

Zoo Points



ZOOLIGHTS

Nov 29 – Jan 5



Kazu's growing up!

Time flies fast with little ones. First you have a newborn tapir calf, then all of a sudden he's four months old! Kazu was born July 12, the first-ever Malayan tapir born at the Zoo and a symbol of hope for his endangered species.

While staying close to his mom Yuna, Kazu is starting to wean and growing bigger every day, sharing the many pounds of apples, pears, yams, carrots, romaine, hay and grains that Yuna eats twice daily. He's exploring habitats in the Asian Forest Sanctuary, but also spending time inside as the weather gets colder. His distinctive spots and stripes are beginning to fade, turning to regular tapir gray-and-white by the time he's one.

So what is it like to care for a "toddler" tapir? We asked Telena Welsh, curator of Asian animals.

Feeding, cleaning

"Kazu mostly eats what his mom is eating," says Welsh. "Right after breakfast, we hose down their inside bedroom—they love to play and stomp in the water. It also encourages them to poop, and that tells us a lot about their health—plus it's easier to clean up inside!"

Enrichment

If the weather is good, Yuna and Kazu go outside, with enrichment like boomer balls or fruit-sicles. Inside, keepers play movies or music to give the tapirs audio stimulation (they have good hearing, but poor eyesight).

"We have an old, big TV and VHS for them," says Welsh.

Mom and calf also get "howdy" sessions with dad Baku: Keepers give them side-by-side spaces behind the scenes, where they have vocal and visual contact while staying safely apart.

Training

Finally, it's time for some training. Keepers work hands-on with Kazu three to four days a week to keep him comfortable with humans, which helps with health care like weighing and hoof trims.

Kazu's biggest training right now is to allow veterinarians to take a blood sample.

"We give him a good back scratch—he loves that, and he'll lie down," says Welsh. "Then gradually we work on lifting one leg, then touching his other leg with a finger, then a blunt needle. It's all part of caring for him, and for all our animals."



Partnering for wild polar bears

Glue? Tape? It's all part of our mission to help protect polar bears in the wild, with a new scientific study that Zoo guests may soon watch in action.

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, with its beloved polar bears Boris and Blizzard, has worked for years with the non-profit Polar Bears International (PBI) to tell the story of polar bears in the wild, and the challenges they face from climate change.

Now, the two organizations are also partnering in scientific research on zoo bears that will make it easier to study—and hopefully save—their counterparts in the wild.

"Through The Zoo Society's Dr. Holly Reed Conservation Fund, we're able to support research projects that use our polar bears here as models for wild bears," explains Zoo general curator Dr. Karen Goodrowe. "We have so much to learn."

First, the fund helped PBI fit GPS ear tag trackers onto wild polar bears as they wandered through Churchill every fall to hunt on newly-forming sea ice.

Now, the Zoo is supporting a PBI study on another innovative way to attach GPS trackers: literally sticking them on.

"There is an increasing need for reliable devices to become smaller, with less invasive attachment methods," say lead scientists Drs. Geoff York and B.J. Kirschhoffer in the study's proposal.

The pair have been working with adhesive company 3M on different types of glue, tape or Velcro-like "burrs," testing each in conditions that

mimic the cold, wet and rough world of a wild polar bear.

But in the end, they'll need to be tested on real bears—and that's where Boris and Blizzard come in.

"Our staff are excellent at training, and this offers our bears a lot of enrichment mentally and physically," Goodrowe says.

When the study begins, Zoo guests may spot a mock GPS tag—about the size of a quarter—just behind the bears' ears. The most successful adhesive could revolutionize the way wild bears are tracked and studied.

The collaboration, however, goes way beyond Boris and Blizzard. Point Defiance Zoo is one of 25 North American zoos in the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' polar bear Species Survival Plan®. Over half are involved in some kind of research, pooling knowledge with the scientific community to better protect wild polar bears.

