

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS



Amid Eggs, Paws and Claws, Adventure Cove and Jack Hanna's Animal Encounters Village (AEV) residents had a great time participating in the first Enrichment Days presented by Nationwide on April 15-16. Guests loved throwing gelatin eggs to the **sea lions** and **harbor seals** and witnessing the results of one mega egg being tossed in each pool. Toby sea lion was stationed on top of the tunnel and expertly caught multiple eggs in midair. A visitor who had faithfully attended every enrichment event was given the opportunity to launch a mega egg into the North Pool and enjoyed the type of defining moment the trainers strive to provide. The pinniped pools featured a few other enrichment items that were equally big hits. Several guests commented on how active the animals were, especially during the aquatic tug-of-war games that took place among the sea lions. The AEV residents also had fun in their indoor and outdoor homes that included **sand cats** chasing crickets from room to room and **bat-eared foxes** pouncing on paper bags.



Trainers and animals were busy in April rehearsing for the Dive into Adventure presentations, which include Mica **kinkajou** walking on an elevated rope course and an **otter** scurrying across the stage.

Our 16 **cheetahs** continue to be cared for by the Animal Programs staff in three locations around the Zoo. A dozen cheetahs can be seen in rotation within Heart of Africa (Bibi, Zemba, Kvamme, Kesi, Dave, Adrienne, Lucy, Izzy, Emmett, Bob, Frances and Debbie). Reh and Misi reside in the Promotions facility.

Welcome home to two cats we've missed, Edward and Jacob! They returned to the Zoo from another facility and, after spending some time getting reacquainted with the Animal Programs team, moved to the Tiger



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis

Hut yard in Asia Quest. Eddie and Jake were born on Oct. 20, 2010.

The region's first Zoom meeting of the year will be held on May 24. It will feature information about our sea lions, harbor seals and enrichment.

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Greetings from Asia Quest, where we have three adorable new residents! **Pallas' cat** Tiina gave birth to three kittens on April 7. At the time of this writing, their sexes are unknown. Staff likely won't get hands on them for a while but report that Tiina, a first-time mom, is doing a great job and that the kittens are growing fast. Speaking of unknowns, we are still waiting on a name for the other youngest baby (**langur**) in the region – stay tuned!

Mara **Amur tiger** isn't super thrilled about having new cheetah neighbors. She is tolerating the situation well enough though and is willing to come inside when they do. Jupiter's tail wound has healed and he's being weaned off some of his medications so he can go back into the yard.

Bandit, who will be leaving for a new home soon, has been enjoying the **red panda** habitat on his own. If you happen to see two pandas there, it's Kora and Santi.

The tortoises in the bat habitat are still enjoying the warm conditions there and have been joined by a third **Aldabra tortoise**, Bob, who weighs in at almost 70 pounds! That brings the number of Aldabras in the region up to three.

In **elephant** news, Frankie recently topped 1,000 pounds with no sign of stopping. Please keep crossing your fingers for a pregnancy for Rudy; more plans for AI are in the works for this summer.

Construction on the indoor **rhino** enclosure will begin sometime this summer. The pool will be enlarged and the floor will be replaced with sand substrate, similar to the floor on the elephant side.

The other animals in the region are well with no news to share at this time. Positive vibes for the flu outbreak to pass so we can see our feathered friends back in the aviary!



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

The loop is open! Gibbon Island is getting a facelift, so the **gibbons** and **siamangs** are only viewable in the Courtyard until that is complete.

The Keeper Talk this year is at the **Asian small-clawed otters'** habitat and occurs at 3:30 p.m. It is only offered on weekends until Memorial Day but will be daily after that.

Dinosaurs began arriving the first week of May. The opening date has yet to be determined.

With the avian flu still around, staff are watching our birds closely and frequently assess how their welfare is being impacted. Some birds have returned to the habitats based on recommendations from the Animal Health team, who continues to monitor the avian influenza situation at large in wild birds.



