

# REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

It has been an extremely hot summer. As we move into September, we are hoping for a slight chill in the air to make it more comfortable for our visitors, our volunteers and our animals. Below are the latest updates from the region.

**Amur tiger** Mara has had the choice to go outside or to stay in her indoor habitat. Now 18 years old, she has decided to stay inside on many days. It may be hard to believe, but we have video evidence of Diesel going into the outside habitat before the Zoo has closed for the day. Vera continues to stay in the outside habitat on the days that she is out.



*Johnson—photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand*

New **Asian elephant** Johnson is being introduced to our three females. Rudy seems to love him, but there has been no breeding between them. Phoebe and Sunny don't seem interested in him because – they are **PREGNANT!** (Cue a thunderous round of applause sounds!) The south yard is still scheduled to be completed in October.

**Langur monkey** Gumby was euthanized due to aging issues. She was one of the original langurs and had nine babies. She was 23 years old.

**Little golden mantle flying fox** Bing was euthanized due to age-related issues.

Rosalyn **markhor** is hiding a lot this summer, but she is there. Staff are looking at bringing in new markhors in the future.

Do you remember that open display space in the Asia Quest building that housed the **reticulated python**? It will soon be occupied by **Pallas' cat** Moose for a few months. Rooster will be outside by himself for awhile with female Kaarina possibly joining him in the future. Mom Tiina's male and female babies, who have not been named yet, will remain in the indoor habitat.

*Remembering langur monkey Gumby*

*Remembering golden mantle  
flying fox Bing*

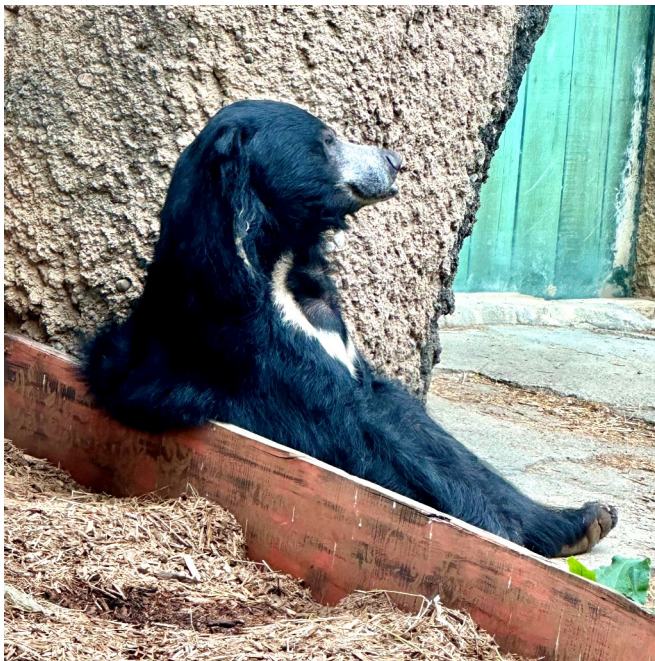
Reticulated python Kami has moved into the display that formerly housed **water monitor** Minotaur.

**Red panda** Kora and daughter, Santi, remain in the outside habitat.

Staff are checking into adding a breeding Reeves muntjac female to the **aviary** to mate with Tyler.



*Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

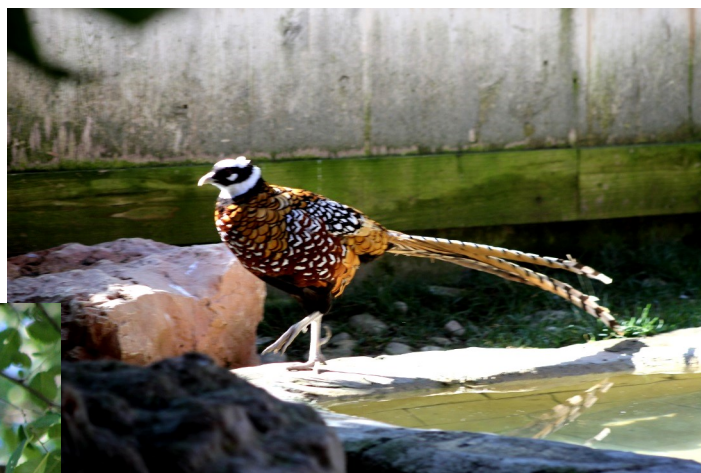


*Photo courtesy of Jack Green*

**Sloth bears** Heiderose and Randhir have been outside together and have mated – fingers crossed!

**Tufted deer** Sunflower and her yet unnamed daughter are in the outside habitat. We expect the daughter to have a flower name like her mother.

All of the other animals in the region are doing well.



*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

# REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Welcome to September and the continued heat! Note that animals in the region will have access to their indoor spaces if temperatures are extreme.