"Zoos often lead and contribute to key research studies that would be impossible to conduct with wild polar bears," says Alysa McCall, director of conservation outreach at PBI. "They help further our knowledge and support our outreach around polar bears, climate change, and solutions."

And of course, everyone else can do their part to help polar bears by reducing their climate footprint: lowering energy use, driving less and not idling their car.

"Polar bear populations are dwindling, but the more we learn, the more we can help them," Goodrowe sums up.



Cindy Roberts, polar bear ambassador

It's a long way from Tacoma, Washington to Churchill, Manitoba: about 1,420 miles as the crow flies, at least eight hours by plane. There's no road. In icy isolation on Canada's Hudson Bay, it's a world away from the lush, evergreen Puget Sound region.

The thing the two towns have in common? Polar bears—and a zookeeper who's passionate about them. Point Defiance staff biologist Cindy Roberts had her life changed when she traveled to Churchill in 2015 to see polar bears and learn how to inspire people to protect them.

Now she's back in Churchill this month for two weeks as a field ambassador with conservation non-profit Polar Bears International (PBI). She'll spend her time watching bears, talking about them with tourists on tundra buggies and inside the new PBI House, and inspiring folks to take action on climate change.

And she couldn't be more excited.

"The first time I saw a polar bear in the wild, I just stared with tears in my eyes," Roberts remembers from the 2015 trip. "It changed my life, literally. I learned how to talk about these incredible animals and about how I care for them at Point Defiance Zoo."

Roberts returned to speak at local schools and libraries, founding the annual Party for Polar Bears which has raised \$12,000 for PBI in four years. She also helped promote the Polar Bear Pal no-idling campaign at the Zoo, which is now a PBI Arctic Ambassador Center.

"It's been an amazing journey," says Roberts. "The tools they gave me really made a difference in the community."

Roberts' perspective as a keeper who works up close with polar bears every day—and helps with their scientific study—is invaluable.

"Cindy is uniquely poised to share the contributions that our Arctic Ambassador Centers provide to conservation science," says Alysa McCall, director of conservation outreach at PBI. "We're thrilled to welcome her!"

Roberts will chat with up to 80 tourists a day, plus scientists and researchers from around the globe.

An extra bonus? She gets to be in Churchill for Halloween, where the entire community takes to the streets to ward off curious polar bears so kids can safely trick or treat. It's her favorite holiday.

"I'm packing my bear-ear headband to wear that night," she says with a smile. "And I'm looking forward to bringing what I learn back to Tacoma."

Save the date of Feb. 27, 2020: Party for Polar Bears!

Support International Polar Bear Day at our annual Party for Polar Bears presented by the Point Defiance Chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK). 5–9 p.m. Feb. 27 at Dystopian State Brewing Co., Tacoma. Learn more at pdza.org/party-for-polar-bears.



A glow-rious tradition



Baby animal Zoolights

Zoolights is turning 31, and it has some big news—baby animals! Yes, we’re celebrating the real baby Zoo animals born this year by creating them in lights. A tapir calf, baby tamandua, a beaver kit and no less than eight red wolf pups will be popping up around the Zoo for the annual holiday display—and we’re challenging you to spot them all!

“We always like to mix things up a little, just to make it interesting for folks who love to come back year after year,” says Scott Clarke, operations supervisor, who oversees the event that has grown from a handful of lights in 1988 to over 700,000 LEDs. “This year we decided to honor all the Zoo’s new baby animals.”

Zoolights visitors will find other surprises too. The camels have ridden off into the sunset, and in their place will be a magical garden of lights in sparkling new formations.

Additional lights may pop up on the new picnic pavilion, or on the side of the new Pacific Seas Aquarium. Guests also can get their photos taken in a new walk-in snow globe.

“We love having new spaces to play with for Zoolights,” adds Clarke.