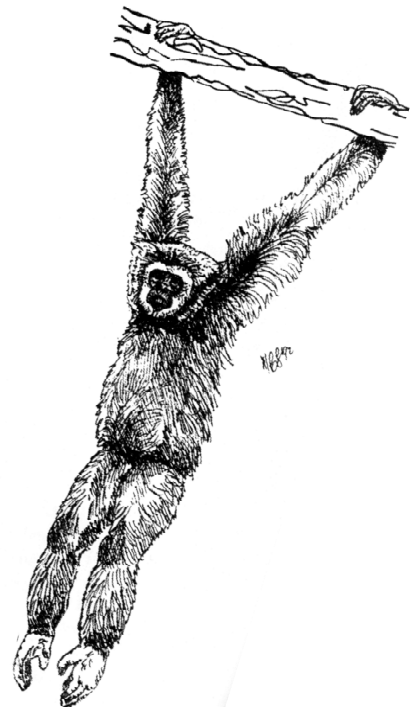
Photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

The opening of the **lorikeet** habitat is on hold for now and is dependent on the status of the avian flu.



Photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

We are getting closer to construction starting on the nocturnal building – no firm date as of now though.



REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Exciting news at the **okapi** barn; we will be getting another adult male okapi sometime very soon! Even more exciting is the fact that he was born right here in Columbus! Matoke, born in 2012 to mom Miliki and dad Karatasi, is coming home! Many of the keepers are very excited to see him again. He is a genetic match for Damisi and has been recommended to breed with her by the SSP. He will spend time off view in the barn after he arrives to help him acclimate to our building and environment again. Stay tuned for when he will be making his big debut!



Photo courtesy of Astrid Kreidl

You may have noticed that Tyrion **leopard** has a small raw spot at the tip of his tail. Keepers have been closely monitoring it and are working with our vets to get it resolved. They do not know the exact cause but said he had a similar issue around this time last year. He is an excellent patient and, through training, allows a daily application of topical medications to help it heal.

Both boys are really enjoying basking in the sunlight up on the yard platforms now that the weather is warming up. Speaking of the latter, they will be getting Animal-Nutrition made ice-block treats in their yard again once weekly, which offers the boys another item to chew. They are

different every week but typically contain frozen fish, frozen cat food or diluted blood drippings from their meat diet. YUM!

Harriet **red river hog** will be turning 12 on May 2. Harold gained some weight over the past year, so keepers have been monitoring it. He just hit his goal weight range (200-205 pounds).

Jamani **gorilla** had the best time at her “2-sweet-to-be-2” themed birthday party. She received a brand-new dog toy in the form of a purple octopus in addition to a couple of jolly eggs. Kamoli will be 9 on May 23. Mac’s group started receiving 30 pounds of leafy browse as part of their daily diet and are enjoying it. Keepers have seen lots of positive behavior as a result of the new diet addition.



Photo courtesy of Meredith Ross

The **mandrill** troop has been able to spend more time in the yard recently. They seem to enjoy being in close proximity of each other while they are busy foraging out there. Hasina, Matilda and Mosi are very eager for training but Malaika is more cautious and still unsure of the whole training business. Keepers have discovered a couple of new enrichment items that the quartet hasn't been able to destroy (yet). Mosi is continuing his physical maturation process (his nose is starting to turn red and his rump has been very brightly colored). Hasina has also started maturing more and sometimes has a slight "puff" to her swelling. With fluctuating hormones in the troop, some interesting social interactions have been observed between the females, but Matilda seems to be holding on to the title of dominant female.

The **orangutans** continue to do well in their new building. Some extra mulch was added by the viewing windows to allow Dumplin to get closer to her adoring fans. Once the weather starts being consistently warmer overnight, they will go back outside. There is an A-frame sign that will be set up in front of the building to communicate whether they have access inside. Soon, keepers will be restarting the training process for "emergency recall" with them. Thus, if you hear an air horn when you are in the area, that is likely what's happening. Khali has a birthday on May 13; she will be 16! Staff are excited to resume Keeper Talks once the orangutans start going outside again.

