

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Thanks to all the volunteers and staff who worked at AZA Zoo Day. Asia Quest looked great and we received a large number of compliments from our visitors. Whew, now that AZA is over, we can get back to normal.

As we head into October, female **Asian elephants** Phoebe, Rudy and Sunny will all cycle around the same time, which is uncommon. Sabu will be with the three females 24/7 during this period. Indications were seen near the end of September that this is an exciting proposition for Sabu. Keep your fingers crossed!

Sloth bears Randhir and Heiderose will be separating as Heiderose prepares for denning season.

Pallas' cats Tiina and Kaarina will be in the outdoor habitat during October. Here are a few identification hints: Kaarina has orange-colored eyes and likes to sleep on the new shelves in the habitat and Tiina will be the cat that continues to hide from our visitors.



The **tortoises** have moved back into the **bat** habitat for the winter season.



It has been a productive summer in the **Asia Quest Aviary**. We now have 10 azure-winged magpies.

Tufted deer Angus and Sunflower have access to both yards under the bridge into the Asia Quest building but are primarily in the yard on the right.

Like Elvis, **greater one-horned rhino** Brian has left the building. We wish him the best in his new breeding situation.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesley

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Fall has arrived and, with it, cooler temperatures. Consequently, the two radiated tortoises and three Aldabra tortoises that were living in the **Congo Expedition Aviary** recently went to their winter home in the Asia Quest bat habitat. Before long, the three temple turtles and two Malaysian giant pond turtles from Turtle Lake will be moving to the Shores region for the winter.

Staff have been working on recall training in the Congo Aviary. Doing so will enable the animals to stay outside longer and come in quickly later in the day when the weather gets chilly.

Sadly, **binturong** Penny passed away recently. She was 13 years old and loved by both guests and staff. Paco seems to be adjusting to the fact that his friend is gone.

Special thanks to keepers Melanie and Tanya for taking many AZA conference attendees on fantastic behind-the-scenes tours of the koala building.



REMEMBERING BINTURONG PENNY

Photos courtesy of Amanda Carberry and the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

The **mandrills** are getting along just fine. Mainly due to the construction noise from the bonobo renovations that occurs during the week, they are sometimes given access to the front room as well as the yard. Did you happen to see the large piles of straw that enriched their yard a couple of weeks ago? They all loved it! Straw was scattered everywhere and Izzy (short for Izara) was having a lot of fun jumping from the hammock into the large piles of it. Bernard is going to celebrate his 1st birthday on Oct. 16 and weighed in at 8 pounds last month. Meanwhile, Izzy is topping the scales at 3.7 pounds. Mosi celebrated his 10th birthday in mid-September. It's hard to believe the little guy born 10 years ago is now a handsome, adult male who has his own family.

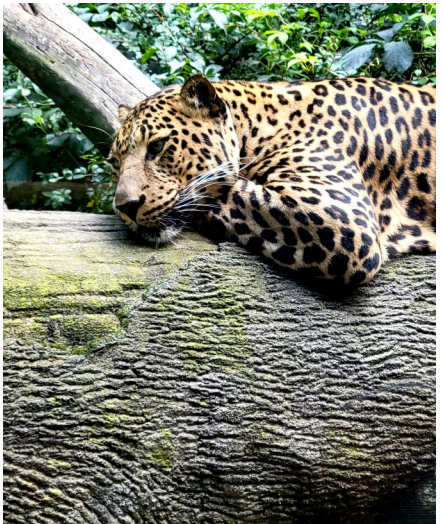
Damisi **okapi** has some irritated spots on her neck and behind her ears that keepers are treating with CK wipes. At this time, they appear to be resolving. As a result of the construction at the bonobo site, the okapis may not be viewable during the week in Y1 and Y2.

The **colobus monkeys** are doing great. Jif and Marmalade are growing up so fast. Marmalade is already 6 months old and weighs a whopping 3.3 pounds! Jif has also grown and now weighs a little over 10 pounds. Marmalade is spending more and more time off the adults, bouncing around and sitting in food bowls. Stop by the colobus yard for a chance to watch these two in action before the weather changes!

