



# REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Spring officially starts in March. For Zoo volunteers, it feels like March is the official start of the new year as we often want to forget about the cold and dreary days of January and February. In Asia Quest, March is a month of continued changes.

A few animals will be switching habitats in the Asia Quest building. **Water monitor** Minotaur will be moved to the **reticulated python** habitat and reticulated python Kami will be moved to the former habitat of the water monitor. While these two animals are not managed by the Asia Quest Animal Care team, you need to be aware of the habitat change in the Asia Quest building.

The habitats of the **tufted deer** and the **red-crowned cranes** will be combined into one large yard in March. The animals may be seen in the east and/or the west yard under the bridge into the Asia Quest building. The yard will become a true mixed species yard. It has been noted that tufted deer Angus and Sunflower have been getting along very well with each other (you know what I mean).

What was once the Pachyderm Building and later became the **Elephant** and **Rhinoceros** Building is now the Asian Elephant Conservation Center. Please use the new name whenever discussing the building.

The elephant breeding yard (behind the east wall of the north yard) has been modified to be “baby-elephant proof” and was the last of our existing areas to be updated as such. All future elephant yards will be built to the same standard to ensure that they are fit for elephants of all ages. Staff members are working with Asian elephant Sabu to prepare him for his return travel to the Cincinnati Zoo.

Major modifications to the south and the former greater one-horned rhino yards are tentatively planned for the summer of 2024.

The wood around the window of the **Pallas’ cat** habitat will remain up until the end of the Unextinct event to allow the cats to have more privacy. You will also notice lanterns and other exhibit materials being placed around Asia Quest in preparation for the experience.

On a sad note, **markhor** Eleanor passed away near the end of February. Eleanor was easily recognizable as she only had three legs. Two other unnamed markhors will be moving to another zoo. After the changes, we will have three markhors.

*REMEMBERING MARKHOR ELEANOR*

Male **Amur tiger** Diesel has been putting his front paws into the outside tiger habitat to reach his food. The food will continue to be placed farther away from the door to entice him to go into the yard. Staff have experienced other tigers who have also been reluctant to enter the outside habitat.

Thanks for spending your volunteer hours in Asia Quest and the Asia Quest Aviary!



*Vera—photos courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*



*Diesel —photos courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*

# REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

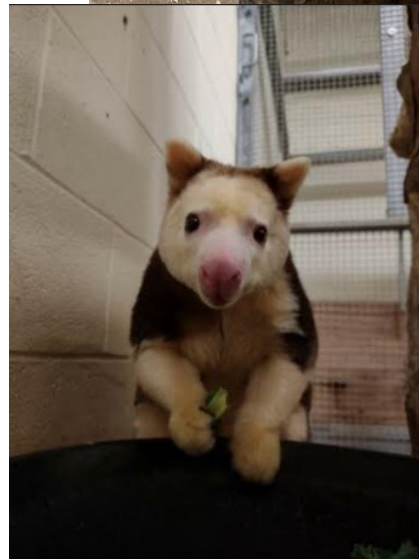
At this time of year, some days feel like winter and some days feel like spring. Thus, most of the animals in the region will remain snuggled up in their winter habitats until the weather is more consistent.

The **siamangs** (currently residing behind the scenes in the Nocturnal Building), have had access to the building's outside yard on warmer days as have the **African gray parrots** from Congo.

**Kiwi** Haka seems to be enjoying the changes that were made to his habitat. There is now increased foliage, adjustable lighting and additional soundproof panels.

**Slow loris** Fresco can be seen in the habitat while Gouda and Munster are enjoying some quiet time out of the public eye.

Even though some of the animals are off view right now, there are still many to see in the Nocturnal Building and aviary, so come and work "down under" as we wait for spring to arrive!



*Photos courtesy of Tanya Willett*



*Photos courtesy of Barb Emmets*

# REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

All of the **okapis** are doing well. Damisi and Matoke have started breeding. Their “courtship” started with daily mesh-to-mesh time for the initial introductions and to allow staff to observe their behaviors and reactions toward each other. Once breeding interest was observed, they were put together and bred for two days in a row, which is typical for the species. Fingers crossed that it was successful! While Damisi showed some behaviors indicating she was a bit unsure of her new partner at the beginning, Matoke was quite the gentleman the entire time they were together – must be those good Karatasi genes and Miliki’s excellent mothering!

Everyone continues to do well at **bonobos**. Bob is getting bigger every day and has recently taken notice of the other bonobos in his group. Keepers have observed Faith allowing the other bonobos the opportunity to touch Bob. He has also started climbing more on Faith and has become a little more mobile. Not long ago, the bonobos received car wash material as enrichment for the first time, which they enjoyed using for nesting as well as displaying.

The **colobus monkeys** are all doing wonderfully and have enjoyed the mild winter we’re experiencing as they’ve been getting lots of fun outside time! Jif and Marmalade are growing like the weeds we’ll all soon be seeing in our yards. Marmalade is going to be one year old in March – so hard to believe! She’s also a gigantic 5 pounds. To put that in perspective, she’s about a quarter of the size she’ll be when she’s full grown.

Claire and Jabari both had exams recently. Claire was routine and did well. Jabari was very under the weather and was experiencing some GI distress. She’s since recovered beautifully and is back to her normal self.



*Photo courtesy of Chelsea Massaroni*

Baby **orangutan** Clemetine is getting bigger and doing great. She's also focusing on the Animal Care staff a little more every day. Dumplin is still a beauty and getting along pretty well, and Sulango is just fine too. Look for them to be outside soon when days hit 50-55 degrees!

A question came up recently about male orangutans being territorial and the keepers answered that they would defend their territory against other males.



*Photos courtesy of Chelsea Massaroni*

# REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Staff would like to welcome everyone back who has been helping in the **giraffe** barn and thank them for assisting with getting our giraffes ready for when guests will again have the opportunity to feed them.

The only major updates for the region concern our **slender-horned gazelles**. A male calf was born on Feb. 4 to parents CeCe and Slenderman. He is very healthy, strong, playful and confident. On Feb. 19, another calf was born, a little girl whose mother is Reagan. When keepers arrived on grounds that morning, Reagan was in active labor and it appeared that the calf was stuck or otherwise in need of assistance. Thus, Animal Health responded and, together, the teams pulled the calf out safely. Both Reagan and the calf did exceptional and are doing well. Staff were proactive with treatment and gave the calf IV plasma, antibiotics and tubed her with colostrum (manufactured brand) to ensure that she would be covered against any potential risk of infection.

The new additions and their moms are getting along famously. Our baby boy LOVES running around. His little sister gets very excited, but still needs to work on her coordination in order to keep up with him; she's getting there!

All of the other animals are doing great and team members are gearing up for spring.



*Photos courtesy of Shannon Borders*

# REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

The **swans** are all moved into their temporary home and seem to be adjusting nicely.



The **Barn** goats, sheep and cows are loving the warmer weather and getting ready for the Petting Yard to open on March 23 (weekends only).

Sadly, **bald eagle** Sioux passed away after a recheck on her wing. It turned out that she had a heart condition. Both Zuni and Cheyenne are on the older side, so staff continue to monitor them closely. They are doing well in their temporary home out of the public aisle.

The **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** has received some new residents including a snipe and some orioles. The aviary is sometimes closed due to the cold temperatures and construction traffic in the area.

Most of you have heard but, in case you haven't, **black bear** Joan suffered a seizure and ended up not being able to use her back legs. The same thing occurred last year, so staff were hopeful that they would be able to work her through it but, unfortunately, she didn't progress. Therefore, they made the difficult decision to humanely euthanize her. A significant amount of cancer was discovered during her necropsy, which could have contributed to some of the issues that were observed. Stevie seems to be adapting well to Joan's absence and is slowly coming out of torpor.

As many of you know, **wolverine** Guillotine gave birth to two kits on Feb. 9, the latter of which was stillborn. Animal Care staff saw that she was having complications during labor and made the decision to intervene. They performed a c-section on Guillotine and attempted to hand-rear the surviving kit, a male. Despite their best efforts, he passed away

*Continued on page 8*

about a day later. The Zoo is not planning on sharing any of that information publicly but staff feel it is important to make our volunteers aware of it given how many docents have helped with birth watches in the past. Please do not disclose it to the general public though. Should guests make pregnancy-related inquiries, simply respond by saying, "We did not have a successful denning season." Gui is recovering well from her surgery and keepers are working on getting Alvar back over with her.

On a positive note, **polar bears** Lee and Aurora bred! Consequently, team members are doing their best to help Aurora pack on some extra weight.

The rest of the animals in the region are all doing well and looking forward to your visits!



*Photos courtesy of Joy Remley*

## REGION NEWS—SHORES

The **Chitra turtle** is undergoing some medical treatment for an infection. She is doing well and staff are hopeful that she will be back in her habitat soon.

**Fly river turtles** Lucy and Kikori have been doing great together! Thank you to everyone who helped with their watch. To our knowledge, this is the first time Lucy has lived with another turtle.

Several **penguin** eggs have been laid – fingers crossed for chicks in March!

Our **manatees** recently had physical exams. Mr. Dobak weighs 323 pounds and Nighthawk is up to 421 pounds. The gift shop in Manatee Coast is still under construction.



*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

# REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

Things have been relatively quiet at *The Wilds* this winter, except down at the **rhino** barns.

The last white rhino baby of this season was born in one of the barns on Feb. 5. The mother of the female calf, which makes three girls and one boy for the season, is Kate. Kate was born at *The Wilds* in 2011 and this is her second calf. Mom and baby are doing great and introductions to the rest of the herd have already begun.

Stella, the greater one-horned rhino calf that is being hand-raised, has been introduced to Neeli and Rohini, the other juvenile greater one-horned rhinos. They are all getting along well, but Stella still has access back to her own private stall through the custom howdy door. If you would like to meet all six of our new baby rhinos, you can find Winter Wildside and Rhino Barn tours on the website.



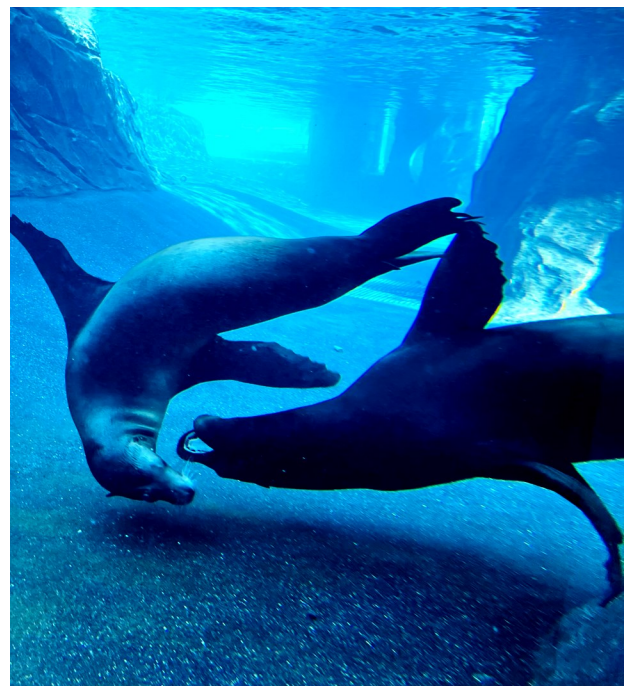
*Photo courtesy of The Wilds*

# REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS

The pinniped team is starting to work on some new things they hope to have ready for the 2024 Training Tales presentations. A lot of husbandry behaviors are also being worked on with all of our animals behind the scenes. For example, **seals** Keaton and Ferris had dental procedures recently and training for them included learning an open mouth behavior, toothbrushing, dental x-rays and voluntary crating.

Docent Debbie Giddings encourages us to visit the Marine Mammal Center's website ([Home](#) | [The Marine Mammal Center](#)). There, you can find educational resources and even sign up for email updates on their work and patients. The Marine Mammal Center is one of the ongoing conservation projects supported by the Columbus Zoo.

Although final details are still pending, the Animal Encounters Village team will be involved in the Unextinct light display. Their participation will likely involve periodic animal pop-ups where guests can see animal ambassadors at indoor locations.



*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*