



BEHIND THE SCENES

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Written for and about the people who support Denver Zoo

THE INSIDE VIEW



Denver Zoo constantly strives to learn from our guests and members how to improve our overall visitor

experience, through both our current and future exhibits. Recently, we utilized an email survey to gather opinions and responses on topics ranging from our publications, member events and interest in our much anticipated exhibit, Asian Tropics. The response from the survey was overwhelming! I'd like to thank everyone personally who took time to participate. We value your opinions and feedback and will continue to incorporate them into improvements throughout the zoo.

In late April, over 50,000 surveys were emailed to current and past members, as well as friends, educators and volunteers. More than 10,000 individuals responded—an astonishing 20% return rate. In addition, over 2,000 of the respondents offered additional comments about

the zoo, the majority of which were extremely positive. Our internal Visitor Experience Team is carefully considering other suggestions to enhance our current facilities and programs, including everything from parking availability to healthy food options in Samburu Grille.

One of the first questions posed in the survey was to rate the importance of a range of zoo programs. The great majority (94%) of respondents rated "quality animal care" as very important, with "unlimited daytime admission for members" running second with 84% of respondents rating it as very important. First and foremost, the vision of Denver Zoo is to be a respected leader in animal care and exhibition, conservation programs, scientific study, environment education and public service. To learn that our members share the same values of animal care with us was not surprising, and helps validate our primary mission.

As you have heard, Denver Zoo is in the planning and design stages of Asian Tropics, a 10-acre complex featuring elephants, rhinos, and other highly endangered species. Zoo guests will be able to explore

the rich history of animals in Asian cultures, their complex relationship with humans, and the efforts by Denver Zoo and our colleagues to protect their futures. Asian Tropics will have an impact on the people and animals of Asia like no other exhibit in the world. Because we are still in the final planning phase of this exhibit, we wanted to gauge the awareness of and interest in various aspects of Asian Tropics by our members.

Both "ensuring the survival of Asian elephants and Indian rhinos" and "seeing and experiencing elephants in person" were rated as the most important features of Asian Tropics, each rating 87% as very important. Our board of trustees and I share these passions which are the very reasons why Asian Tropics is a top priority for Denver Zoo. This is the most innovative and exciting exhibit our zoo has seen, and I look forward to keeping you abreast of the developments as we move forward in fundraising, design and construction.

Craig D. Piper, President & CEO

On June 29, Natasha gave birth to three rare and endangered snow leopard cubs, yet to be named. This is Natasha's third litter, Natasha first cubs were Amga and Gala born in 2005 and Robbie who was born last summer.



Denver Zoo is currently hand rearing 19 American flamingo chicks; they are now three weeks old. Zoo staff traveled by private plane generously provided by Haselden Construction to Miami, Florida to pick up the eggs from the same famous Hialeah Park flock seen in the opening credits of the television show Miami Vice.



Denver Zoo is proud to be one of only three institutions in North America to exhibit aye-ayes, a rare and endangered nocturnal primate found only in Madagascar. We hope you soon will meet female Salem and male Ozony. They are on exhibit in the Emerald Forest in Primate Panorama.



Elliot, a rare Grevy's zebra, was born at Denver Zoo on June 27. Grevy's zebras are endangered with less than two thousand left in the wild due to loss of habitat, competition with livestock and poaching. Your support of Denver Zoo is helping save Grevy's zebras through breeding and a full-time researcher working in Kenya.



ZOO PRIDE DINNER

Successfully avoiding evening showers, Denver Zoo's annual Zoo Pride Appreciation Dinner was held on Thursday, July 17, honoring donors and Zoo Pride members at the Director's Circle and above. Over 200 attendees were met on the zoo's main pathway by animals from the Education Department's Outreach program, including Ruka, the serval.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were enjoyed in front of the Pachyderm building. Guests had the opportunity to watch zoo keepers work with black rhino Mshindi, and Mimi, the Asian elephant, demonstrating training behaviors that assist in the daily care of these fascinating animals.



Long time zoo supporters Jackie and Tim Bennett made the trek from Ft. Collins in order to attend this year's dinner. Members for over 30 years, the Bennett's now enjoy introducing their grandchildren to the zoo. Tim shared, "Every time you come there's always something new." For Steven and Stephanie Alaniz, this was the first year to attend the Zoo Pride dinner, since they recently upgraded from Curator's Club to Director's Circle. Said Steven, "We enjoy the zoo more and more each year, so we decided to give more." "I can think of no better place in town to enjoy a beautiful day," shared Stephanie, who knows all the animals in the zoo by name.

Held in the Conoco Pavilion, dinner was a delicious buffet including hand-carved tenderloin of beef and chicken peche roulade filled with caramelized peaches, goat cheese and candied pecans. Dessert proved to be a hit when guests were given the option of sorbet or gelato with a fresh fruit compote and other scrumptious toppings served in a martini glass. Members Gail and Richard Levinson commented that this year's dinner "was the best one yet." Said Gail, "The food was great, but we really loved the rhino exhibit. I didn't know rhino's could do that much!"