Sasquatch—a big hit last year—will return, stalking through the Red Wolf Woods. And of course, all your Zoolights favorites will be back: the purple Flame Tree, the blue-and-green Seahawks Tree, towering cacti, carnivorous plants, a roaring tiger, skating puffins, the Narrows Bridges, Mt. Rainier and the 100-foot giant Pacific octopus.

Add 15 sharks in the cozy South Pacific Aquarium, scampering meerkats, goats to feed, a special fire pit to make yummy s’mores, and you have a Zoolights to remember forever.



Enjoy the best Zoolights experience with these special tips for Members

- Buy your tickets online in advance at pdza.org/zoolights
- Come on a weekday or weekend early in the season
- Enjoy a day at the Zoo, then stay for Zoolights
- Tips, Top 10 experiences & map: Find them at pdza.org/zoolights
- (Note: The Pacific Seas Aquarium will be closed at night during Zoolights.)



ZOOLIGHTS

When: Nov. 29–Jan. 5, 5–9 pm nightly

One night closure: Dec. 24

Holiday openings: Dec. 25, Jan. 1

Prices: \$6.50 members, \$13 non-members; \$11 online and at Fred Meyer. Free for ages 2 and under.

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Happy Holidays! Zoo your shopping with us

Your Zoo Society has a list of gifts as exciting as a baby tapir. (Well, almost!) Here are some purr-fect ideas to everyone on your gift list.

Shop HoliZOOdays

Flex your fingers for our online auction of fabulous experiences, food, artwork and other one-of-a-kind treasures. Bidding opens Nov. 22 and closes Dec. 14. Proceeds benefit The Zoo Society's work, so your holiday giving

is even more meaningful. Go to thezoosociety.org to start shopping.

Join the Vision Keeper Club (or gift a membership)

Vision Keepers' donations help ensure the excellence of your Zoo. Club membership begins at just \$500 and includes unique opportunities to experience and explore the Zoo. Learn more at thezoosociety.org/become-a-vision-keeper.

Adopt A Species: OK, you can't keep a real tiger in the living room. Or put a polar bear in your bathtub. But you can adopt a tiger, penguin, polar bear, sea otter, shark or a dozen other species. For just \$50 you receive a plush version, a 5-by-7 photo, an adoption certificate and fact sheet. A great gift for kids, grandkids and animal-loving adults. Get the scoop at thezoosociety.org/adopt-a-species.

The Zoo Society

Your Zoo Society: Putting the "you" in zoo

Ever stopped to think that the word zoo can't be pronounced without a "u" sound?

That's fortunate, because the mission of The Zoo Society isn't "all" about animals and conservation, though supporting the important work of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is our main purpose.

We connect with Zoo members and guests in a positive, proactive manner. We inspire children and adults to care about the earth's vanishing species and wild places. We act on our commitment to help vanishing species, and preserve wild spaces by raising funds to further your Zoo's mission.

Connect. Inspire. Act.

Our guiding philosophy can be yours too. Please join us in this important work. Learn more at thezoosociety.org or call (253) 404-3663.



Winter wonder at the Zoo

A flurry of winter fun awaits. Get all the details at pdza.org/camps. Book at reserve@pdza.org.

All-day Camp Adventures

Give your children a memorable day at the Zoo this holiday season. Our talented team of instructors will engage them in hands-on activities, exhibit exploration and some amazing up-close animal experiences.

Kindergarten-2nd Grade Camps

Jan. 2: Oceans of Fun
Jan. 3: Eye Spy

3rd-5th Grade Camps

Jan. 2: Animal Detectives
Jan. 3: Marine Scene

Critter Club

Young learners ages 3-5 and their accompanying adult will participate in a lesson, enjoy a fun animal story, make a craft, and meet an amazing animal.

Nov. 21 and 22: Acrobatic Apes
Dec. 5 and 6: Massive Muskox
Dec. 19 and 20: Fabulous Fish
Jan. 9 and 10: Rowdy Red Wolves
Jan. 23 and 24: Tremendous Tapirs
Feb. 6 and 7: Splendid Snakes
Feb. 20 and 21: Perfect Polar Bears

Keeper or Marine Biologist for a Day

Ever wondered what it's like to be a zookeeper or a marine biologist? Now you can find out in our popular Keeper for a Day and Marine Biologist for a Day experiences! Go behind the scenes, meet amazing animals and learn how we care for them.

Keeper for a Day

Teens: Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 15
Adults: Dec. 8, Jan. 25

Marine Biologist for a Day

Teens: Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 8
Adults: Nov. 16, Feb. 22



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The Zoo Society's attitude is one of gratitude.

"As we reflect on the close of the year, we are extremely thankful for the Zoo staff and volunteers, community members and other generous donors who have given freely of their time, talent and treasure to support the work of The Zoo Society," said Board President Heather Parkinson-Firestine.

The ways in which our community contributed were many and varied.

For example:

Some 150 people attended our very first VIP Long Table Dinner in July, raising their hands and reaching for their wallets to donate the funds to purchase much-needed wireless digital radiography equipment. Zoo and Metro Parks employees are pledging portions of their salary to help purchase a portable dental x-ray machine through the agency's annual Legacy Campaign. Both items will bring the Zoo's already exceptional veterinary care to an even higher level.

Montessori Academy at Spring Valley students created and sold copies of

a recipe book to support the Zoo's animal enrichment programs.

Six-year-olds Marina and Xevi donated lemonade-stand profits to help critically endangered red wolves.

Dozens of people adopted animals, joined the Vision Keeper Club, and contributed in ways large and small.

"We can't do our work without you," Parkinson-Firestine said. "We are thankful. We are grateful. We are honored that so many have chosen to give so freely. You are making an impact for the good of the earth and its inhabitants."



February
1

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Registration opens for 2020 Summer Camps: Feb. 1 for Zoo Members and March 1 for Non-members.

Thank You to our Mission Partners



Thank you to our Community Partners



Connect with us



Wrap up a gift of seeing and doing

Memberships, Zoolights tickets, an Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive or a Keeper Adventure Tour are memorable gifts guaranteed to delight your loved ones.

Awe and wonder year-round

A Zoo membership offers an entire year of opportunities to meet the sharks and sea turtles in the new Pacific Seas Aquarium and experience the wonder of the Zoo. Plus, you get quick entry at the front gate, discounts, and invitations to special events. Combo Memberships also come with unlimited visits for a year to our sister zoo, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.



Zoolights tickets

Give family, friends and colleagues a dazzling holiday treat with tickets to Zoolights. Add even more value with Daytime/Zoolights Combo tickets. Buy Zoolights tickets online at pdza.org; Combo tickets are sold at the front gate.



Wild and exhilarating animal experiences

Our sister zoo, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, has more wild ideas for everyone on your list. For the animal-lover, a Keeper Adventure Tour offers a chance to hop in a Jeep with a keeper, get off the tram tour roads and get up close with a moose, bison or mountain goats. A photographer will appreciate a Photo Tour with opportunities to take stunning images of magnificent northwest animals in a natural environment. The thrill-seeker in your life will flip for a chance to soar through the tree canopy on a Zip Wild zip line/challenge course. For these and other gift ideas visit nwtrek.org/gifts.



Up close with sharks

Immerse family and friends in an unforgettable experience with more than a dozen massive sharks. It's the adventure—and learning experience—of a lifetime. Dives are for ages 8 and up. Cost is \$60 per member. Book at pdza.org/dive.



Stocking stuffers and more

Find unique gifts from local artisans, handmade jewelry, plush animals, science toys, ornaments, clothing and more!

Perfect for everyone

Want to let recipients choose their favorite Zoo adventure? Gift cards may be used for memberships, Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives, carousel rides and Budgie Buddies seed sticks. Buy at pdza.org/gifts.