With the arrival of fall, everyone is eagerly preparing for **orangutan** Khali's baby! She's spending her time enjoying treats and extra food opportunities; she is eating for two after all. While baby fever might be in the air, Sulango and Dumplin are still hard at work. They have been training all-stars for blood draws. Chelsea and Keith have been able to take blood from Sulango! Although Dumplin is still a work in progress, she is excited to give Chelsea and Keith lots of opportunities.

The age at which the **gorilla** infant will be off Mom depends more on the mom. Some mothers hardly put their baby down for the first year of life. Based on Sully already setting Kwame

down next to her while she eats or relaxes and the fact that Kwame is already sitting up, it is expected that Kwame will be off sooner. Everyone else is doing well.



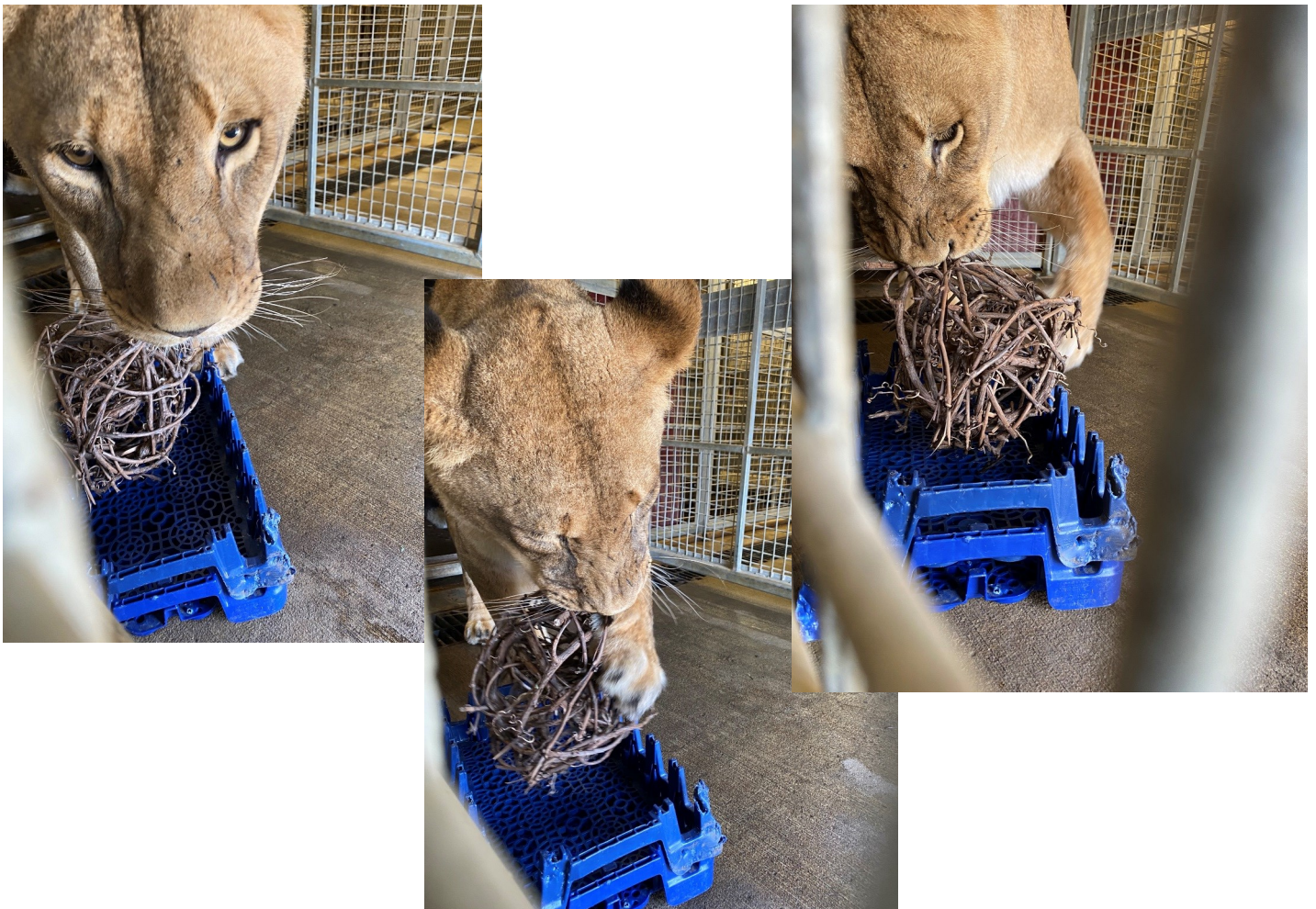
Photos courtesy of Pam Hancock

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

We are thankful that the temperatures are evening out a bit. Savanna tours are now finished for the season and went extremely well! We are up by about 20 percent compared to last year.

Cooler overnight temperatures are arriving, which could influence the need to keep animals inside at night and/or off the Savanna during the day. It will be a day-to-day call.

On a sad note, we recently lost **dama gazelle** Raisin Bran. Staff members' hearts are broken. Raisin Bran did give birth to a male calf this winter who is doing well – having a piece of her still here is a comfort.



REMEMBERING DAMA GAZELLE RAISIN BRAN

Photos courtesy of Sam Frohlich

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Preparations are underway for moving the **trumpeter swans** soon. By the time this is posted, it is hoped that work will have begun on their temporary home. Once it is complete, the swans will take up residence there. They will be staying close to North America and you will be able to view them in the small pond across from the moose habitat.

Our **Mexican wolves** received a wonderful “farcass” on AZA day that included deer legs frozen into the farcass rib cage mold. It looked very realistic and the team received a lot of compliments from zoo professionals when they realized it wasn’t real! Bryan Schwartz in our Planning Department gets all the kudos for how amazing the farcass mold came out. A temporary home is also being modified for Storm and Winter. They will be moving to the south Tiger Hut yard as soon as that has been accomplished.

There are a few more new additions to the petting yard at **My Barn**. Angora goats Circe and Sybil joined the herd and have integrated nicely. Phoebe Angora goat was the first to greet and welcome them to the yard! Regrettably, there is also sad news to share: we lost Belle cow. As a result of being lethargic and not eating, she was taken to OSU for testing. Unfortunately, she continued to decline in health and the difficult decision was made to humanely euthanize her. She was loved by many people around the Zoo, so her presence will definitely be missed.

The **lynx** girls, **Arctic foxes** and **otters** are all doing well.

Our **black bears** are preparing for fall, so you might not see them out and about as often.

Bert **moose** has entered rut. He was separated from the girls a few weeks ago and will not be placed with them again until spring. Bert has a pretty impressive set of antlers for a young moose, so he will certainly be quite the sight to see as he gets older! The girls continue to do well and can usually be seen lying together in the main moose habitat.

Reindeer Sugar and Abby are ready for fall and, by the time you read this, both should have shed their velvet. As a quick refresher, antlers grow off the pedicle, which is located on top of the skull. While they are growing in the spring and summer months, they are covered in velvet to protect the blood supply underneath that fuels their growth. The blood flows quickly and puts off heat, so velvet antlers are actually warm to the touch! As the seasons change and hormones shift, the blood supply dries up and the velvet begins to dry. The reindeer (or moose in Bert’s case) then shed the velvet. The antlers will remain for a few months before being cast off toward the end of winter or beginning of spring.

In other reindeer news, we are getting some new additions! Two little reindeer girls will be joining us from Alaska later this year. They were born this past year and, thus, are not anywhere near full grown yet. Hopefully, they will be in Columbus and through quarantine by the time Wildlights rolls around.



Photos courtesy of Josh Keller

Brown bear Brutus seems to be pretty much recovered from the health issues he was experiencing earlier this year. Staff will keep a close eye on him and Buckeye during the winter months. Both boys are starting to bulk up and will probably be a little less active as the weather begins to cool.

