

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

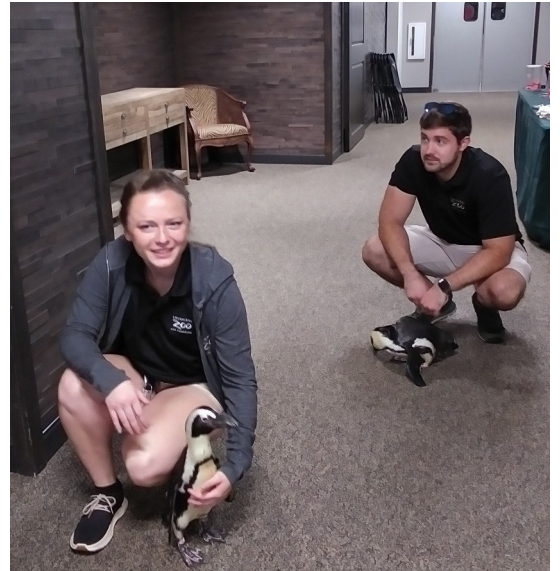
Workouts for Wildlife were a great success this year! The **penguin** special guests were a big hit with the yoga class participants. They all showed how they could “move it, move it” during their grand entrance as the Madagascar movie soundtrack was playing.

As the cooler weather arrives, rut is ending for the **sea lions**. Banana and Sunshine went exploring and, on separate occasions, propelled themselves over the window of the North Pool into the safe aisleway between the pool window and the public aisle window. They were unharmed and escorted back into the pool by trainers through a special door designed specifically for entering the pool from that direction. The docents on duty at the time calmly and confidently explained to guests what was happening and added narration rather than panic to the situation.

Our **harbor seals** are going through a molt stage, which is normal. Hillie was exhibiting an unexpected clacking behavior with her teeth. A very independent animal, Hillie was trained in less than two weeks to enter a crate. She then went to the vet hospital where an endoscopy and CT scan were preformed prior to the removal of two troublesome incisors. Those teeth will not grow back. Hillie has also traveled to the demonstration pool both through the underwater doors and land doors utilized by trainers. Additionally, the seals are participating in training behaviors underwater.

The pool referred to as the social pool is the largest of the five pools inside the building. The Adventure Cove Tunnel floor is fixed but, in times of extremely heavy rain, needs the assistance of the Life Support System team and grounds crew to extract the water from it.

During our September Zoom region meeting, we viewed informative and entertaining presentations by trainers Stephanie Shop and Elli Earl and heard updates from Pablo Joury and Shawn Brehob. To add to the discovery that **hyena** Shenzi is a male, Banzai and Shenzi came to us with a DNA test from an out-of-state university stating both are



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis

females. Over the years, Banzai was the dominant of the two. Recently, trainers began seeing external changes to Banzai that suggested she was either cycling or pregnant. The SSP coordinator for the species said hyenas typically don't have pseudo-pregnancies, and some other facilities found the same lab's DNA test to be inaccurate. Therefore, a new DNA test conducted through San Diego facilities was performed on Shenzi and Banzai and confirmed that Shenzi is a male.

Once his gender was definitively determined, staff gave Banzai a birth control implant. In the wild, breeding between males and females of the same litter is unusual, and the SSP has only seen it once in modern zoos. While on the implant, Banzai had internal changes that were related to an ovarian cyst. Thus, her ovaries and part of her uterus were removed, alleviating concerns of our two hyenas breeding. A strong-willed patient, Banzai removed her sutures multiple times but is recovering nicely now. With Banzai having some of her reproductive tract removed, there is a chance that it will alter her hormonal makeup. This may shift the order of dominance with Shenzi, which staff will continue to monitor.

For enrichment, Fall Fest was held on Sept. 24 and will be followed by Pumpkin Smash on Oct. 29 as well as Flurry of Fun on Dec. 10. The final Animal Programs Zoom meeting of the year is slated for Oct. 25. Tune in and join us!



Banzai—photo courtesy of Astrid Kreidl

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Things are pretty quiet in the region right now, so this will be a brief update.

Shiva **sloth bear** will continue to be seen separate from Randhir and Heiderose as introductions didn't go as hoped.

One important update: Rudy **Asian elephant** did not become pregnant on her last AI attempt. Additional attempts will be made but there is no timeline for that yet. As usual, vagueness with guests is a great strategy to avoid creating an expectation. "The staff hopes for Rudy to become a mom, but we don't have news to share at this time" or something similar is a good talking point. Elephant weights have been updated on the region information spreadsheet found on the portal – very little change from previous weights, except for growing young lad Frankie!

TJ **tufted deer** has left us for a new home, so the tufted deer in the yard are dad Dexter and son Angus.

Young **langur** Cardi recently had surgery for cataracts and is healing up nicely.

The other Asia Quest animals are doing well. Special experiences with the **red pandas** and elephant baths will continue throughout the off-season.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Construction on the Roadhouse has started and all are faring well so far inside.

It is with a heavy heart that the passing of our beloved **Tasmanian devil** Mustard is shared. Keepers are keeping a good eye on Thyme and making sure she is adjusting well to a solitarily life. Sadly, we also recently lost **African grey parrot** Harrison and **Lady's Ross turaco** Ross. Thankfully, those losses can be followed up with some very good news.

Little Ellin **koala** has grown up and moved to Florida. Although she will be missed, it won't be long until another adorable face will be greeting us. Katy has a joey in the pouch! However, that wonderful news is hush-hush until you see the press release (should be soon), or a leg hanging out of the pouch.

Five **lorikeet** chicks have been pulled and are being hand reared so, if staff members seem tired, it's because they are! Having said that, they are also soaking up as much of these last beautiful days as possible. Before long, they will start prepping for fall (raking/skimming leaves season).



Remembering Mustard

Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

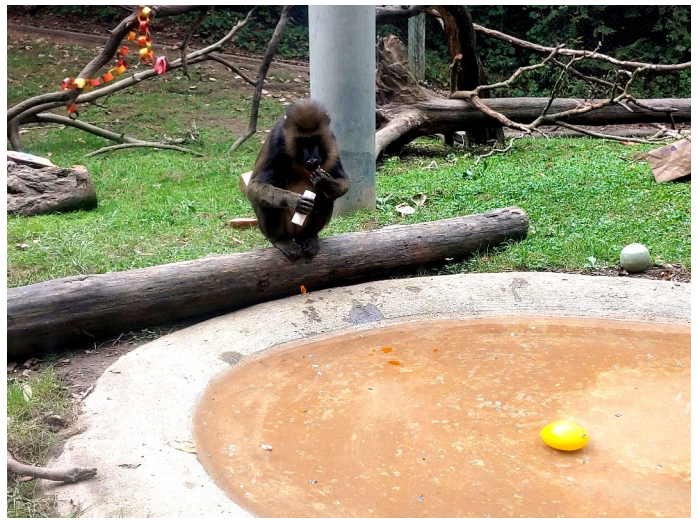
Remembering African grey parrot Harrison and Lady's Ross turaco Ross

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Our **colobus monkeys** are doing well. You may notice that the left side of Jabari's head has been shaved. She received a wound to her ear that required veterinary intervention. The wound is healing nicely, but it will take a while for her hair to grow back. The rest of the troop is doing well and enjoying the cooler fall weather that is rolling in.

It's flu vaccine time for the apes! Throughout last month, staff administered flu vaccines to the **bonobos**. All of them are "injection trained," which means they will voluntarily present their hip or shoulder to receive an injection. Whether the bonobos present their hips or shoulders is a matter of personal preference. Most present their hips, but Lady and Maiko present their shoulders. The behaviors were established via operant conditioning and positive reinforcement and are maintained through daily training. Every morning when the bonobos receive their hand-fed items, such as bananas, smoothies and vitamins, staff touch their hips or shoulders with a capped or blunted needle.

The **mandrills** really enjoyed their Fall-Fest themed enrichment! Keepers created some special fall-themed painted barrels and paper items in addition to a scarecrow made from burlap and straw. The mandrills also received some apples that they could fish out of their pool.



Photos courtesy of Karen Treadway

Over the past few weeks, keepers have noticed that a previously raw spot on **leopard** Tyrion's tail has become a little irritated. He's been a great participant whenever the topical spray has been applied to the affected areas and the keepers have already seen some improvement.

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Damisi and Miliki **okapis** have raw spots on their necks. They are both excellent patients when it comes to allowing keepers to apply topical treatments to the areas when needed. Matoke is enjoying his first fall back in Ohio and certainly taking advantage of the falling leaves in his yard. We will be celebrating World Okapi Day on Oct. 18. Plans are still in the works, so stay tuned for updates!

World Gorilla Day was celebrated on Sept. 24. This year, the troops were treated to banana leaves and tamarind pods. Both types of vegetation are endemic to Africa. The **gorillas** also enjoyed the paper decorations that our staff helped make! If you haven't seen the kids in Mac's troop in a while, it is hard to tell them apart as they are growing like weeds! Mac will be celebrating his 39th birthday on Oct. 26. Additionally, Mo'Ana will celebrate her 21st birthday on the 20th. Like our bonobos, each gorilla voluntarily received an annual flu vaccine.

