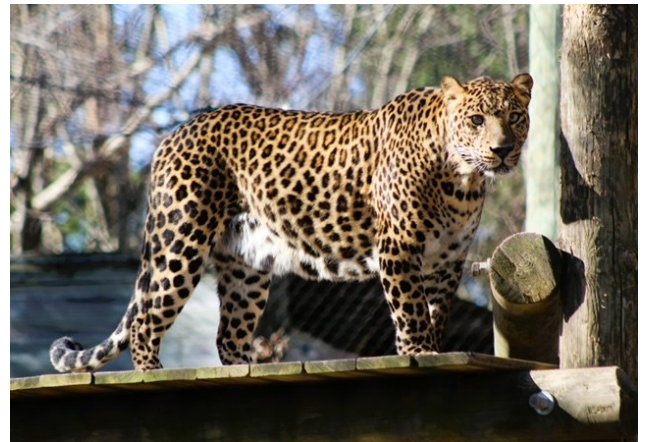


Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

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The **leopard** boys are getting along just fine. New logs were recently installed in their overnight dens, which will give them new climbing and scratching opportunities. The leopards get bones every Thursday, their favorite day of the week. As long as the weather allows, they can have these bones in yard.

We will soon be celebrating some **gorilla** birthdays. Ktembe will be 26 on March 13 and Kinyani will be 40 on March 16! Now, on everyone's favorite subject – food!

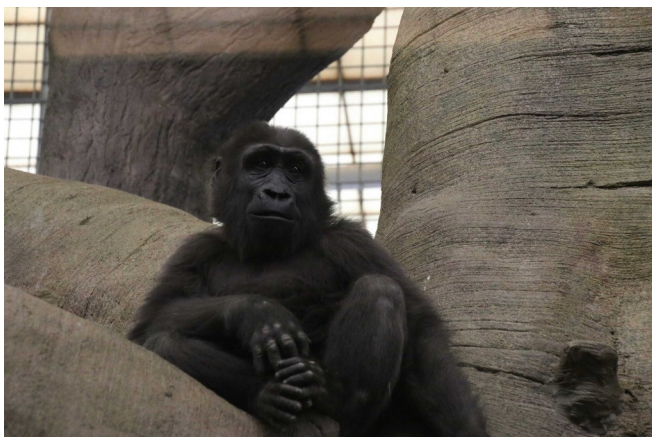


Photo courtesy of Alissa Chenetski

The gorillas have many beloved foods. Last year, all of them received tamarinds, which were a big hit. They have also been given whole sunflower heads in the past and thoroughly enjoyed them as well. Additionally, they always relish the novel items that come on enrichment days like pumpkins, melons and hard-boiled eggs.

Ktembe's group is on a pretty strict diet that is rarely deviated from. Ktembe trains very well for romaine during cardiac ultrasound training. Nia loves alfalfa, Sue loves romaine and Cassie and Jamani love green beans – all daily diet items.

Mac's group is loving the flown-in browse they are receiving daily. Since they are on a different diet than Ktembe's group, they receive more of a variety of veggies and lettuces throughout the week. Popcorn is a huge favorite of theirs. This group cleans up their food well, so it's hard to say who loves which item more. Kamoli loves when food is stuffed in the honeycomb enrichment items because he can grab a few, run off and hide in a corner with them. Mac and Tabibu enjoy when they are given soaked biscuit dust. There is a lot of "dust" left at the bottom of the bags, so the keepers save some of it for them especially. They add a small amount of water to the dust for spoon feeding purposes. Kamina and Sully are great at "fishing" items out of enrichment devices and usually enjoy what is put in things that hang outside of the mesh or even inside the rooms. With several growing kids in the group, ALL food is a favorite.