*Photo courtesy of Barb Emmets*

New **Tasmanian devils** Tori and Layna are adjusting to their environment and usually have access to both indoor and outside habitats. Staff are working on shifting, feeding and communication strategies with them to help with their adjustment.

**Tree kangaroos** Cori and Luka are approved for breeding, so you may see them together in their habitat. **Pygmy slow lorises** Gouda and Havarti may be seen together in their habitat because they also have a breeding recommendation. Let's hope for some babies with these two species.

**Binturong** Paco is having some medical issues, so he is behind the scenes at this time.

All the other animals in the region are doing well.

As we enter the fall season, come and work in the "land down under." The animals look forward to your visits.



*Photo courtesy of Jack Green*



*Photos courtesy of Barb Emmets*

# REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Our **colobus monkeys** have been enjoying the cooler weather! They were recently weighed and the little ones are still growing! Marmalade is now 8 pounds and Jif is 15 pounds.

The **leopards** and **mandrills** continue to acclimate to life in the old gorilla building. It took a few days to adjust but everyone has settled back into a routine and training has resumed. The leopards and mandrills currently switch access to Habitat B and, at this moment, Jaime and Tyrion are loving their outside time. Staff are trying different types of substrates, like straw, hay and shavings, to keep the mandrills busy and foraging throughout the day. It's also birthday season at the leopard/mandrill building! Jaime and Tyrion turned 8 on Aug. 24, Malaika celebrated her 7<sup>th</sup> birthday on Aug. 3 and Mosi and Matilda both have birthdays coming up this month. Mosi will be 11 on Sept. 9 and Matilda will be 13 on Sept. 29.

The **okapis** are enjoying the summer by spending time outside in their yards. Miliki enjoys the Y3 yard so much that she recently bent part of a fence while trying to browse on the nearby bushes. Staff have added some support structures so she can now browse to her heart's content. Otherwise, things at the okapi barn are status quo.

The **gorilla** boys are back. Kamoli and JJ are back from their vacation at Zoo Atlanta. Kamoli, whose parents are Oliver (now deceased) and Kambera (at Zoo Atlanta and currently pregnant), is the older of the two and the largest. JJ, whose parents are Mac and Tabibu, was named by a donor. We previously had a gorilla who had been named after Jungle Jack but that is not our current gorilla.

A lot of kids must have had the book "The One and Only Ivan" on their summer reading list as many have been wanting to see Kinyani.

It has been very busy at **bonobos** between moving them to their new building and its grand opening.

*Photos courtesy of Pam Hancock*

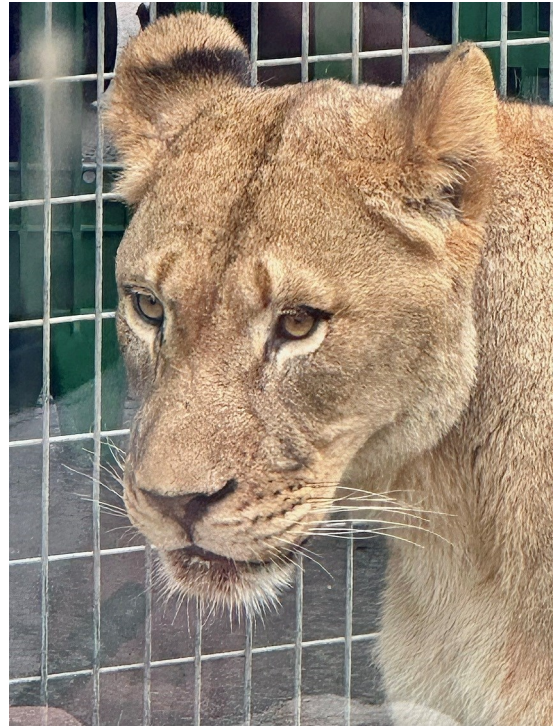


# REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Sept. 1 marked the last date for our Ultimate Africa Safari Experience for the season. The tours were very popular, so the current plan is to offer them again in 2025. The Winter **Giraffe** Feeding Experience will open on Nov. 4.

Now that the Zoo's closing hours have changed (5 p.m. Monday-Thursday), our **guinea fowl** girls have been brought inside the hoofstock barn for the season. With less people on grounds, they would either have to be in their coop starting at 5 p.m. or risk potential predators (raccoons frequent the area). By staying in the barn, the girls are still able to have access outside during the day but be locked inside much later than 5 p.m., so they can get as much sunlight as they can.

Everyone else in the region is doing great!



*Photos courtesy of Jack Green*

# REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

**Mexican wolves** Storm and Winter are doing well in their temporary habitat in Asia Quest while awaiting their new abode in North America Trek.

**Bald eagles** Cheyenne and Zuni are still off view in their temporary habitat until their new home is ready. Keepers have been working on training the eagles to eat when they are close by. This will be helpful because both eagles are on the older side and it would be nice to be able to provide individual treatment (medications) in the future.