The **orangutans** are still enjoying their new building and all the new enrichment that comes with it. They are "rock stars" with the vending machine! (Be on the lookout for an article all about the machine in the coming months.) Khali voluntarily received her flu vaccine while Sulango and Dumplin received theirs while under anesthesia that both took voluntarily through an injection.



Photos courtesy of Karen Treadway

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

There are some great things happening in the **giraffe** barn, so let's start there. And baby makes 17! Zuri is doing a fantastic job with him. She is displaying a perfect blend of giving him enough space to figure things out on his own and checking in on him regularly with a gentle and soft nature – so very beautiful to watch! The “Little Guy” has been introduced to the rest of the herd with the exception of Conner, Utu and Lance. He has also been in all the stalls and holding yards and, occasionally, even spends the night with groups as opposed to just Zuri. He has access outside during the day and at night if the temperature is 60 degrees or above.

Staff were able to do a wellness exam when he was 23 hours old and he weighed in at 142 pounds. As of Sept. 16 (16 days old), he weighed 170 pounds – what a little beefcake! As always, staff will continue to monitor him closely but, right now, they couldn't be more pleased with his progress. If he continues to be strong and gain weight, they would love to get him out to the feeding yard for a few hours in the mornings soon – stay tuned!

Unfortunately, there is some bad news with all of the good. **Slender-horned gazelle** Champ was humanely euthanized on Sept. 16. He was very weak that morning and, upon examination, staff found that he was in renal failure. He had not been showing any signs of illness, so the diagnosis was a huge shock. He was such a sweet boy; his presence will be missed.

Everyone else in the region is doing very well – happy to have some cooler temperatures!



*Family photo—Zuri and her boys!
Photo courtesy of Shannon Borders*

Remembering slender-horned gazelle Champ

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

As some of you may have seen, unfortunately we had to euthanize Anana polar bear this past week. This was a difficult decision for everyone involved. Anana was being observed closely by keeper and the Animal Health team for some medical conditions that had originated over the last couple of weeks. Even with aggressive treatment and care from both teams, her quality of life took a downward turn. Anana will be remembered as a wonderful polar bear mom, aunt, and sister and left keeper staff with great memories from working with her. Some of the highlights include when she became a mother and gave birth to Amelia Grey in 2016, or when she was introduced to Aurora and her cub, Kulu, in 2021 and showed how great of an aunt she could be. Being a constant in Polar Frontier since its opening in 2010, the region definitely won't be the same without Anana.



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

Remembering Anana

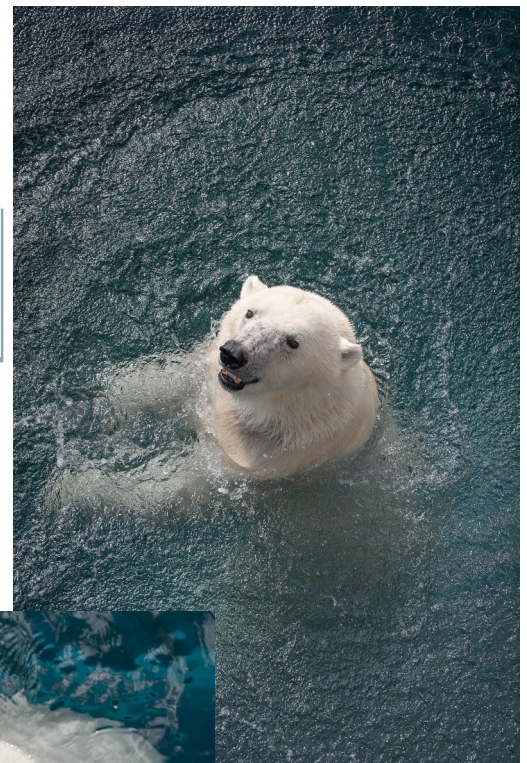


Photo courtesy of Amanda Carberry, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium



Photo courtesy of Amanda Carberry, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Sloane and Stella **swans** are becoming more comfortable with keepers, so it is hoped that groundwork is being laid for future training projects.

If you haven't been down to **My Barn** recently, you should stop by! We have two new Dexter cows that joined us a few weeks ago. The black cow is named Luna and the red one is Anna. They have explored the different yards and, hopefully, will be introduced to Belle by the time these updates circulate. Both Belle and Luna have been very interested in each other. The other exciting news is that Luna is pregnant! She is due in December and a name will be chosen by a donor at the Rwandan Fete.

All is status quo with the Mexican **wolves**, **beavers**, **eagles**, **lynxes**, **arctic foxes**, **otters** Paso and Catori, Stevie and Joan **black bears**, Banjo **pronghorn** and Hermie **bison**. Sadly, Clover was humanely euthanized toward the end of September due to renal failure. At 19.5 years old, she exceeded the median life expectancy for bison by about four years. She will be missed.

The birds in the **aviary** are doing well. Keepers are gearing up to do their annual round-up. They try to catch all the birds and give them physical exams to make sure they are healthy going into winter.

Cougars Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are all great.



Remembering Clover

Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** bred this summer and denning season is now approaching. (It will start around the end of November.) Keepers were encouraged by last year's births and are hopeful for a repeat. There will not be news on that front though until much, much later.

Strawberry **moose** is excited that the summer heat is over and fall is here! We received three orphaned moose recently and staff hopes to introduce them to Strawberry soon.

Our **reindeer** girls have both shed their velvet. They are looking quite beautiful with their incoming winter coats and shiny, white antlers.

The **prairie dogs** are still active but expect them to become less so in the coming weeks.

Brown bears Brutus and Buckeye are beginning to bulk up for winter. To assist with that, keepers have started them on their fall diet. Brutus weighs 1,288 pounds and Buckeye comes in at 1,280 pounds.



Photo courtesy of Arnie Berger

Polar bear Aurora is doing her best to prepare for denning season. Aurora is now in her denning space, which includes a small outside yard, where she enjoys sleeping or swimming in the pool. Care staff are keeping things calm and quiet as they wait for her to show them when she is ready to be inside the building.

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Manatees Acorn, Einstein and Scampi left on Sept. 17 for Florida. They will hopefully be released this winter. The transport went well and the manatees settled in immediately to their sunny home.

Ninety **hellbenders** were released into native Ohio rivers last month. We also received a clutch of hellbender eggs to hatch for head starting. Cross your fingers for healthy hellbender hatchlings!



Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Seventeen **garter snakes** were released to their native Ohio habitat on Sept. 22.

Our **penguins** will not be in the public aisle Oct. 4-10 while some work is done in their habitat.

While we haven't received official confirmation from the USDA, we have reason to believe that avian influenza was the cause of death of five black swans and two pelicans.

As a precautionary measure for the health and safety of our entire bird collection, all at risk species were moved indoors, and all aviaries are closed to the public. Our Animal Health and Animal Care teams will continue to monitor, quarantine, and test the birds regularly.

Avian influenza - commonly called "bird flu" - is a viral infection that occurs naturally in birds. Wild birds can carry the virus but usually do not get sick, but some domesticated birds, such as chickens, ducks, and turkeys, can become infected, often fatally. Avian influenza does not pose a threat to humans.

Important: If you see a dead bird on Zoo grounds, please contact the veterinary staff. They will remove it and send it to a lab for evaluation.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as needed.

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS



Things are currently rather quiet at The Wilds. At present, Dan Beetem is in India consulting on a Hangul deer conservation breeding project in Kashmir. Some of our partners from the Smithsonian brought the team from Kashmir to visit The Wilds earlier this year to talk with Animal Management Specialist Curt Coleman about how we manage our Bactrian deer, which are very closely related.

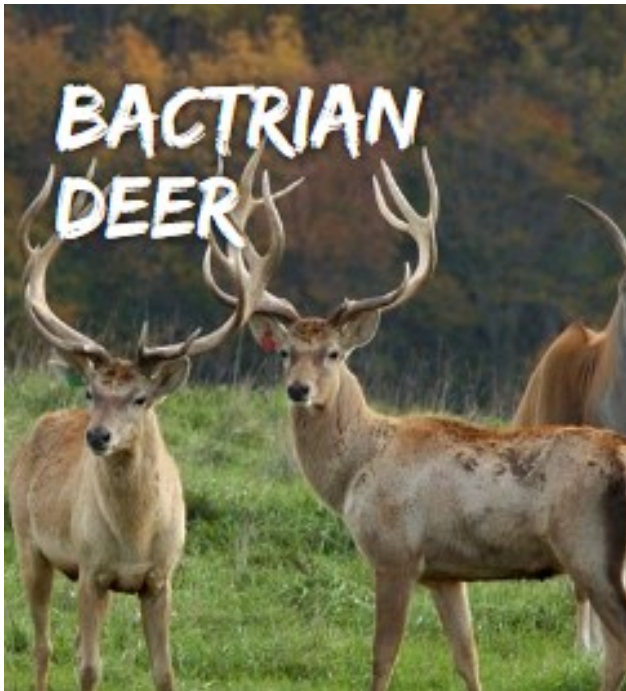


Photo courtesy of The Wilds



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