

Zoo Review

FALL 2019 • THE VIRGINIA ZOO • 3500 GRANBY ST., NORFOLK, VA 23504 • VIRGINIAZOO.ORG



**MUCH TO BE LEARNED FROM
RARE DOVES AND PIGEONS
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**MONITOR RECEIVES
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**BACK TO SCHOOL AT THE ZOO
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CANDELABRA (*Cassia alata*)

What looks like bright candles and used to help treat ringworm? This plant. Also known as the candle bush, this species is more of a tropical evergreen tree. Find it near the Zoo's Membership Office, but look for the long leaves with several pairs of leaflets. **Read more about Plant Oddities on page 17.**

3500 Granby Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23504

ZOO HOURS:

Open Daily 10 am – 5 pm

Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving,
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

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Do you have any questions or ideas for the next issue of the Virginia Zoo Review? Contact us. We love your feedback.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



GREG (CENTER) WITH VISITORS FROM THE ZOO'S SISTER CITY KITAKYUSHU, JAPAN.

Dear Zoo Friends,

Foundations for success and for friendship. After a fantastic summer of baby animals and events, and shared Zoo experiences, we are gearing up to begin an ambitious exploration into what more we can bring to Zoo visitors, where we might expand future development and when to put new plans into action. The Zoo staff, along with the Virginia Zoological Society board of directors, volunteers and the City of Norfolk will be involved in a significant systematic strategic planning process through the fall and winter seasons. The primary purpose of this planning process is to connect three key areas: the mission and vision of the Virginia Zoo and the City of Norfolk (defining our combined purpose) and to develop an action plan to achieve determined goals. The process is expected to be very exciting and establish realistic objectives that are in line with the priorities of what the Zoo stands for in wildlife conservation, opportunities for lifelong learning and economic vitality. We are looking forward to the process and insights that will result in outcomes to enhance our interactions and experiences. Watch for your opportunity to be part of the process.

This summer we spent time with our colleagues and friends from our sister city, Kitakyushu, Japan. Both Toshiro Iwano, Zoo Director of Itozu-no-Mori Zoological Park (pictured right), and Kenji Kitahashi, Mayor of Kitakyushu (above), toured the Virginia Zoo and shared their thoughts and ideas for a continued partnership. These include planting cherry trees from their city on Zoo grounds in celebration of our 60-year relationship, to reflecting on exhibit designs that have been impactful for animals and creative educational experiences that our visitors have enjoyed. Developing this cross-cultural relationship and creatively promoting our cultural ties will foster a unique diversity for our organizations that will broaden our facility planning process into the future.



Thank you for being a Zoo member - we couldn't do what we do without you.

Executive Director, Virginia Zoo

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO

**ANNULATED BOAS**

A litter of annulated boas were born in late July. This species of snake does not lay eggs, but instead gives live birth, also known as ovoviviparity.

**GIANT DAY GECKO**

You know the bright green lizard on the World of Reptiles tower? Now you can find a real one on exhibit with the leaf-tailed geckos. She is less than a year old.

**LINED SEAHORSES**

Nine new seahorses have joined the Zoo's existing herd. This species is native to the Chesapeake Bay and are excellent ambassadors for their species.

**MINIATURE ZEBU**

Clover has a new bestie, one-year-old Cool Hand Luke, who arrived at the ZooFarm in June. See Luke with his white patches of fur on his head, neck and tail and immature horns.



RED PANDAS Three's company has a new meaning with the arrival of healthy triplets, two males and one female, to Masu and Timur. The trio and mom are currently off-exhibit until fall.

**SAILFIN DRAGONS**

These medium-sized lizards have flat toes that aid in running across water. A new pair will be introduced to the World of Reptiles after a routine quarantine period.

**SCREECH OWL**

After being injured in the wild, this adult owl was deemed non-releasable and is now under the Zoo's care. What's in store for this animal? More info to come soon!

**SOUTHERN CASSOWARY**

Portabella, or Bella, is our latest ratite addition. Although she can't fly, Bella can jump several feet off the ground to reach her favorite food, bananas!



SOUTHERN SCREAMER After incubating for 46 days, a fluffy yellow chick hatched! Parents, Pink and Blue, take turns caring for the chick. It'll be sexed once its adult feathers grow in.