Sadly, **wolverine** Zola was humanely euthanized toward the end of August. Keepers noticed that she was lethargic and not eating. Lymphoma was revealed during her examination. This information is not public knowledge, so please do not share it until an announcement has been made.

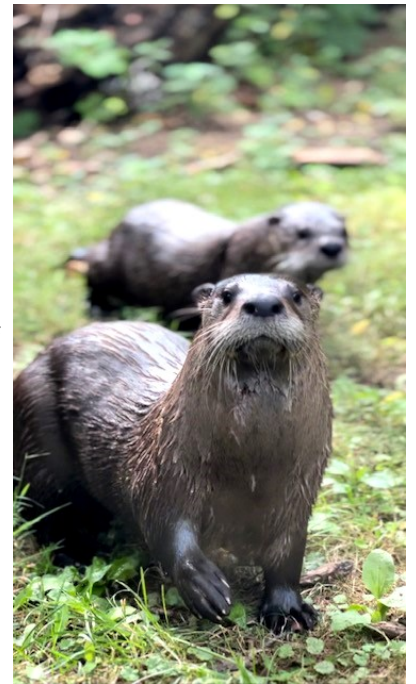
**Arctic fox** Marco and Hanna are getting along just fine in their habitat that has access to inside the polar building and outside. We mourn the passing of Jack.

**Cougars** Captain Cal, Goldie and Poppy are all doing well. They enjoyed their special enrichment on World Cat Day. Meanwhile, guests enjoyed learning about the work of



People and Carnivores with materials from the packages the ranchers can use.

**River otters** Mayhem, River and Wilford can be seen in their new home actively exploring the area.



**Brown bears** Brutus and Buckeye can often be observed playing in their pool or napping in their den but they sure are impressive to see if you happen to catch them out in the open areas, especially the one between the two glass viewing areas.



**Canadian lynxes** Siggy and Astrid are doing great. They also enjoyed World Cat Day.

**Moose** Strawberry, Bert, Violet and Scarlet can be seen in different parts of their yards enjoying the pond, misters and shady areas. Since rut is almost upon us, there is a good chance that Bert will be separated from the girls by the time this is posted. They will likely remain apart until March or April.

*Photos courtesy of Cat Collins*



*Photo courtesy of Cat Collins*

**Trumpeter swans** Stella and Sloane are in their temporary habitat. Please keep an eye out for guests reaching over or through the fences.

**Black bear** Stevie Nicks can be seen exploring her habitat and sleeping on top of her den box.

Abby, Figgy Puddin and Candy Cane **reindeer** can be seen with their very large antlers.

**Barn** residents enjoyed Enrichment Day with ice treats. If you stopped by the petting yard recently, you might have noticed a few individuals missing. Kit was recently anesthetized and had both of her udders removed due to potential

masses found in them. She is currently recovering at the hospital; Dottie will join her as long as she continues to heal. Circe was also taken to the hospital and is spending a few days there because she was a little lethargic and, upon further examination, was found to have pneumonia. Both Circe and Kit are healing well and should be back in the yard soon.

Keepers are busy finalizing preparations as we head toward **polar bear** denning season. Columbus just hosted a researcher who came to compare polar bear body sizes and weights in an effort to use that information to better track bears in the wild.

In construction news, rockwork is taking shape in the otter pool and floors are being poured in both the bear and wolf building.



*Lee's new sleeping position*

*Photo courtesy of Stephen Frey*

*Remembering pygmy goat Mingo*

*Remembering wolverine Zola*

*Remembering Arctic fox Jack*

# REGION NEWS—SHORES

The **weedy sea dragon** babies are eating great and growing! They are starting to move to a larger system and eat bigger food items.