At the **okapi** barn, Damisi's pregnancy was confirmed shortly after last month's update. However, it has since been substantiated that she is no longer pregnant. Staff suspected she had lost the pregnancy due to renewed breeding interest between her and El Jewar. Their hunch was verified via a blood test after a voluntary blood draw. Therefore, she and El Jewar are being placed together regularly for breeding.

Here are our okapis' favorite foods: Miliki – spinach; Matoke – ficus browse; Damisi – romaine lettuce; El Jewar – any type of approved browse.

The **orangutans** are enjoying the mild winter and have spent quite a few days outside. Hopefully, that will prevent the geese from making a nest this year! Current weights in pounds: Sulango – 235; Dumplin – 151; Khali – 134. A few of their favorite foods include celery, green beans, peas and carrots. They also love their enrichment smears like mustard, ketchup and relish. Often, they will spend hours trying to extract the condiment smears from the enrichment column trays or an enrichment device. The orangutans recently had some water play for enrichment. Keepers set up a hose outside one of their holding rooms and had it spraying into the room. Khali was slipping and sliding around!



Working with ANC, staff were recently able to source breadfruit(s) to give to the **bonobos** over a couple of days. This enrichment fruit item was very stimulating and exciting! They spent a lot of time pulling the whole pieces apart and sharing them with one another. Attached is a picture of Gander sitting and munching on his breadfruit pieces.

On Valentine's Day, we celebrated World Bonobo Day. Below is a photo depicting the fun that was had by all.



Photos courtesy of the bonobo team

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Everything is going well in the region. On Feb. 5, two full-time team members joined the team: Courtney Schneider (soon to be Lemkau) and Alyssa Baxter. The weather has been giving keepers opportunities to offer outside time for all the animals, which they love.

The **Thomson's gazelles** have been moved to the giraffe barn and are being housed with **Dama gazelle** Zultan. Staff have outfitted the feeding yard (cut it down a bit) to give them access out there throughout the winter. Doing so has extended their outdoor "season" significantly as they can handle colder temperatures. They do always have access inside, so the choice to stay in or go out is theirs to make.

We have three new additions in our hoof stock barn! Kix Dama gazelle gave birth to a female on Jan. 21 (first birth of the year at the Zoo) and Susie had her little girl on Jan. 31. Lastly, Raisin gave birth to a male on Feb. 7. Everyone, including the moms, is doing great. Keepers were excited about being able to get them out to the holding yards during the warmer February days when temperatures were in the upper 60s. They will be old enough to go on the Savanna when yard introductions start in March, so people will be able to see them soon.



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



There is a little bit of construction happening on the Savanna. Four new poles are being added to hang grain feeders and hay— three on the Savanna and one in the feeding yard. Additionally, there will be two new gates/walkways for the **giraffes**, which will be called corridors. The idea is to be able to transfer the giraffes to and from the feeding yard/Savanna using those gates versus the gates near the barn.

Before much longer, it will be time to open for the season!

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA



Photo courtesy of Jess Armstrong

Our **trumpeter swans** continue to do well. We are headed toward breeding/nesting season, so it will be interesting to see what happens with our pair this year.

My Barn residents are doing great. The goats and sheep are getting ready for the yard to open in March (weekends only). Currently, the cows can only be seen in the back two yards, so guests will get to enjoy them more as well as soon as the yard opens. Russet is growing like a weed; he is up to 145 pounds!

The four **Mexican wolf** “pups” (Snow, Sol, Fresco and August) left at the beginning of February. They are all together at a zoo out west. Storm howled quite a bit when the pups left but has since calmed down.

Our **black bear** girls are still in torpor. Joanie is inside the building and Stevie is out in the yard. Hopefully, they will become more active as the weather warms.



Photo courtesy of Alissa Chenetski

Each **moose** is doing well. They are still in two groups – Strawberry is with Bert and Violet is with Scarlet. The groups rotate through the yards every week. Keepers are hopeful to put them all together come springtime. Current weights in pounds: Strawberry – 742; Bert – 364; Scarlet – 362; Violet – 331.