**RINGTAIL**

Native to western and southwestern North America, ringtails are cat-sized, nocturnal mammals closely related to raccoons. Crockett is in the ZooFarm's yellow barn.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Summer is a busy season around the Zoo, and volunteers were here for it! Just since June 1, 176 Zoo Crew and Conservation Youth Team volunteers provided more than 7,000 hours of service to the Zoo, averaging over 40 hours a person in a little over two months. These dedicated volunteers showed up in the scorching heat to garden, lead storytimes and activities and engage guests in conversation and conservation. In addition, military and corporate volunteer groups racked up nearly 500 hours of service, lending a hand (or 40!)

during hot and sticky summer mornings.

We can't do what we do without our fantastic volunteers. The Zoo Crew grew by 60 this summer, and we look forward to having new volunteers join us in 2020. If you're interested in joining, Zoo Crew applications are accepted on a rolling basis and our teen Conservation Youth Team applications open in December. Learn more at virginiazoo.org/volunteer or call the Volunteer Coordinator at 757.441.2374 ext. 225.

CONSERVATION

BIRDS OF A FEATHER A Purple-tailed imperial pigeon isn't the only successful hatch at the Zoo this year.

► SOUTHERN SCREAMER

Chauna torquata Pink and Blue are proud parents again and Zoo fans are screaming with joy for the fluffy yellow chick's hatching in the ZooFarm on July 18. Keepers say the parents are doing a great job of caring for the chick, which will become fully-grown and completely independent at three months old.



► VICTORIA CROWNED PIGEON

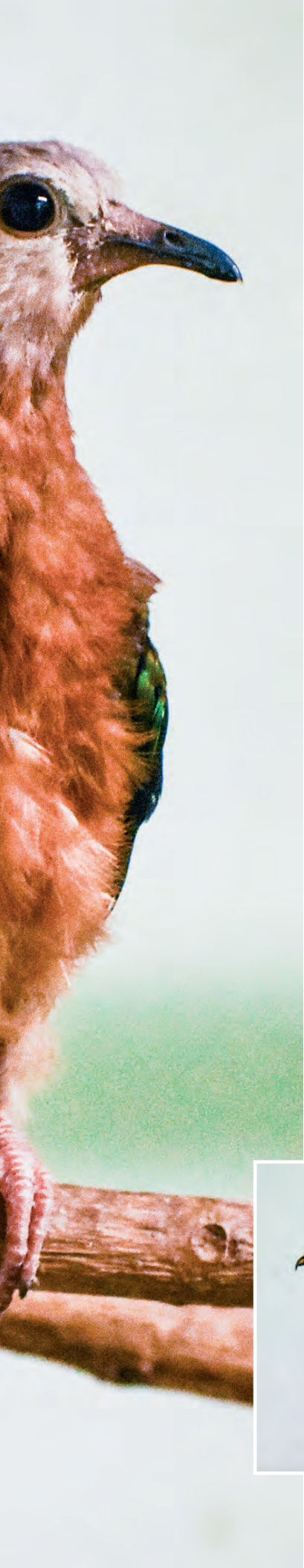
Goura victoria Another member of the royal family? This pigeon chick, the first successful hatching of its species at the Virginia Zoo, made headlines across the world after hatching on March 29. He/she started off life with an adorable, yet edgy mohawk and is now nearly full-grown and looks identical to its parents. The trio can be found in the Asia Aviary.



► JAMBU FRUIT DOVE

Ramphiculus jambu A chick hatched at the avian propagative center on August 2 and is continuing to grow and bond with its parents. This hatching is crucial for its species, which is near threatened with extinction due to habitat loss in its native habitat in Indonesia and Malaysia.





Pigeon Parenthood

Not much is known about this species, but breeding them in human care may help us learn more.

STORY BY TAYLOR MARTIN & HAILEY MÖLLER // PHOTOS BY KEARSTEN WALDEN

Purple-tailed imperial pigeons sound like royalty, but they're not as well-known as you may think. In fact, not much is known about the species at all, despite the birds' population being stable in their native forest habitat in New Guinea. The pigeons are listed as a least concern on the International Union for Conservation's Red List of threatened and endangered species, a list that classifies various species that may be considered at risk for global extinction. The species is reported to be fairly common; however, they are considered elusive and often are not seen by humans.

In order to learn more about such a secretive species, the Virginia Zoo needed to begin caring for the pigeons. Three adults, two males and one female, came to the Zoo from Singapore in 2015, helping us to become one of only a handful of zoos in the world to have the pigeons under their care.

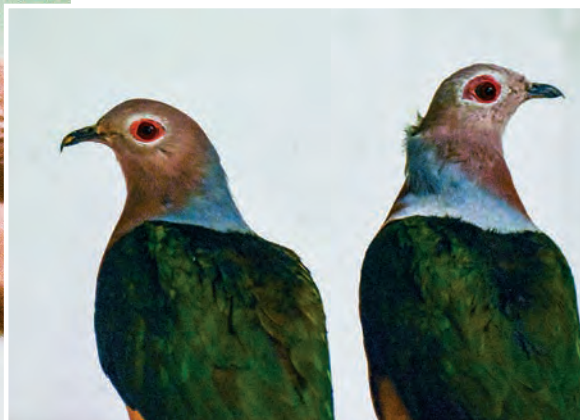
The imperial pigeons have no Species Survival Plan® and breeding these birds in human care has proven to be challenging. Keepers have had to learn about the birds' needs through trial-and-error. The Keepers provided cup-shaped nests that varied in depth, but learned it wasn't the nest itself that helped, but the environment surrounding the parents to make them feel secure enough to fully incubate their egg. Tactics included shade cloth being added to the

birds' exhibit to hide them and even a nature CD playing to cancel outside noise. Keepers changed protocols for cleaning the exhibit, only adding shavings to the ground to minimize disturbance. They also restricted the number of Keepers to enter the exhibit since birds recognize people and too many new faces may make them uneasy.

The breeding pair laid several eggs, but were never comfortable enough to incubate them. Once the birds felt their nest was ideal, Keepers noticed they were sitting on the nest with an egg and being protective of their new prized possession. After 23 days, a chick hatched on May 21.

From the moment the egg hatched, Keepers say the parents were diligent at protecting and hiding the chick until it had grown enough to emerge from the nest on its own. Keepers recently confirmed the chick was male and named him Frank. Keepers can hear the parents communicating with the chick throughout the day and are observing routine feeding. The chick is already eating adult food, but when first hatched, mom and dad would create "crop milk" and feed it to him.

The pigeon flock is normally found in the Asia Aviary, but is currently housed off-exhibit to allow the family to bond in their own space.



◀ **PURPLE-TAILED IMPERIAL PIGEON** *Ducula rufigaster* A chick (center) was hatched on May 21 after 23 days. His parents (left) came to the Virginia Zoo from Singapore in 2015. Not much is known about the species, despite their population being stable in their native forest habitat in New Guinea.



Education in Every Corner

New education programs, along with some refreshing updates to favorites are coming this fall.

STORY BY MICHELLE LEWIS

FREE PROGRAMMING On the heels of the successful grand opening of Run Wild: Nature Discovery Zone, the Education Department is planning weekly programs at the site that will be free to guests with admission. Join us for World Day of Play on Monday, September 30th where we'll kick off our nature play series. Play is important for children's physical, mental, emotional and social development. Play in nature specifically has been linked to physical health improvements and also helps to connect them to their environment. In these programs, children can use bamboo for fort building or materials for nature art, but Zoo Educators will be hands-off to allow children to freely choose their method of play. Look for program dates at virginiazoo.org/events and let your children RUN WILD.

SNOOZE AT THE ZOO Have you ever wondered what happens at the Zoo at night? Come SNOOZE with us and find out! Our popular overnight program, Zoo Snoozes, is getting even better! Starting this fall, we'll be aligning our curricula with merit badge requirements so your scout can earn a merit badge while Snoozing at the Zoo! Groups may also have the opportunity to sleep inside our World of Reptiles exhibit. Only at the Virginia Zoo can you doze off with the Roti Island snake-

necked turtles and wake up next to a Siamese crocodile! Book your Snooze at virginiazoo.org/zoo-snoozes

SCOUT BADGES Want to have all the fun of the Zoo after dark but still spend the night in your own bed? Our Scout Programs are a range of bookable evening programs similar to our Twilight Programs of the past. These thrilling nights will take place from 7 to 10 pm on weekend nights and allow participants to enjoy the Zoo after dark without sleeping over. While these programs will be aligned to merit badge requirements, we welcome all types of groups who are seeking a unique learning opportunity. **Stay tuned for more details coming early 2020.**

AND MORE! The ever-popular Animal Appreciation and EdZOOcation Days are continuing through the fall. These fun and informal opportunities include educational activities and are free with admission to the Zoo. Learn about the Zoo's animals and our conservation efforts. Save the dates for the upcoming animal days:

- **Monday, September 30: World Day of Play**
- **Saturday, October 5: World Habitat Day**
- **Sunday, October 20: International Sloth Day**
- **Saturday, November 2: Bison Day**



DATES:

OCTOBER 14:

Scaredy Cats

NOVEMBER 5:

Campaign Trails

DEC 30, 31, JAN 2, 3:

Arctic Adventures



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\$250/non-member

On Their Best Behavior

Learning never stops for both animals and Zoo Keepers at the Virginia Zoo. This is evident with the latest rhino training session.

STORY BY TAYLOR MARTIN // PHOTOS BY KEARSTEN WALDEN



"OPEN"

Keepers can inspect the rhino's mouth and teeth to ensure the rhino has no cuts, bleeding or broken teeth.

You've probably heard the phrase, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks", but did you know a Zoo Keeper can teach a rhino of any age new behaviors? In fact, the Zoo's three Southern white rhinos, male Sibindi, and females Bora and Zina, are all voluntarily participating in daily training sessions. Daily training not only helps the rhinos continue to build a relationship with their Keepers, but also helps Keepers desensitize the rhinos to monitor their health.

Training began with the massive mammals after the half-sisters arrived from Singapore in April 2017 and then continued with Sibindi's arrival in November later that year. Training sessions are done using positive reinforcement and the animals can always choose to participate or not. Training initially started with Keepers introducing a target pole, however because rhinos have better hearing than vision, the use of verbal cues was also introduced.

The rhinos picked up on verbal cues and movements and began to demonstrate behaviors very quickly, showing their ability to learn fast. Keepers say they have noticed the rhinos will often solicit attention from their Keepers outside of training sessions by exhibiting behaviors, solidifying the rhinos' willingness to participate in training, especially when treats are involved.

Keepers have noted that one rhino in particular, Zina, started anticipating a specific order of behaviors so they have started to switch up the order of when they ask for certain behaviors to keep training sessions novel and fun. Keepers say Zina appears to be the most excited and receptive to training, but Bora and Sibindi often seem excited about training sessions too.



Training typically occurs in the morning and involves one rhino at a time, but opportunistic training sessions can happen at any time throughout the day. For training inside, the trio are separated into their own stalls and can often be seen watching the others or using their time to take a quick nap. First, Zoo Keeper Jason (pictured here), grabs some hay or other reinforcement and a clicker, and begins asking the rhino, Zina (pictured here), to come closer to him. Jason and Zina interact through protected contact, in which there is always a barrier between the two for safety. Jason verbally asks Zina to display various behaviors that, if demonstrated, result in the clicker sound, followed by reinforcement (which could be a tasty handful of hay, favorite pieces of produce or browse, or even a scratch or pat) for a job well done.

Currently, the rhinos participate in voluntary weekly blood draws that can be taken through their ears or front legs. The blood draws help with monitoring their overall health, and can help track reproductive health and hormone levels in the girls.

Keepers are always training new behaviors, including exams of the rhinos' eyes. Jason is hoping to have the rhinos learn to open each of their eyes on a cue to allow veterinary staff to inspect the cornea and retina to ensure no vision problems. A "lying down" behavior is also next, so the rhinos' torsos can be inspected. Keeper Jason states there is always more work to be done, but he is excited to see what the rhinos can learn.



"STEP UP"

This training cue Keepers get a better look under her neck and torso for any potential wounds or skin irritation.



"LEAN IN"

Keepers want to see the rhino turn her body parallel to the stall bars. This positioning can help with giving voluntary injections and could be beneficial for ultrasounds if the girls become pregnant.



"FOOT"

Keepers can look at each of her foot pads for wounds or see if her nails are too long and need to be rounded off.

Monitoring Hank's Situation

Will alternative medicine offer some relief for this reptile?

STORY BY DR. COLLEEN CLABBERS // PHOTOS BY KEARSTEN WALDEN

Most of the animals' visits with the Zoo's Veterinarian, Dr. Colleen Clabbers, are scheduled ahead of time, but she is always on call in the event an animal needs urgent assistance. Reptile Keepers recently noticed that Hank, the white-throated monitor, was walking abnormally on his right hind leg and made the decision to bring him in for a check-up at the Animal Wellness Campus.

After performing a physical exam, Dr. Colleen, with the assistance of Keepers and Zoo Vet Techs, more thoroughly evaluated Hank's hip bones and joints. Hank's hip joints show signs of arthritis, which is the inflammation of one or more joints. The main symptoms of arthritis are pain and stiffness, which typically worsen with age. Hank developing the disease is not surprising given that he is 12 years old, which is considered geriatric for this species. Given these clinical findings, Dr. Colleen next had to decide how to effectively manage any pain Hank was experiencing.

Pain control in reptiles can be very difficult to provide due to their metabolism, so oral medications are often unsuccessful. Dr. Colleen

decided to pursue alternative medicine and reached out to Dr. Jeanette Schacher, DVM, CVA from Hampton Roads Veterinary Hospice to explore acupuncture in attempts of bringing Hank some relief to the right hip pain.

During Hank's acupuncture sessions, vet staff placed a blindfold, using a bandage, over Hank's eyes to decrease visual stimuli and excitement during the process. Dr. Schacher strategically placed small acupuncture needles into Hank's skin to elicit a healing response. Hank handled the first treatment quite well and appeared relaxed by the end of the procedure.

Over the course of four weeks, Hank received weekly acupuncture treatments and his gait was reevaluated each week to document any changes or improvements. Unfortunately, Hank hasn't been showing the improvements that vet staff would like to see, so additional diagnostics are planned. Hank will undergo a CT scan to rule out other causes of his hip discomfort besides arthritis such as a ligament tear or tumor that may not be seen on radiographs.



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Name: Hank

Sex: Male

Species: White-throated monitor

Age: 12 years old

Weight: 23 lbs

Reason for Visit: abnormal walking behaviors

Hank is an East African white throated monitor, a species native to south-western, south-central, and eastern Africa. He weighs 23.8 pounds and his species can grow up to six feet in length. Hank currently lives in an exhibit in the Africa - Okavango Delta.



SLITHER INTO ZOOBOO

OCTOBER 26 & 27 • 10 AM - 5 PM



PUMPKIN ENRICHMENT 🦴 GAMES
CRAFTS 🦴 ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS
ENTERTAINMENT 🦴 CANDY STATIONS
PURCHASE TICKETS AT VIRGINIAZOO.ORG/EVENTS

Yellow-backed duiker

Cephalophus silvicultor

1

Yellow-backed duikers (pronounced dai-kr) are just one of at least 20 known duiker species; they are also the largest. This species earned its name from the yellow patch of fur on their backs.

2

The word duiker means "diver" in Afrikaans because of how they often run into thick foliage to hide from potential predators such as leopards, lions and eagles.

3

These smaller antelopes can range from four to six feet in body length and measure up to three feet in height. On average, they can weigh between 100 to 175 pounds.

4

Duikers live in thick lowland and montane forests of western and central Africa and spend a majority of their time foraging for foods such as bark, shoots, seeds, fruits, fungi and herbs.

5

Duikers have scent glands on their faces that they rub against trees to mark their territory. Both sexes also have short, sharp horns on their heads which can be used for sparring.

6

Three duikers live at the Zoo: mom Dottie, daughter Asterisk and son Hashtag (named after punctuation marks). They can be found in the Africa - Okavango Delta, which is shared with giraffes, ostriches and southern ground hornbills.

In the past year, 50,232 students and chaperones have visited the Zoo for field trips. The Zoo offers a variety of options when it comes to school programs, from self-guided tours to hour-long, Education-led tours or classroom programs. With back-to-school season upon us, why not make learning come to life at the Virginia Zoo?



44,025

students and chaperones participated in the self-guided tour option

4,830

students participated in onsite school programs, plus their 1,377 chaperones

TWO

homeschool days hosted by the Virginia Zoo. The Education Department also hosted its first Teacher Night at the Zoo.



\$0 cost for Norfolk Public Schools to visit the Zoo for a self-guided field trip

LEARN MORE ABOUT FIELD TRIP AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AT VIRGINIAZOO.ORG/EDUCATION



161

onsite classroom programs by Education staff

62

guided school tours, lasting one hour each

ONSITE PROGRAMS BY AGE:

Early Childhood: 8 programs; 7 tours

Elementary: 138 programs; 48 tours

Middle/High School: 13 programs; 6 tours

College: 2 programs; 1 tour

30-45 MINUTES

length of a classroom program, in which three topics are offered: World Traveler, Close Encounter, Genetics

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Animal Ambassador Program

You see our Animal Ambassadors and their Keepers around grounds, but what role do they play at the Zoo?

STORY BY TAYLOR MARTIN, STEPHANIE PETERS, TARA BAUMGARDNER, BREANNE WIGGINS AND MATT SINE



KEEPER TARA WITH TIA
THE TOCO TOUCAN FOR
KENNEL TRAINING

01 WHAT'S THAT BUILDING?

Known as the Program Animal Building, or PAB for short, 39 different animals representing 21 different species live here. The animals that live here are either currently used for education programs or are retired animal ambassadors.

02 WHO GOES THERE

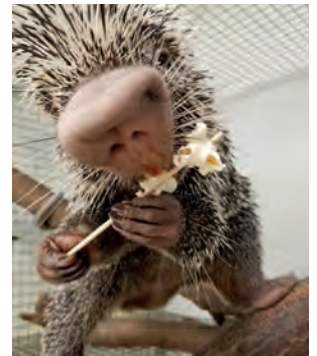
About 39 animals live at PAB, ranging from domestic animals like chickens and rabbits, native animals like red-tailed hawks and box turtles, and others from all over the world like the Cape porcupine and Tawny frogmouth. They come to the Zoo from a variety of channels, some are rescues while others have been born here, but the majority come from other AZA-accredited institutions around the country.

03 GOTTA REPRESENT

These animals are representatives of their counterparts in the wild. To help tell their vital stories, Keepers train them using positive reinforcement to voluntarily display behaviors that teach visitors about their natural history and abilities, while other behaviors are so animals voluntarily participate in their own health care. Keepers work with every animal at least once a day and training sessions are always voluntary.

04 READY TO RETIRE

When an animal has a medical condition that prohibits it from voluntarily participating in programs, Animal Care staff may determine the animal needs to retire from being used in daily educational programs. However, the retired animal will continue to be offered daily training (at the animal's choosing), socialization, and enrichment as appropriate to ensure the best quality of life throughout retirement.



05 BE PREPARED

All of our ambassadors are trained through positive reinforcement to be comfortable around Zoo visitors, as well as desensitized to different locations and around new sights and sounds. The staff who work with these animals are specifically trained and skilled in recognizing each animal's individual behavior.



KEEPER BREANNE
PRESENTING BIG
RED DURING WORLD
PARROT DAY

06 SET YOUR STANDARDS HIGH

All of our animal handlers are also trained regularly. They undergo specific annual training and receive a certification to present the animals. Training sessions include best practices to handle and transport animals, reading an animal's behavior, the natural history of each species, as well as interpretation and presentation techniques.



07 SPECIAL APPEARANCES

The animals at PAB aren't "on exhibit" but can be seen around the Zoo frequently. The ambassadors make appearances during ZooLive! Stage presentations and at events like Member Night and ZooBoo. You might also see them at education programs (on and off Zoo grounds), like Safari Camps, Zoo Snoozes and even TV appearances.



08 BY THE NUMBERS

Last year, 25,540 Zoo visitors interacted with program animals during behind-the-scenes tours, Zoo events, pop-up appearances around Zoo grounds and stage presentations.



09 FEED THE BEASTS

Each animal has a specific diet, which is prepared daily onsite. Some are fed multiple times per day, while others are provided with their entire diet all at once – this varies by species and individual feeding habits. The animals are also given enrichment, which helps promote natural behaviors. Some receive their regular diet in unique ways, others get shredded paper, boxes, toys or scents. Often the best smells can be found in a new space, so Keepers provide the option of spending time in- or outside, weather depending.

10 KEEPIN' IT REAL

The PAB has two full-time Keepers, part-time and Rover Keepers, as well as several certified animal handlers from the Education Department and PAB volunteers. Whether training an animal, setting up enrichment, distributing diets or cleaning habitats, Keepers have to spend every second of their work day wisely. Which task takes the longest? Cleaning, which involves scooping poop, providing clean water and sanitizing habitats, can take up to five hours every day!





ZOOBOO
OCT 26 & 27

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ZooBoo Returns Oct. 26 & 27

For years, ZooBoo has offered families the opportunity to enjoy fall fun in a safe and charming atmosphere. This year is no different - and there's more to look forward to!

Zoo fans have different reasons for attending, maybe it's the pumpkin enrichment or the abundance of educational programming at every corner of the Zoo. There is definitely something for everyone - for all ages and interests - and plenty of "extras" that make the \$6 member cost or general admission rate worth the money. Check out this year's additions and info and save the date for ZooBoo 2019!

PUMPKINS Enrichment encourages an animal's natural behaviors or heightens its senses with a new scent or taste. However, two days of pumpkin play may be too much, so the enrichment schedule varies between Saturday and Sunday. Be sure to check which days your furry favorites are receiving their enrichment.

CANDY STATIONS This year we're positioning the tricks and treats all around the Zoo! You'll get a chance to stroll throughout the park engaging in all the sights and entertainment spots to collect your goodies. Can you find all 20 locations? We dare you to!

ENTERTAINMENT Besides the fun photo opps, festive décor and a DJ playing spootacular hits, this year the Zoo welcomes

a new "Fun Bus" on Saturday. This interactive play for children includes hair raising tumbling, climbing, jumping, hanging and more! Bounce houses will be available at an additional cost.

ANIMAL AMBASSADORS Wanting even more animal interaction? Stop by one of three ZooLive! Stage presentations at the Animal Wellness Campus where you get to see our animal ambassadors up close and learn about what makes them creep and crawl right into our hearts.

EDUCATIONAL MAKE BELIEVE The Run Wild: Nature Discovery Zone morphs into an enchanted land this ZooBoo. Meet the clever characters who will guide you into the forest and take you on an unforgettable adventure. The Mad Lab at the World of Reptiles will be back for another year of stunning scientific fun and the always popular arts and crafts will be available as well.

COSTUME CONTESTS Dress to impress, the judges that is! Three contests will take place each day in categories of ages 4 and under, 5 and up and family/group at the Event Field. Better start planning your outrageous outfits now.

Please note: Due to the "Full Steam Ahead" Capital Campaign and the start of construction, the Zoo Train will run under normal operating conditions at the regular cost of \$2 per ride.

WOOLY MORNING GLORY *Argyreia nervosa*

Did you know plants can have wool? Although it isn't real fur or wool, there is a soft layer of velvet growing on the vine and underside of the heart-shaped leaves of this tropical plant. See how tall the vine has grown on the light poles in the Zoo's plaza and feel how soft it is!

**IVORY WHITE WONDER CUCUMBER**

Cucumis sativus These albino heirloom cucumbers have been around since 1893 and pack all the flavor of a "traditional" cucumber without any bitterness. You can find these cucumbers in the ZooFarm garden.

**CHINESE PARASOL TREE** *Firmiana simplex*

What does this tree have to do with Hiroshima, Japan? It is native to several Asian countries, but the tree is particularly rooted deep in this city's history. The parasol-shaped tree with yellow-green seed pods survived WWII! The species is found globally and at the Zoo near the Australia Walkabout.

**SNAKE GOURD** *Trichosanthes cucumerina*

Is that a snake or a giant cucumber? Both, well sort of! This Asian delicacy belongs to the cucumber family and earned its name from its striking resemblance to snakes. These elongated fruits grew along the fence in the Zoo's parking lot in front of the train barn.

**MOSAIC PLANT** *Ludwigia sedioides*

What's in a name? Some plants are difficult to identify based on name, but not this one! This aquatic plant looks just like a piece of mosaic artwork floating on top of the water. See if you can spot some of these plants in the pond at the Animal Wellness Campus.

**REISETOMATE** *Solanum lycopersicon*

Is it a single tomato or cherry tomatoes fused together? The word *reise* is German for travel, and each lump of fruit is one juicy tomato that can easily be picked apart to eat, making it great for traveling. Find them in the ZooFarm and Animal Wellness gardens.



Plant Oddities

STORY BY TAYLOR MARTIN

It is estimated there are more than 391,000 species of plants across the globe. On the Zoo's 53 acres, there are hundreds of native and non-native plants, some of which are more familiar like Crepe myrtles, but what about the more strange and intriguing greenery around Zoo grounds? Here are a few of the most unique plants our Horticulture department cares for at the Zoo.

▲HAPPY TREE *Camptotheca*

acuminata Why happy? Maybe because it produces a substance that could potentially cure some forms of cancer, which scientists are researching. This tree species is native to China and Tibet but has been introduced to the US, including the Zoo near the Animal Wellness pond.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE VIRGINIA ZOO!

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST, [VIRGINIAZOO.ORG/DONATE](http://virginiazoo.org/donate)

CURRENT LEADERSHIP SOCIETY Leadership Society members support the Zoo's daily commitment to animal care, enrichment programming, wildlife conservation, education and research initiatives across our community and beyond.

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NEW ZOOPARENTS

Every animal at the Virginia Zoo is available for adoption, starting at \$25. Proceeds help feed and care for animals.

| ZOOPARENT | ANIMAL | ZOOPARENT | ANIMAL |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Shian Acee | Giraffe | Amanda Landes | Otter |
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| Emma Dobschuetz | Rhino Viper | Joseph Searce, Jr | Giraffe |
| Liam Driscoll | Tiger | Emeric Seiler | Orangutan |
| Terry Durkin | Cassowary | Warren Seiler | Red River Hog |
| Lilah & Sadie Fairchild | Red Panda | Leslie Sharpe | Binturong |
| Alan Flynn | Sloth | Laurel Smith | Moon Bear |
| Mikahla Fowler | Red Panda | Callahan Smrz | Moon Bear |
| Jay Goldschmidt | Tiger | Brooklyn Sneed | Giraffe |
| Joseph & Tamala Gugino | Sloth | Kristina Wirth | Sloth |
| Alice Harris | Red River Hog | Courtney Leigh Britt Worrall | Bald Eagle |
| Madella H. Kehoe | Tiger | | |

FULL STEAM AHEAD TRAIN CAMPAIGN

There are several ways to help the train stay on its campaign track - some of the more popular ways include a Brick at the Train Station or Seat on the Train. Regardless, any donation of \$25 or more gets you a commemorative keychain! Learn more at virginiazoo.org/trainfund

BRICKS

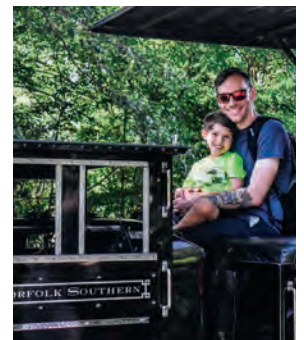
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DONOR HIGHLIGHT

The Goode Family

*Virginia Zoo Members & Board Member
and Long-time Supporters*

STORY BY REBECCA GUEST

For nearly two centuries, dating back to the earliest days of American railroading, Norfolk Southern has served the Norfolk community and surrounding regions as one of the nation's premier transportation companies.

Today, the Norfolk Southern Railway Company operates approximately 19,500 route miles in 22 states and the District of Columbia. Norfolk Southern is a presence in every major container port in the eastern United States. The company operates the most extensive intermodal network in the East and is a major transporter of coal, automotive, and industrial products.

In 2008, the Virginia Zoo Train, The Norfolk Southern Express, opened with the help of Norfolk Southern Foundation, Beazley Foundation and several generous donors. Throughout the years, the Goode family has kindly contributed to the success of the Zoo Train. The Goodes recently visited the Zoo and shared stories about the train. David R. Goode, retired CEO of the Norfolk Southern Corporation, mentioned, "Next only to the animals, the train is the most important thing to the Zoo. Children of all ages

love a train." Cherished and loyal Zoo supporter, Susan S. Goode, remarked, "I'm very proud of the train. It is a great way to get around the Zoo and not miss anything!"

The next time you visit the Zoo, make sure to visit the Goode Family Train Station. According to Virginia Zoological Society board member Christina Goode, "The Zoo is one of the greatest gems we have in Norfolk for families. As members of the community, it's our responsibility to give back when we can. Together, let's take responsibility and support the Zoo Train Campaign!"

The Virginia Zoo is grateful for Norfolk Southern's continued strength, ingenuity, and support over the years. The Virginia Zoo Train is a constant reminder of the Norfolk community's shared rail history and culture, and this knowledge will go on to be irreplaceable for future generations of Zoo visitors and train riders. The Virginia Zoo staff tips its railroad caps to Norfolk Southern, as it prepares to move its headquarters to Atlanta, Georgia. We wish you full steam ahead!

DONATE NOW!

After more than a million rides and 11 years since opening, our beloved Zoo Train needs some enhancements. Help us raise \$150,000 for the Zoo Train Campaign. Norfolk Southern Foundation has issued a matching grant to the Virginia Zoo of \$40,000 to support maintenance and updates - *your donation will be doubled!*

**LEARN MORE
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INFO ABOUT OUR
GREAT LINEUP
OF EVENTS!

Upcoming Events

EdZOOcation: World Habitat Day

October 5 • 11 am – 2 pm
Included in Admission

School's Out Safari: Scaredy Cats

October 14 • 9 am – 4 pm
\$75 members, \$90 non-members

Zoo Tykes - Farm Friends

October 16 • 10 – 10:45 am
\$10 for members, \$22 for non-members,
\$5 for additional children ages 2-6

Animal Appreciation: International Sloth Day

October 20 • 11:30 – 1:30 pm
Included in Admission

ZooBoo

October 26 & 27 • 10 am – 5 pm
\$6 for members, \$18 for non-members
Under 2, FREE

Animal Appreciation: Bison Day

November 2 • 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Included in Admission

School's Out Safari: Campaign Trails

November 5 • 9 am – 4 pm
\$75 members, \$90 non-members

Zoo Tykes - Triassic Tales

November 9 • 10 – 10:45 am
\$10 for members, \$22 for non-members,
\$5 for additional children ages 2-6

December Membership Swap - Norfolk Admirals

December 13 and 14, 7:35 pm
Free tickets with valid Zoo membership card

Pancakes, Paws & Santa Claws

December 7 • 8 – 10 am
\$20 members, \$25 non-members,
\$5 children under age 5

School's Out Safari: Arctic Adventures

9 am – 4 pm
December 30, 31, January 2, 3
Per day: \$75 members, \$90 non-members
All four days: \$235 members, \$250 non-members