Polar bear Aurora is given the opportunity daily to choose whether she would like to be out in the habitat. By the time these updates are circulated, she will likely be spending all of her time inside per her choice. Keepers are continuing to offer her any and all foods that she will eat. They are also watching her behavior closely as she gets closer to denning and potentially giving birth.

As we approach denning season, staff are finalizing last-minute work orders and preparing to crate train **wolverine** Alvar for his move “across the path.” Modifications to the wolverine holding building have been made that will, hopefully, allow this move to be much easier for Alvar and the keepers.

We had some Oakland Zoo professionals in town for AZA and they were very excited to check in on the **cougars** to see how much they have grown since they left Oakland a few years ago. All three cats were ready for the attention, and they were definitely a highlight for many people during AZA week.

As the weather begins to turn, the **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** will start being prepped for the winter months. You may see “hotels” being placed with heat lamps, which gives the birds some warmer places to hunker down if they can’t fly inside. There are two new additions to the aviary, a song sparrow and an orchard oriole. Both are great flyers, so you will see them outside shortly.

Finally, our **eagles** are getting along well.



REMEMBERING COW BELLE

Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

REGION NEWS—SHORES

This fall, 31 **hellbenders** were released.

Our **prehensile-tailed skink** had a baby on Sept. 14

Two **Henkel's leaf-tailed geckos** hatched on Sept. 8

Sea turtle Buddy had her annual exam and CT.

Unfortunately, we lost our white spotted bamboo shark in **Discovery Reef**. On a positive note, a new puffer fish was recently introduced to the reef.

Now that fall has arrived, staff will be moving the **turtles** and **tortoises** to their winter homes as the weather dictates.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

Things are starting to get busy at *The Wilds* again as the team starts to plan the shift from summer tour season to winter barn mode. It is also the time for some late-season births. A second male **Masai giraffe** was born on Aug. 26 and a female **Persian onager** foal was born on Sept. 19, which was the first onager birth since 2017.

Several baby rhinos are expected this year and the season started on Sept. 22 with a female **greater one-horned rhino** calf being born to first-time mom Anna. A female **white rhino** was born the next morning to experienced mother Anan. Both births happened just in time for the annual World Rhino Day celebration out at *The Wilds* with special rhino encounter tours and a painting party to help raise money to support rhino conservation.

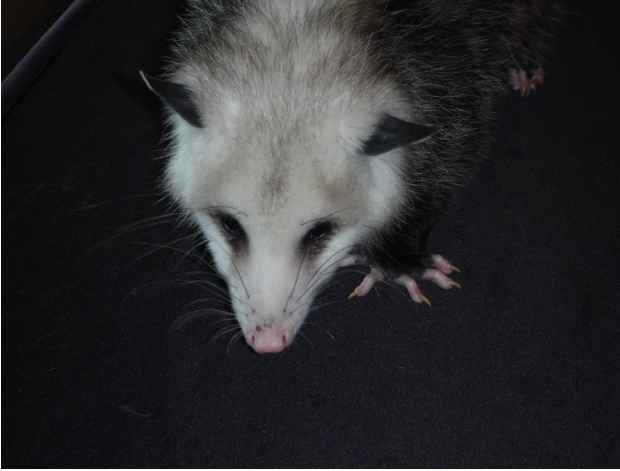
The new giraffes are still at the giraffe barn with the herd and can be seen on Wildside Tours. The greater one-horned rhino is back at the rhino barns with its mom. Staff are giving the new mom time to settle in with the calf before they become part of the Wildside Tours. The onager foal and white rhino calf can be seen on Open-Air Safari Tours, which will be running as usual through the end of October.

Plan your Winter at The Wilds Tour now. It should be a great winter to visit with the new giraffe and rhino kids in the barns.



Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS



Herbie **Virginia opossum** of Wild Encounters Animal Outreach is the brother of Junebug, an Animal Encounters Village (AEV) resident. Herbie charmed guests during his debut at a recent Jack Hanna Legacy Society event.

Wild Encounters had a lot to share during the record-setting Association of Zoos and Aquariums conference, including **cheetah** runs led by the Wild Encounters Africa team, a huge pinniped chalk-drawing photo opportunity and behind-the-scenes tours in the Adventure Cove pinniped and Life Support System areas as well as the AEV tour experience area. There were gelatin tosses and enrichment displays. There were also additional presentations in

the Adventure Cove Lighthouse Theater and spontaneous training sessions with the **harbor seals, sea lions, macaws, duck, kookaburra, skunk, porcupine** and more. (Did you know Melvin duck was the feathered ringbearer in a former trainer's wedding?) Trainers Katelyn Nance and James Gentzel were involved in sessions during the conference. The information they presented there was shared with us during the Sept. 19 Zoom meeting, which was the final Wild Encounters education session of the year.

The data-driven enrichment program at the Zoo includes a daily log, monthly enrichment schedule and monthly summary that trainers can use to record, review and refine their efforts for the next month by categories, animals, locations, goals and priorities. Enrichment can involve tactile, olfactory, food, social, habitat, sensory and cognitive components. Despite the busy pace, it takes trainers only 20 seconds to enter each interaction into the log by animal, location, goal and date in the centrally located computer. New enrichment is approved by Pablo Joury, curator of Wild Encounters pinnipeds, as well as the veterinary team and a senior Animal Care representative before it enters the pool. Animal Nutrition also evaluates any food-related enrichment before it is offered.



Each trainer works with each pinniped, rather than being assigned to a specific animal. The animals choose whether to sleep inside, outside or rest in a pool at night and have access to move back and forth. On rare occasions, a sea lion may explore further by going over the north wall of the North Pool and landing in the intentionally designed containment area without harm. The sea lion can re-enter the pool by simply going up a few steps and through the door that leads directly into the pool. A sea lion experiencing this for the first time may need to be guided to the return path by a trainer, so it is always important to contact staff on Channel 5 if you notice this occurrence without a trainer nearby.

The wave machine in the North Pool will return to operation once a modification is made to a nearby gate.

The alliterative Amenable Antecedent Arrangements presentation showcased the Wild Encounters Outreach team's success with training programs to enhance the animals' lives. This often involves building inventive structures from scratch specifically designed to assist in reaching certain goals, such as preparing a **sloth** for immobilization, macaws for nail trims and eye-drop administration or a skunk to voluntarily assume a position for X-rays. The presentation shared how training is truly a conversation between the animals and their trainers to create spaces that facilitate streamlined training programs with limited resources.

The Zoo supports the Marine Mammal Center, and contributions by supporters there also benefit whales in the west. Each year, more than 80 blue, fin, humpback and gray whales are killed by ship strikes on the west coast as the whales migrate and feed in areas that overlap shipping lanes. A partnership with the Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory is now equipping shipping companies, vessel captains and other boaters with near real-time data on whale presence through its Whale Safe program. The acoustic monitoring, observations and oceanographic data are compiled and the almost real-time results are shared to let ships know when to reduce their speed and avoid ship strikes with whales. Just as a ship can be harmed by an iceberg, a whale can be harmed by a ship, so these preventive measures help keep both ocean vessels and ocean inhabitants safer in western waters.

You may have seen the "Advice from..." greeting cards and promotional items that share the wisdom of a specific animal. From sea lions, the advice is to soak up the sun, keep your whiskers clean, let your troubles roll off your back, don't flip out, spend time at the beach, have a playful spirit and make a splash! From our beloved beachmaster, the dearly departed Bodega, we could add advice to protect your home, be distinctive, never be underestimated and bark boldly. Despite multiple challenges, Bodega lived life to the fullest. In his honor, let's do the same!

Thank you to all who contributed time and talent to make Wild Encounters a wonderful place to volunteer and be enjoyed by our guests.



REMEMBERING SEA LION BODEGA