Our **penguins** have all finished molting

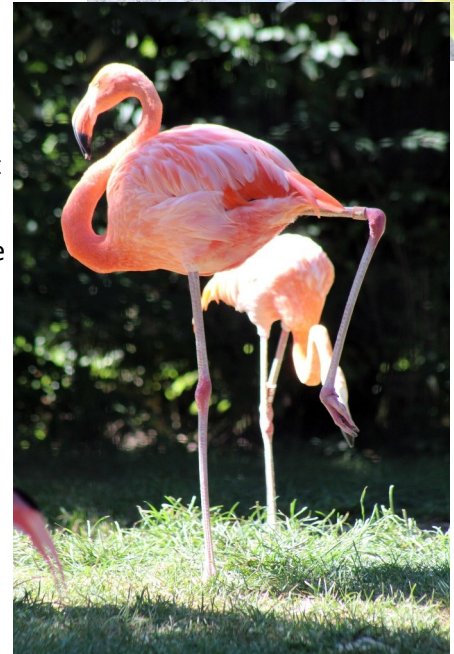
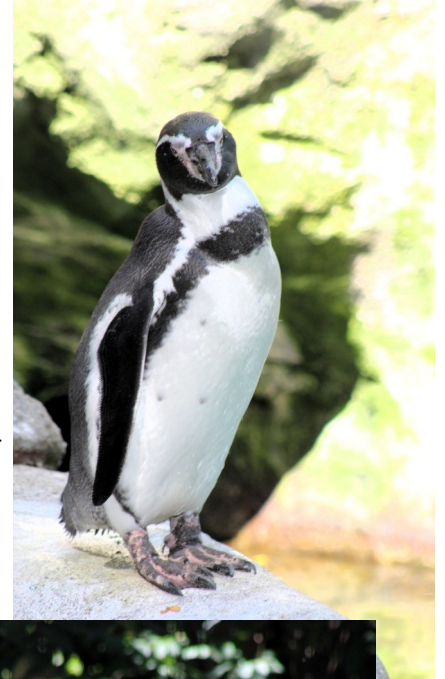
For the last several weeks, Shelia **zebra shark** chose to stay in the hospital area of discovery reef. She has now chosen to return to the reef habitat.

Kami **reticulated python** was moved across the hall to **water monitor** Minotaur's habitat in the Asia Quest building to enhance her ability to utilize vertical spaces, a natural behavior for a young reticulated python. Meanwhile, Minotaur has temporarily moved to the **Komodo dragon** building and will remain behind the scenes for the time being.

**Flamingo** Anne has some taping on her legs. She has what equates to a sprained ankle and the tape helps to stabilize it. The tape on her leg that is not injured is just to distract her from the tape on her injured leg.

Unfortunately, **Aldabra tortoise** Bob (the larger of the three youngsters that spent the winter in the bat habitat) passed away on Aug. 1. Further testing is being done to determine a cause. Out of an abundance of caution and due to chillier overnight temperatures, our other two, smaller Aldabras have temporarily moved from the walk through at Animal Encounters Village (AEV). They are both doing well.

We are starting to have some cooler nights. If temperatures drop low enough, some of the reptiles that have been outside for the summer will begin coming inside and Ursula Komodo dragon may be viewable inside at times.



*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

*Remembering Aldabra tortoise Bob*

# REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS

**Macaw** flights are happening in AEV on a daily basis, typically in the mornings. The birds fly from the area of Stingray Bay to the entry plaza and back again. Keepers are in the entry plaza to share information about the birds with our Zoo guests.



AEV continues to work with Horticulture to enhance natural elements in the habitats. Look for more wild, long grass and live plants incorporated in and around habitats.

An eye procedure will likely have been performed on **sea lion** Ayla by the time this is posted. This procedure, referred to as a Gunderson flap, is what Qizai had done several months ago. She will likely be inside and kept away from water for 1-2 weeks.

Our **seals** have begun their annual molts! Keaton was first and, now we're seeing the beginnings of Ferris and Sloane's molts. If you're wondering what that process looks like, they basically lose their old hair as new hair pushes through, and it all happens within days. It requires a great deal of energy for them to go through a molt. Therefore, we'll see their appetites increase significantly in the week or so



before the molting process begins. They need the extra calories beforehand because, when the molt starts, they often will just remain on deck and stay dry – most don't want to get wet, or even eat, for a day or more (it really depends on each seal). When the molt is complete, they will all have a silverish coat with dark spots where they would've appeared more yellow/beige before.

Unfortunately, we lost harbor seal Hillie recently. A public announcement has not been made so we would ask that you not share this information.

*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

We've wrapped up our busy summer presentation season. Now, the presentations are just occurring on Saturdays and Sundays but they still begin at 11 a.m.

Our divers have also completed their summer night dives and will return to diving every morning Monday-Saturday. You may notice the pools looking cloudier on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays because those are the days the LSS team scrubs the pool with power brushes. The cloudiness usually dissipates within a few hours as the debris settles and is filtered through the drains.

**Cheetah** runs are still happening daily at the Watering Hole. They take place at noon and, on Saturdays and Sundays, an additional run occurs at 2 p.m.

*Remembering harbor seal Hillie*

# REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

Baby season is finally behind us. However, a late **bison** calf born in August joined about 50 others that were born earlier this year. The team took advantage of some breaks in the hot summer weather to get animal moves completed last month. We have a new, young female **cheetah** that will become part of our breeding program once she is older as well as a new male **Przewalski's horse** that will be introduced to our herd as soon as he is released from quarantine. An adult, male **takin** was transferred to another zoo to be paired with a female there.

There is still time to plan a visit to *The Wilds* this season. Open-air Tours, Wildside Tours and even overnight lodging can all be booked online.



*Glenn, born at The Wilds in 2016, now living at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle*

*Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney*