

Wild THINGS

BECOME
A CITIZEN
SCIENTIST

6



SPONSOR BELLE THE ELEPHANT

2



MEET THE NEWEST BABIES

4



NEW BOX FOR FEZZIK

12



SPONSOR AN ANIMAL

Like many nonprofits, the Zoological Society is facing a drop in revenue this year due to the impact of COVID-19. One way you can continue to help the Society is by sponsoring an animal. You can choose your favorite animal or for a limited time, sponsor Belle to receive a plush-toy elephant.

Other benefits to sponsoring Belle include:

- Name recognition in the Peck Welcome Center
- A colorful fact sheet about elephants
- A certificate of sponsorship
- An invitation to a behind-the-scenes event for animal sponsors at the Zoo in 2021*



ORDER YOUR BELLE
SPONSORSHIP TODAY
ONLY \$45
zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal

Money raised from the Sponsor an Animal Program helps the Zoological Society in its mission to support the Milwaukee County Zoo.

The tax-deductible portion of this sponsorship is \$36.

** This year's Animal Safari is canceled due to COVID-19. All animal sponsors after Sept. 1, 2019, will be invited to next year's behind-the-scenes event.*



MEMBERANDA

We value your relationship with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The Society does not sell member/donor information to third parties, but may share limited information with the Milwaukee County Zoo for the purpose of confirming membership status.

Zoological Society office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Zoo hours: Due to health and safety guidelines related to COVID-19, Zoo hours will likely change. For the most up-to-date times, go to the Zoo's website, milwaukeezoo.org. Note: Some animal areas may be closed for the safety of the animals and guests.

Zoo admission: At this time the Zoo continues to operate under a ticket reservation system. To make your reservation, visit milwaukeezoo.org. Please remember to have your Society Zoo Pass and identification ready when you arrive at the Zoo's admission gates. If you've misplaced or lost your card, replacement cards may be purchased for \$5. Zoo Pass admission is valid for regular daytime Zoo hours and many events.

Visiting other zoos and aquariums: We have agreed to participate in the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' listing of accredited institutions. Some accredited zoos and aquariums choose not to participate in this program and therefore do not appear on our list. Most facilities honor free or discounted admission for two adults and two minor children. Especially during these unprecedented times, members should call ahead to the facilities they plan to visit to get current information. In a few cases, we have opted not to reciprocate with some institutions that are in close proximity to our Zoo. Members are encouraged to review the updated list by going online at zoopass.com

Who can use member cards? The person(s) named on the Zoo Pass is the owner of the card and benefits are not transferable to anyone else. We need to have the number of members' minor children/grandchildren in your household reflected in your membership records for the Zoo's admission gates. Foster children are covered on your membership.

Day-care providers for children: Your Zoo Pass membership does not cover children for whom you provide baby-sitting or day-care services. The Society and the Zoo retain the right to invalidate any membership being used inappropriately.

WILD THINGS

Issue No. 149, September-October 2020

Wild Things is a membership newsletter published by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee five times a year.

Editor: Katie Krecklow

Designer: Scott DuChateau

Contact the Zoological Society at:

10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

Phone: 414-258-2333 **Web:** zoosociety.org

Contact the Milwaukee County Zoo at:

10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

Phone: 414-256-5412 **Web:** milwaukeezoo.org



RECYCLE: When your publications arrive in the plastic bag, please recycle them at your local grocery store or at Guest Services when you visit the Zoo.



THE NAME GAME

In spring, **20 Nigerian dwarf goats** were born inside the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. In an almost even split, there are 11 bucklings (males) and 9 doelings (females). It's common for female goats to give birth to multiples, and one mother gave birth to quadruplets!

Zookeepers picked three themes for the names – Muppets, food/spices and cartoon characters. Can you guess which names are associated with each theme?

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------|--------|
| Pickles | Li'l Nugget | Candace | Velma |
| Dr. Bunsen Honeydew | Perry | Daphne | Sage |
| Zoe | Dexter | Beaker | Summer |
| Phineas | Dumpling | Ferb | DeeDee |
| Saffron | Bert | Ernie | Chili |



Fill in these goat silhouettes with the correct names from above. See the back cover for the answers.

BABY

MALE GREATER KUDU

Born May 27

Mother Noeli's fourth baby
and father Hasani's first

Name: Kativa, after a national
park in Tanzania



**FUN
FACT**

Males grow horns that spiral two and a half times.
If you were to straighten the horn it would
measure **35 inches** long.

FEMALE SNOW LEOPARD

Born May 11

Mother Orya and father
Asa's first cub

Name: (pending)

*Orya is a very good mother and
is very attentive to her cub. Most
cubs are ready to try solid food,
like meat, after about two months.*



*Each ornament is \$15 including
postage and sales tax.*

CELEBRATE the exciting news of a baby snow leopard with
this year's holiday ornament! Local artist Andy Schumann has
captured the beauty of animals yet again. Order this handcrafted
pewter ornament today. This is the Zoological Society's 29th
animal ornament. You can order this year's ornament or any of
the previous 28 at zoosociety.org/ornament.

BOOOOM



MALE HARBOR

SEAL

Born June 3

Mother Sydney and father Ringo's 5th pup together

Name: Bosco

Unfortunately, mother Sydney died three days after delivering the pup. He is being hand-raised by zookeepers. He is growing well and learning how to be a seal. His favorite toy is a red Frisbee.



FEMALE JAPANESE MACAQUE

Born May 16

Mother Rikka's first baby and father Kota's second

Name: Nikko, Japanese for sunshine

FUN FACT

Japanese macaques are considered excellent swimmers and are reportedly able to swim distances of over a third of a mile.



JUST LIKE HUMANS, these baby animals nurse when they are first born. August is breastfeeding awareness month and the Zoo wants to remind all moms of the three quiet, private places on grounds where mothers can feed their children and/or use a breast pump. *These stations, sponsored by WIC Breastfeeding Support, are found in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place, Dairy Complex and Aquatic & Reptile Center. The Milwaukee County Zoo is the first zoo in the nation to offer lactation suites for nursing moms.*



BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

If you are spending more time at home due to the current health crisis, this could be a perfect opportunity to become a citizen scientist! You can be part of a wild penguin study right from your couch. Or help the bumblebee population in Wisconsin from the comfort of your yard, neighborhood or park. These are just two examples of being a citizen scientist. At the Zoological Society of Milwaukee we believe all people, at any age, have the power to make a difference. Taking part in citizen science helps animal research and conservation efforts around the world.



Help the Bees

Many species of bumblebees are in decline in Wisconsin. According to The Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade, of the 20 bumblebee species that are found or have been found in Wisconsin, one is federally endangered and seven are considered to be of greatest conservation need. By taking pictures and tracking where you spot a bee you can help researchers in their mission to better understand, manage and conserve Wisconsin bumblebees. To find out how to track and record a bee sighting, go to wiatri.net/inventory/BBB.



Count Penguins

Get your kids involved in this fun penguin count. Researchers have cameras set up in the wild to track penguins. They need volunteers to watch live feeds or videos and count the penguins they see on the screen. These counts will help the group understand penguin population changes, changes in their survival rates and timing of breeding. Start counting today by visiting zooniverse.org/projects/penguintom79/penguin-watch.



Open your phone's camera app, aim at one of the QR codes and get the link to access the website. You're now one step closer to becoming a citizen scientist!

Being a citizen scientist not only gets you directly involved with conservation, you'll learn something along the way.

Fall Zoo Classes, sponsored by The Corners of Brookfield, will start in November. The Conservation Education Department is working on safe ways to bring teachers and parents an engaging and educational experience.

We encourage you to check our website zoosociety.org for updates.

THANKS TO OUR PLATYPUS CIRCLE

During these difficult and uncertain times, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee is grateful for those who can continue to support us. We are touched that so many Zoo Pass and Platypus Circle members renewed their memberships during the Zoo closure. Thanks to members of the Platypus Circle, we are able to offer summer camps for children in underserved communities, provide zookeeper conservation trips, support Zoo exhibit upgrades and so much more.



Dan and Katelan Garces share their love of the Zoo with their twins Lucas and Madison.
Photo supplied by family

Individual Platypus memberships start at \$500. Benefits include transferable membership cards, behind-the-scenes tours and invitations to VIP events. For Katelan Garces and her family, not renewing their membership wasn't an option. "Our whole country was going through a crisis, and the Zoo is so important to our family so we decided we should stick with our normal timeline of membership," says Katelan. Both Katelan and her husband Dan had Zoo Passes growing up. They have great memories as children and then created memories together as adults. They are now passing on the tradition with their 19-month-old twins. Katelan says her favorite part about being a Platypus is access to the Zoo. "Being able to go with family and friends, or giving friends the option to go to the Zoo if it doesn't fit our schedule that day. Plus, at the same time, we are making a donation to a place that means so much to us."

Badger Mutual Insurance is a corporate Platypus Circle member that made the decision to renew its membership during the closures. "As the word 'pandemic' started becoming a part of our daily conversations, there was – and continues to be – a lot of uncertainty. But one thing we knew for sure was that we were going to remain committed to our community partners in whatever capacity we could," says Badger Mutual's marketing supervisor, Melissa Theisen. A Corporate Platypus membership starts at \$1,000 and includes sign recognition inside the Zoo, transferable membership cards, behind-the-scenes tours, invitations to VIP events and discounts on Zoo facility rentals. Badger Mutual uses that discount to rent a picnic area to host "BadgerFest" for employees and their families. "Not only are we proud to support the Zoological Society and its mission to protect wildlife and educate the community, but our employees frequently use the passes that come with the Platypus Circle membership."



Badger Mutual employees enjoy the benefits of their company's Platypus Circle membership.
Photo supplied by Badger Mutual



To learn more about becoming a member of the Platypus Circle call 414-918-6153 or visit BeAPlatypus.org



WINTER MEAL PREP

Many animals around the Zoo enjoy eating browse – vegetation such as twigs and leaves. Browse is highly nutritional for them and it's also considered an enrichment item because it promotes natural foraging behavior. It's a good way to add roughage to their diet without adding a lot of calories. But when fall comes, that vegetation dries up and doesn't regrow until late spring. Animals are given pellets in the winter to make up for the nutritional loss, but it's not the same as fresh food. To solve this problem zookeeper Collette Konkel started a program to give nice green browse to animals all winter long.

Teaming up with Zoo horticulturist Noah Huber, they start searching in mid-July for enough willow trees to sustain the animals through the winter. Willow works the best in the packaging process and for hanging in the habitats. The Zoo doesn't have enough willow trees, so Huber also contacts the Milwaukee County Parks Department to see if they have any trees that can be pruned back. "I have also been known to send a truck on a road trip through the parks and parkways to scout for willow growing on riverbanks that is accessible to harvest," says Huber. "There is work in finding the willow, but the benefits are well worth it." No matter how they find it, it's important for Huber and other members of the grounds crew to use their expertise and identify the correct species of tree because some browse can be toxic to animals. For example, some animals can't eat browse from a maple tree.

Timing is critical because when branches are cut off a tree the leaves will die quickly and lose their nutritional value. So Huber and Konkel coordinate a small window to get it done. Ideally, the browse will be harvested and then

packaged on the same day or one day later. Thankfully the Zoo's forester, grounds crew and Zoo Pride volunteers can be flexible to make this all happen on short notice.

Now in its third year, the packaging process works like an assembly line. Some volunteers separate the browse by size and type of tree. Then the browse is wound up in tight bundles by using a flexible and light branch to tie it together. "The hardest part is to make sure the pointy ends are inside the bundle so they do not puncture the bag," says Zoo Pride volunteer Brenda Metzler. The next group takes the bundles in the plastic bags and uses a vacuum to suck the air out, then seals the bag with tape.

Once the bags are sealed, they are put in freezers around the Zoo. The first year there were only two freezers, but by the second year Konkel had eight freezers thanks to generous donors. Once winter arrives and keepers around the Zoo decide to give the animals browse, they take it out of the freezer and the bag and within minutes, it's thawed. The bags are saved and reused to reduce waste. Many different animals receive the browse including orangutans, caribou, elk, rhino, giraffes and tapirs. In fact, the winter browse program was vital for Harley the tapir. He was not eating all of his food and seemed to have a decreased appetite until he got the browse.

Seeing the animals eat the browse in the winter is satisfying for not only the animals but for all of those involved. "It's always great to work on something and then see the results of the work," says Metzler. The whole process is a lot of work and stress for Konkel through the year, but she feels rewarded in the end. "Just seeing them eat it is so reinforcing; it just makes me so happy."



◀ Facing page: A female elk enjoys green browse in the middle of winter thanks to this program.

▲ Top: Zookeeper Collette Konkel climbs up the wires in the giraffe habitat to give the animals choices on where to find and eat the browse.



Counter-clockwise, from top:

- The leaves stay green in the bag for several months.
- Donated freezers store hundreds of bags of browse.
- Jozi the rhino chomps on some browse.

- Zookeeper Collette Konkel finds different places to hang the browse so the elk will use their senses to find it.
- The giraffes find browse throughout their habitat and will pull the leaves off with their tongues or eat the whole thing.

CARING FOR ANIMALS

The staff at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo are dedicated to caring for animals at the Zoo and in the wild. Through Sept. 30, the Zoological Society is raising money to support conservation efforts in Milwaukee and around the world. Understanding animals in the wild creates a better understanding of animals in our Zoo.

Here are just some of the animals studied around the world:

- Polar bears in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada
- Iguanas in the Caribbean
- Humboldt penguins in Peru and Chile
- Orangutans in Indonesia
- Giraffes in Namibia
- African elephants in South Africa
- Migratory birds in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Tapirs and jaguars in Belize
- Great apes and heart disease in North American zoos

To make a difference, donate now by calling 414-258-2333 or visit zoosociety.org.

Donations of \$100 or more will be recognized on electronic signs in the Conservation Outpost within Adventure Africa.



Zookeeper Collette Konkel assisting in a freshwater turtle sampling in Florida. Photo provided by Collette Konkel



Stock photo

C R O S S W O R D

How well do you know the Milwaukee County Zoo and its animals? Try to finish this crossword puzzle. See the back cover for the answers.

Across

1. It's the name of the Zoo's male hippo. Hint: It's also a feeling.
2. These bats get a bad reputation in the movies.
3. This is a must-ride attraction for many families.
4. The name of a baby goat.
5. This animal is often seen standing on one leg.
6. A spot on a jaguar is called a _____.
7. Zookeepers give puzzle feeders, balls or toys to animals as a form of what? *Hint: It "enriches" their lives.*

Down

1. A hippo spends 16 ____ a day in the water.
8. The caribou grow them and lose them every year.
9. What animal would you say "see you later" to in the Aquatic & Reptile Center?
10. An animal that eats meat is called a what?
11. This item can cool off an animal or cool off your drink.
12. This popular and loved animal is often found hiding in a box.



The crossword puzzle grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The grid is partially filled with images: a sloth hanging from a branch (clue 8), a hippopotamus (clue 1), and a caribou (clue 12). The grid is numbered as follows:

- 1: 10 squares across, top row.
- 2: 10 squares across, middle row.
- 3: 5 squares across, middle row.
- 4: 5 squares across, middle row.
- 5: 6 squares across, bottom row.
- 6: 6 squares across, bottom row.
- 7: 10 squares across, bottom row.
- 8: 5 squares down, middle column.
- 9: 5 squares down, middle column.
- 10: 5 squares down, right column.
- 11: 5 squares down, middle column.
- 12: 5 squares down, middle column.

PEEK-A-BOO

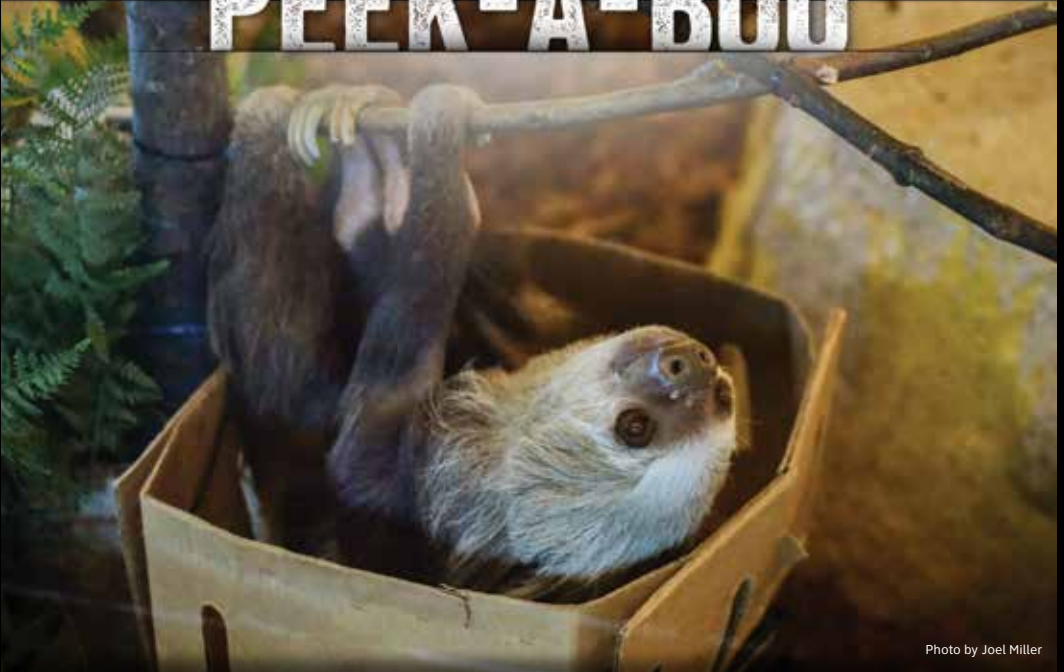


Photo by Joel Miller

WE CAN SEE YOU!

Fezzik the two-toed sloth is a little more visible to guests. He can still be found resting in a box, but now the box is see-through! His cardboard box is a thing of the past and this new home serves many purposes in addition to giving guests a better view.

Natural Shape

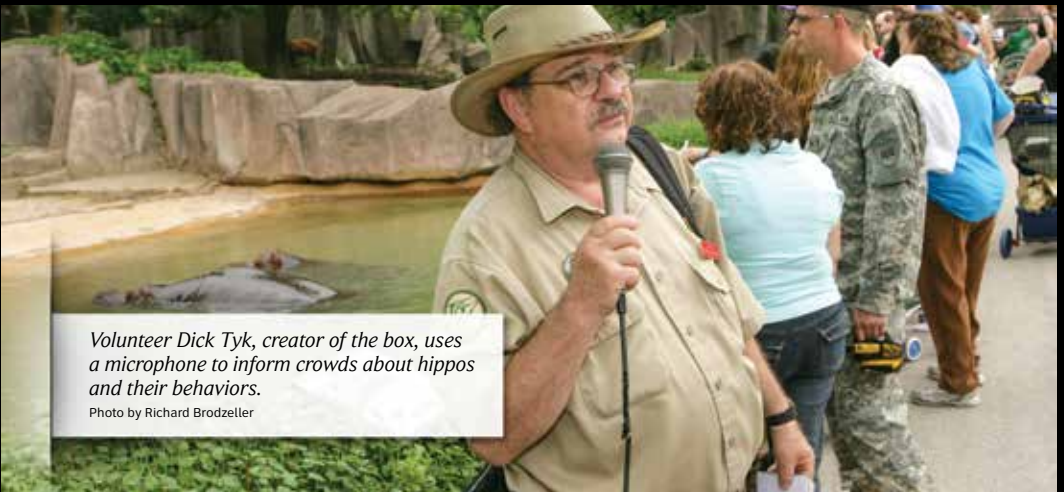
Small mammals supervisor Rhonda Crenshaw wanted a better shape for Fezzik's spine while he laid in his box. "He was laying on a flat surface. In the wild he would be in a tree so I wanted a curved mesh bottom which is a more natural position," says Crenshaw. Sloths also hang from branches in the wild and since Fezzik prefers to be in a box, a thick branch was attached so he can hold on as if he was in a tree.

Added Humidity

Wild sloths live in the rainforest, which is a hot and humid environment. Zookeepers add humidity in his habitat with a waterfall and misters. The new box has a tray that holds water directly underneath. Holes are drilled out of the bottom of the box that will allow the evaporating water to rise up and make it more humid inside the box.

Health Care

This new box has a lid that securely goes on and off to help quickly and easily transport Fezzik to the Animal Health Center. Vets can also do some procedures with him still in the box.



Volunteer Dick Tyk, creator of the box, uses a microphone to inform crowds about hippos and their behaviors.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Fezzik's new box comes with new amenities including a log for him to wrap his arms around.

Photo by Rhonda Crenshaw

Creating the Box

While Crenshaw came up with the plan for the box, she needed help to make the plan a reality. She called on the Zoo Pride volunteer she knew could handle it. Dick Tyk has made more than 180 projects for zookeepers, supervisors and curators and is the trusted go-to-guy. He creates things for animals of all sizes – from hoofstock to bears to bats. “This started as a hobby to keep me busy when I retired. But with my love of animals and conservation, when asked if I could do this, I could not refuse,” says Tyk.

As an engineer, Tyk says he loves to try to figure things out and create. “You always need to consider the strength of the animal and the safety of the keepers using it, as to what material to use,” says Tyk. He also needs to use adhesives and materials that are safe for the animals. For example, some woods can be toxic to certain animals.

Tyk has been a volunteer at the Zoological Society for 21 years. The next time you go to the Zoo take a good luck at the habitats. There is a good chance Tyk built the nest box, puzzle feeder or box inside the exhibit. “I love helping the keepers and knowing it’s going to a good cause – the enrichment of the animals.”



ZOO PRIDE

WE INVITE YOU to share your passion and talents by joining the Zoo Pride volunteer program. These dedicated volunteers help the Zoo and the Zoological Society throughout the year. Volunteers help guests with animal information, create enrichment items for the animals, help educators during Zoo Classes and Camps, assist in events and fundraisers and much more.

For more information about becoming a volunteer, call 414-258-5667 or visit zoosociety.org/Volunteer.

FALL ZOO EVENTS

In an effort to follow health guidelines and keep everyone safe, the Zoo continues to look at options for hosting fall Zoo events. This includes Halloween events presented by Prairie Farms Dairy. As things continue to change we encourage you to look for event updates on the Zoo's website, milwaukeezoo.org, or the Zoological Society's website, zoosociety.org/events.



Photos by Olga Kornienko

EXTENDED STAY

The summer exhibit, Dinosaurs Unearthed, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, will be staying until the end of October. Don't miss out on the thrills and chills of these giant creatures. You can use your electronic coupons on your Zoo Pass or purchase tickets for \$3 each.



A HAPPY HAPPY

Never has an animal's name been more appropriate right now than Happy the hippo. The male hippo at the Milwaukee County Zoo seems to be gleaming with happiness now that he is in his new home. His new pool is three times larger than the last one. Zookeeper Ray Hren says the first time Happy went into the pool he seemed hesitant because of the people looking at him through the glass. "Once he was in he seemed fascinated checking out the people watching him," says Hren. Happy doesn't always want to get out of the water as if he's so happy he doesn't want to leave.

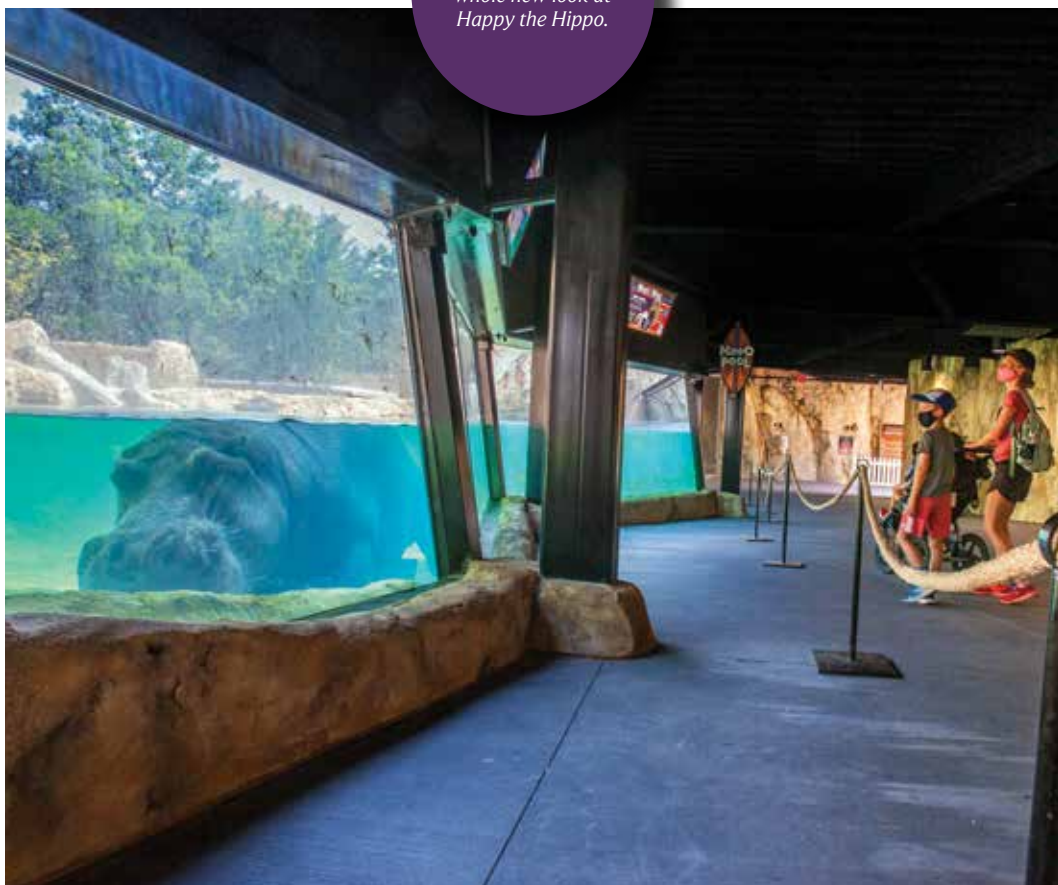
The new pool also has jets that flow intermittently in the pool. Happy didn't seem to like them at first, possibly because they tickled or they were just something new. However, he is getting used to all the new sights, sounds and feels.

Happy spends most days in the shallow side of the pool peacefully resting. This is a perfect opportunity for guests to get a new perspective of a hippo. "There is just so much to see up close! For such a cumbersome-looking animal on land, they are actually quite graceful in the water when they kick off the bottom and glide through the water effortlessly," says Hren.

The hippo habitat was Phase 2 of Adventure Africa. The third and final phase will be a new rhino habitat. The Zoological Society is a 50/50 funding partner with Milwaukee County and is raising money to make these updates a reality. Just like the new homes for the elephants, African hoofstock and hippos, we need your help. If you would like to leave your mark at the Zoo for generations to come, donate today by visiting Win2Wild.com.



Guests are getting a whole new look at Happy the Hippo.

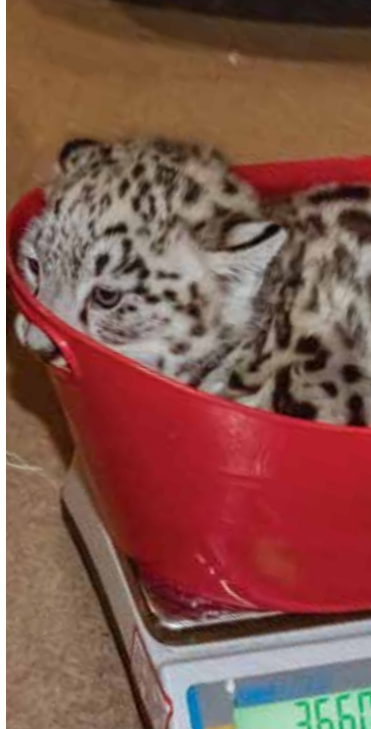


Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 4073



Zoological Society of Milwaukee County
10005 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

DATED MATERIAL
Please Deliver Promptly



Baby snow leopard,
page 4.

Photo by Joel Miller

IT'S A WILD WORLD

A VIRTUAL EVENT TO SUPPORT THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Things are getting wild! We know you've missed our annual events and we hope you will join us online, Friday, Sept. 11, for an evening of tails and tales. This virtual event gives you inside access to some of the animals, music, an auction and more.

Now more than ever, the Zoological Society needs your help. We hope you will join this event and consider donating to help the Zoological Society continue its mission to conserve, educate and support.

Look for updates on our website,
zoosociety.org/Events



Grizzly bear photo by Bob Wickland

Name Game answers (pg.3):

Muppets: Beaker, Dr. Bunsen Honeydew, Summer, Zoe, Bert and Ernie

Food/Spices: Pickles, Dumpling, Lil Nugget, Chili, Saffron and Sage

Cartoons: Dexter, DeeDee, Phineas, Ferb, Candace, Perry, Velma and Daphne

Crossword answers (pg.11):


Across 1. Happy 2. Vampire
3. Train 4. Kid 5. Flamingo
6. Rosette 7. Enrichment

Down 1. Hours 8. Antlers
9. Alligator 10. Carnivore
11. Ice 12. Sloth

CONNECT WITH US!

 [facebook.com/ZooPass](https://www.facebook.com/ZooPass)

 Snapchat: ZooSocietyMKE

 twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE

 Milwaukee Zoo Pass App

 [instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://www.instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE)



The Zoological Society is proud to bear Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars.



The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is recognized for our transparency with GuideStar's Gold Seal.