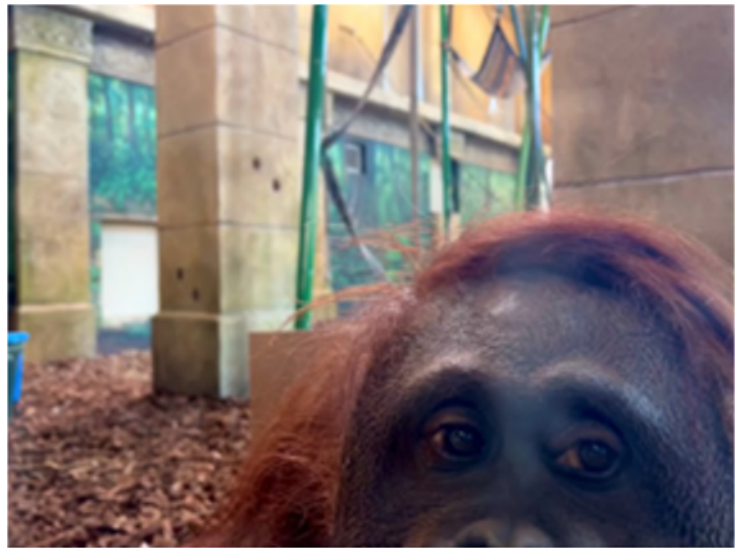


Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Ana Neema, Jimmy and Maiko **bonobos** all participated in voluntary echo cardiograms last month. Each did incredibly well! Many of the bonobos have spent time in the yard when the weather has been nice enough for them to do so. Amelia is becoming a young adult now and is showing the beginnings of a swelling. The Congo team hosted a couple of Cincinnati Zoo keepers in April. They were here to learn from our program and training practices.

Little Jif **colobus** is growing like a weed and is now 2.3 pounds! His entire side is dark gray or black but his back is still mostly white in color. He's exploring his independence and you can often see him bouncing around on the structures when they are in the yard. Jabari will receive an implant to prevent Sekani from impregnating her again this year. However, Bernadette and Sekani will be able to breed again this year; here's hoping for another little colobus!

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA



Photo courtesy of Sue Grubaugh

The young **camels'** names are Willie and Waylon – both are 1.5 years old. The other camels for the ride include Lippy, Ghost, Luke, Archie, Riddle and Steve.

People may notice some injuries to Roary **lion's** tail. In case questions about them arise, Roary's tail slipped under an open area in the chute when he was transferring to the outside habitat. Asali just so happened to be there and was able to grab it. The wounds look like bad road rash but are healing very well. Other than that incident, everyone is doing great!

The **vervets** are doing well and are very happy to be going outside!

All of the **giraffes** have been going outside on nice days, which is a wonderful and welcomed sight. As of now, the calves have been on the Savanna with the **wildebeests** and look simply adorable out there! By the time this update circulates though, it's possible that they will have also shared the space with the **kudus**, **zebras** and **gazelles** if the weather cooperates.

On April 4, **slender-horned gazelle** Veronica Corningstone gave birth to twin calves (one male and one female). Staff observed them all day and both were standing, mobile and appeared to be attempting to nurse. The latter could not be confirmed but that's not unusual. One of the calves looked a little weak the next morning, so wellness exams were done on both. Based on protein levels in the calves' blood, it was determined that neither had nursed. Therefore, Animal Health gave them a little "boost" through the use of glucose, vitamins, plasma and colostrum. In spite of everyone's efforts, the female took a very negative turn for the worse that afternoon and ended up being placed in the ICU where she was given fluids throughout the night. Shannon stayed with Animal Health overnight. It was an extremely long and tough 24 hours but the "Little Lady" started to perk up as the morning drew nearer. In addition to watching her, Shannon was running back and forth to the Hoof Stock Barn to check on the male. Sadly, we lost him the following morning.

Around the clock care continued for Little Lady. She had some peaks and valleys but staff are very happy to share that she came home to the Hoof Stock Barn on April 21! She is on a bottle and getting around just like a calf of her age should.

Shannon is incredibly proud of and very grateful for the Heart of Africa and Animal Health teams. In her words, "It would have been easy to become overwhelmed, sad, and give up, but that is not who we are and this was just another shining example of how we do not quit! We love her so much and cannot wait to get her back with the other slenders and then out for everyone to meet!"

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Swans Sloane and Georgeanne are doing well and have been vacationing indoors due to the outbreak of avian flu in Ohio and surrounding states. The same is true with our **sandhill cranes**. All of our **goats** and **sheep** continue to do well. **My Barn** opened daily starting May 1.

The **Mexican wolves** are also doing well. Keepers continue to watch pack dynamics as they navigate our pups growing into adult wolves.

Banjo **pronghorn** is getting along just fine as are the **bison** and **otters**, Paso and Catori.

