



November/December 2018

# Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Volunteer Connections

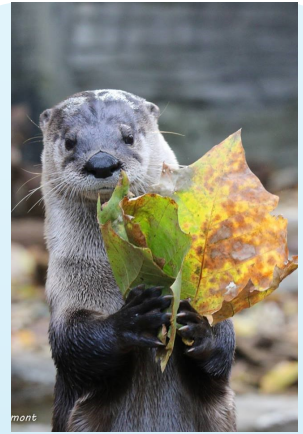


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**Special Thank You to all  
volunteers & staff who  
contribute, produce,  
and distribute the**

**Volunteer Connections  
Newsletter!**

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## Calendar of Events for November & December

<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sat. Nov. 17 - Jan. 1	<i>Festival of Lights</i>	<b>Entire Zoo</b>
Sat. Nov. 17 - Jan. 1	<i>Zoosters Holiday Shop</i>	<b>Dartfrog/Leaf-cutter Classroom</b>
Wed. Dec. 5 - 11:30 am	<i>CREW Potluck</i>	<b>Peacock Pavilion</b>
Thur. Dec. 6 - 12 pm	<i>Horticulture Potluck</i>	<b>Peacock Pavilion</b>
Sat. Dec. 8 - 11 am	<i>Volunteer Educator Potluck</i>	<b>Frisch's Theater</b>
Mon. Dec. 31 - 5 pm	<i>Happy Zoo Year</i>	<b>Entire Zoo</b>

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## Animal News - Cincinnati Zoo Remains Committed to Bringing Silverback Gorilla Ndume Back Home

Posted October 26, 2018

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden (CZBG) announced in August that it was ready to welcome silverback gorilla Ndume [nnn-doo-may] back to his original home in Cincinnati based on a recommendation from The Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Gorilla Species Survival Plan® (GSSP). The 37-year-old gorilla was born in Cincinnati and moved to The Gorilla Foundation (TGF) in California in 1991 to be a social companion for female gorilla Koko. The loan agreement, which was clarified and updated in 2015, stated plainly and unequivocally: "Upon the death of 'Koko', 'Ndume' will be placed at an AZA institution recommended by the Gorilla Species Survival Plan and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden."

"AZA scientists considered all options available for Ndume and determined that Cincinnati Zoo could provide him with the best home after Koko's death left him completely isolated from other gorillas. We have ten gorillas, including relatives of his, who can provide socialization opportunities, qualified vets, dedicated, highly-experienced gorilla caregivers, and an excellent AZA-accredited facility that we recently renovated and expanded," said Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard. "Unfortunately, TGF has now decided not to cooperate with us on the move. We have no choice but to take legal action."

## Animal News - Continued

Plans and a timetable for Ndume's move were shared with TGF in September. Since then, TGF has ignored the Zoo's request for staff to come to California to start conditioning Ndume for transfer, making it impossible to stick to the planned timetable. In a follow up conversation earlier this week, TGF President Penny Patterson told Thane Maynard that she did not intend to cooperate with the move.



“I have known Ndume since he was two years old and have visited him many times during his time at TGF” said Cincinnati Zoo’s Curator of Primates Ron Evans. “He is a healthy, normal gorilla and deserves opportunities to be near and cohabitate with other gorillas, a critical foundation need for this highly social species. It’s a shame that the Gorilla Foundation is not honoring that agreement and instead forcing Ndume to live in isolation for months now. He could have already been settling in around the other gorillas and on his way to living in his own family here in Cincinnati. Loaning Ndume to TGF was important for Koko’s health and long life. Ndume should be allowed to return home now that his service to TGF is complete. It’s what’s best for him.”

“Making sure that Ndume is in the best possible social and welfare situation should be everyone’s top priority,” said Dan Ashe, President and CEO of AZA. “We all share responsibility for ensuring the survival of this endangered species, and AZA scientists take the lead in that mission. We’re disappointed that TGF has decided to ignore its contractual commitment to the Cincinnati Zoo and the scientific determination of the AZA and is delaying Ndume’s smooth transfer.”

“The GSSP is comprised of global experts in gorilla husbandry and science. We are also people who care deeply about gorillas and work daily to ensure the health and well-being of the gorillas in our care. We recommend Ndume’s immediate move so that he can begin to enjoy the enriched social experience awaiting him at the Cincinnati Zoo,” said Kristen Lukas, Chair of the GSSP.

## Animal News - Continued

The Cincinnati Zoo has been caring for gorillas since 1931 and has made significant contributions to gorilla populations in Zoos across the country. The 50<sup>th</sup> gorilla born at the Zoo, Elle, lives in a family group with one of the first gorillas born in Cincinnati, 48-year-old Samantha.

There are about 765 gorillas in zoos worldwide including approximately 360 that are managed by the Gorilla SSP. Western lowland gorillas are critically endangered in the wild, with fewer than 175,000 individuals. Due primarily to habitat destruction caused by logging, mineral mining and agricultural expansion, wild gorilla numbers continue to shrink. The bushmeat trade – the killing of wild animals to be used as human food – is also a major threat to the western lowland gorilla population throughout the Central African rainforests. More than 1,000 gorillas are illegally poached for the bushmeat trade each year.

The Cincinnati Zoo supports wild gorilla conservation efforts like the Nouabalé-Ndoki Project in the Republic of Congo. This project includes the Mbeli Bai Study, the longest running research being done with wild western lowland gorillas. Through research, local education programs, publications and documentaries, the Mbeli Bai Study and other gorilla related efforts there are raising international awareness for gorillas and their struggle for survival. For more information, visit [www.cincinnati-zoo.org](http://www.cincinnati-zoo.org).

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## Horticulture News - Upcoming Events

Save the date! Our season is swiftly coming to a close which means that it's time for our annual End of Season - Holiday Potluck! This year, our **Holiday Potluck will begin at noon at the Peacock Pavilion on Thursday, December 6th**. Please **bring a dish to share** and your most festive dispositions. It should be a great afternoon to eat, enjoy each other's company, and recap a truly spectacular year. Please RSVP via MVP if you are planning to attend this event. If you have any issues with the online sign up, you can email me directly.

Best wishes - hope you can make it! - **Tosh Dobias**

## CREW News– Giving Tree & Potluck

### THE GIVING TREE - THE ANSWER TO GIFT GIVING TO OUR ANIMALS AND PLANT FRIENDS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

The CREW volunteer leadership team has created two beautiful trees covered in “Wish List” ornaments. These trees are in the Education lobby and at CREW. You can choose any ornament(s) off either of the trees to purchase a gift for the animals or for Horticulture. You may choose to have the item shipped to CREW or deliver the wrapped gift, along with the ornament tag, to either VSO or CREW before noon December 4, 2018. All “Wish List” ornaments have been approved by the Enrichment Committee, so please purchase the exact item noted.



Gifts will be distributed at a reception hosted by the CREW volunteers on December 5, 2018, at 2p.m.

Questions? Please contact Lotus at 513-569-8202 or [lotus.wittkopf@cincinnati-zoo.org](mailto:lotus.wittkopf@cincinnati-zoo.org)

#### **Save the Date:**

**Holiday Potluck will begin at noon at the Peacock Pavilion on Wednesday, December 5th.**

You can start arriving at 11:30 am. The potluck will be followed by the Giving Tree Keeper Reception from 2 pm - 4 pm.



### **Zoosters Update!!**

The Zoosters Holiday Shop is OPEN!

Please stop by during the Festival of Lights and check out the amazing crafts the Zoosters have created!

## Zoo News - Let it Go! Let it Go! Welcome Queen Elsa

Posted on November 9, 2018 By Andrea Haugen

The Cincinnati Zoo's Cat Ambassador Program has included domestic house cats in its programs for years. They participate in our Cheetah Encounter at the zoo and in the winter travel to local schools as part of our Zoo to You educational programming. The housecats help us to spread the message of

responsible pet ownership and highlight how domestic cats are the only cats uniquely adapted to living in our homes. We also partner with The Joanie Bernard Foundation to help educate people about the importance of spaying and neutering and cat adoption.



Domestic cats are a highlight of our programming and always a favorite animal from our guests. That is why we are very excited to welcome the newest addition to the Cat Ambassador Program, Queen Elsa!



Thanks to the scientists at our Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) there is a special reason we named her Queen Elsa, because her father was frozen!

She was created by our scientists at CREW through oviductal artificial insemination with frozen-thawed 20-year-old semen. This is likely the oldest frozen-thawed sperm ever used in any felid species to produce kittens. This is exciting because it shows that frozen sperm can be used successfully for artificial insemination after a long time of being frozen.

## Zoo News - Welcome Queen Elsa

According to CREW Postdoctoral Scientist, Raquel Gonzalez-Herrero, “CREW has been using this approach because of its applications to conservation of endangered species and certainly the domestic cat has been paving the way for the use of assisted reproductive techniques in non-domestic felids.”

Queen Elsa has been settling in well to her new home in a behind-the-scenes area at the Cat Ambassador Program. She spends most of her time snoozing, eating and getting acquainted with her new trainers. As she gets older we will slowly start introducing her to new environments and begin her training using operant learning techniques. We are hopeful that she will make some visits to schools over the winter and be a part of the Cheetah Encounter at the zoo next year!

Please help us welcome the newest member of our Cat Ambassador Program, little Queen Elsa!



**Now available:** a custom Fiona plush & 2nd edition playing cards in Zoo gift shop & online! We've been working on the plush for 6 mo & we think she turned out perfectly! 2nd edition playing cards feature all new images of the plump princess!





Cincinnati Zoo &  
Botanical Garden

Volunteer & Intern  
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THANK YOU!!!

This past year as been exciting, from new Zoo babies to More Home to Roam, and we are looking forward to what 2019 has in store.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Happy Holidays! See you in 2019!  
~Mollie & Sabrina~