Polar bear Lee arrived mid-February and was quickly familiar with his surroundings. Keepers began “howdy” introductions with Aurora almost immediately and both bears were very receptive. Shortly thereafter, Lee and Aurora were officially introduced and the mutual interest has persisted. There has not been any confirmed breeding yet but keepers are hopeful to see some in the coming weeks. Then, the wait begins for polar bear cubs!



Photo courtesy of Jess Armstrong

Guillotine **wolverine** gave birth to four kits in early February. Unfortunately, all of them passed away a few days later from lack of milk. Such an outcome is not unexpected for a first-time mom and staff are encouraged by the strong maternal behaviors Gui showed. She and Alvar are still separated. Guillotine is currently undergoing treatment for an issue with one of her eyes. It is hoped that the problem will be resolved within the next few weeks and that they can be reunited soon afterward.

As you may know, Hermie **bison** was scheduled to leave for another institution a couple of weeks ago. Regrettably, he did not fully recover from being sedated despite everyone's best efforts. As a result, staff made the difficult decision to euthanize him. The loss has been particularly hard for the NA team because, instead of saying, "See you later," they had to say, "Goodbye." They are very appreciative though of the "wonderful support" they have received during this difficult time. Hermie will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Pronghorn Banjo was transported to The Wilds earlier this month. If you take a Wildside Tour, you might get to see him! He is in a nice, big pasture next to the Animal Hospital with two Pere David's deer fawns and a small herd of Sika deer. He gets the best of both worlds by having a herd to call his own and close proximity to all the people who visit the Animal Hospital.

All is status quo with the **lynxes, reindeer, brown bears, Arctic foxes, otters, cougars, eagles** and **aviary** residents.



Photo courtesy of Alissa Chenetski



Remembering bison Hermie

Photo of Hermie courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

REGION NEWS—SHORES



All the **manatees** have had their bi-annual physicals completed.

“Ladle” **pelican** has molted and now has adult plumage.

In Discovery Reef, 0.0.20 **Bangaii cardinal fish** recently cleared quarantine and have joined the others.

Penguins Ted and Fury have left for a new home and nesting season is in full swing. There will not be any eggs hatched this year though.

Kami, the **reticulated python** in Asia Quest, recently had her annual exam.

Sexes have been determined on the three baby **stingrays** in Stingray Bay – one boy and two girls.

In the Reptile Building, our **freshwater stingray** now has roommates! The three **Plecostomus fish** have moved in with him.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS



Staff have been enjoying the mild winter, though their usual routine at this time of year has been broken up with a few animal moves. Everyone's favorite **pronghorn**, Banjo, has found a new home at The Wilds and is sharing a yard with the **Indochinese sika**. Meanwhile, the **Przewalski's horse** herd received a big boost with the arrival of three young females from the Dakota Zoo. Consequently, there will be a nice-looking herd out in pasture for everyone to see this summer, with hopes of new foals on the ground next year.

One of the more complicated moves was sending Bastet, a female **cheetah** born at The Wilds in 2018, to Japan. She joined two males from another zoo in an SSP recommended transfer to provide new bloodlines to the Japanese breeding program, a process that started back in 2019 when she was just a year old. It takes time to coordinate all of the permits and paperwork needed for this type of a move. Staff transported her to Chicago to meet up with the males for a non-stop flight to Tokyo. The cats have settled into their new home nicely.

In other news, a design firm has been selected for our new **giraffe** barn; everyone is looking forward to getting the planning process started for that project. The Conservation Education Department's winter **rhino** barn tours sold out this year. However, if anyone is looking for a close encounter with a rhino before everything opens back up in the spring, there are still openings on the Winter at the Wilds tours.



Banjo—photo courtesy of Kathy Ragsdale

WINTER AT THE WILDS

From November through April, see your favorite animals from a truly unique perspective on this one-of-a-kind safari!