Zucchini **beaver** is the one you will see in the den that can be viewed through the glass window. Acorn prefers to spend her time in the den box at the back of the habitat.

Our **eagles** are doing great in their yard. Keepers are closely monitoring them and the avian flu situation in general as spring migration continues. The Dr. Bernard Master **Aviary** is closed due to the flu. All of our resident birds have been moved inside and the aviary will remain closed until it is deemed safe by our vet staff to reopen.

All three of the **lynxes** completely ignored their Eggs, Paws and Claws enrichment while guests were waiting patiently for them to interact with it. Better luck next time!

Stevie and Joan **black bears** are doing well. They have been investigating their yard more on warm days.

Cougars Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are growing fast. Both girls weigh close to 90 pounds while Cal is just above 100 pounds! Cal's back paws are still a little tender but keepers are watching that issue closely and are hoping that it becomes a little more comfortable with the arrival of warmer weather.

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** are back together and can be seen most days in their yard. They have been enjoying their pool on warmer days.

Strawberry **moose** is doing well. She currently weighs around 475 pounds and will remain in the bull yard for the time being while staff evaluate if any modifications need to be made to the main habitat after her recent walkabout.



Photo courtesy of Arnie Berger

Our two **reindeer** girls are doing well and are starting to regrow their antlers. Unfortunately, we lost Snowflake a couple of weeks ago. She had recently been dealing with a few

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medical issues, so staff elected to do a procedure. During her CT, they found a few masses that were very large in size. At the present time, they are unsure what the masses were or what caused them. Although she recovered from the procedure, she passed away the next morning.

The **prairie dogs** are coming out of their burrows a bit more often on warmer days.

The **arctic foxes** are doing well and still enjoy spending time on their platforms. Meanwhile, **brown bears** Brutus and Buckeye are a little more active as a result of the nicer weather we've been having. As the Zoo gets busier, it is always nice to talk to guests while the bears sleep in their cave.

Polar bears Anana and Aurora continue to do well together and can be seen swimming during Keeper Talks on warmer days.



Photo courtesy of Arnie Berger



REMEMBERING...

Red Panda Rinzen

Flamingo Dorothy Mantooth

Pelican Skipper

REGION NEWS—SHORES

A **penguin** chick hatched on March 20 and Oswald and Big Bertha (BB) are its parents. Since our adult penguins were moved to an indoor location to await the passing of avian influenza, the chick is being hand reared by Zoo staff. Hand rearing involves keepers feeding the chick a warm fish gruel every two hours by dripping it into its mouth. This is similar to what a parent does when they regurgitate digested fish into a chick's mouth. The chick is being kept warm and cozy in a heated brooder box and has a camera on it for 24/7 monitoring. As it grows, it will transition to whole fish. It was recently determined that the penguin chick is a female.

Weather permitting, **alligator** "Girl" will be out in her pool by early May.

Unfortunately, we lost Skipper **pelican** last month. Necropsy results indicated renal failure.

Touch Pool workers: do you know that some of our invertebrates reproduce here? Orange eggs were pulled from the invertebrate tanks and turned out to be *Echinaster spinulosus* (**small-spine sea stars**). *Consequently, there are a couple hundred baby sea stars growing up behind the scenes.*

Flamingo "Dorothy Mantooth" (band #79) was humanely euthanized after a battle with renal amyloidosis and kidney failure.



A new juvenile **Aldabra tortoise** joined the other two in the Asia Quest bat habitat. It came to us with the name "Bob" but, after a routine CT scan done here at the Zoo, it was discovered that Bob is in fact a girl. Regardless, everyone thinks Bob is pretty cool. At some point this summer, she and the other tortoises will move to the Asia Quest Aviary and Congo Aviary.

Photo courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS



Baby season has started at The Wilds. A total of four **Sichuan takin** kids were born in March and April. Additionally, there are five new **Pere David's deer** fawns out in pasture.

Several **cheetahs** have been transferred to other zoos for SSP purposes. Warmer weather means the process of moving animals back out to pasture has started.

Regular tours began again on May 1.



Thank you to everyone who attended the Volunteer Appreciation Event in Asia Quest on April 21!

volunteers



Congratulations to the Docent Class of 2020 on receiving your red lanyards!