

Because of you:

Volume 39, Issue 2, Winter/Fall 2019

The Rainforest Reopens!  
Page 2

Mission: Monkeys Marks One Year  
Page 4

Quality Care  
Page 6

Pueblo Zoological Society



# ZooNews

The biannual newsletter for Pueblo Zoo supporters

## Thelma's new reason to Smile

*Photo: Grand Desire Photography*

*Thelma greets her guests  
during Shandy Clinic Dollar Day*

### Improving quality of life for Pueblo's favorite aging otter

Thelma, our rescued three-legged river otter, is a beloved fixture at the Pueblo Zoo. For fifteen years, she has been delighting your children and grandchildren. **She swims with such enthusiasm that you might not notice her graying coat, a sign of her old age.** And, up until recently, even the zookeeper's could not see her most significant sign of aging.

In the past few years, Thelma has developed several painful dental abscesses. Without on-site dental imaging, these can go undiagnosed longer than they should. As she continues to age, Thelma's dental problems will likely advance.

Your giving has been funding training time for Thelma to allow her to take part in her care. And a few months ago, a generous grant funded the zoo's first portable dental x-ray. This summer, the zoo team (with help from some expert volunteers) was able to give Thelma anesthesia by hand. Then, they imaged Thelma's pearly whites and cleaned her teeth. All without leaving the zoo!

This was a game changer for Thelma's long-term care. **Thelma was happy to be the first to put the new dental equipment to good use.** But, she will not be the last. We're glad that you were a part of it!

# The RAINFOREST is back !



When the rainforest exhibit closed in Fall 2015, it was a sad day for everyone. The leaking and unstable roof was designated unsafe for people and animals. Because the zoo is a non-profit organization, our team and the City of Pueblo worked tirelessly to obtain funding for the expensive repairs. In 2018, the funding finally came through, and we were optimistic that it would be done that year. Unfortunately, on day one, the roofers determined that the work for the project was much more complex than originally thought. So our team was off and running again to find more funding.

Thanks to the gracious generosity of **the Lamb Foundation**, **the Southern Colorado Community Foundation**, and continued support from the **City of Pueblo** we were back on track, reopening the exhibit in April of 2019!

◀ *Renovations included a new roof with sunny skylights, healthy rainforest flora, bright decor, and new propping and enrichment for the animals.*

Shama Thrush

Motmot

Lady Ross Turaco

## Did you know...?

There are more than 1,500 bird species in the Amazon Basin, while South America is home to roughly one-third of the world's birds. Many birds found in the Amazon are migrants, wintering in or passing through the rainforest at certain times of the year.



# Rainforest by the Numbers



16 birds



4 reptiles



3 mammals



4 amphibians



20 plant species



30 lbs of bird pellet per month



45 lbs of fruit and veggies per month



3,000 worms per month



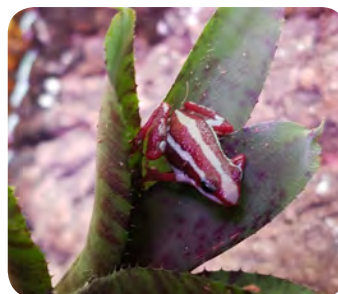
1 critically endangered mammal (Tamarin)

Stop by and say hello to our newest member of the rainforest, **Foley**, our methodical, Hoffmann's two-toed sloth. Right now, he's undergoing a standard 30-day quarantine to ensure his health and safety.

SWING BY  
AND MEET ALL  
OUR NEW  
FRIENDS!



## Tiny Frogs.



### Big Challenge.

Our group of Anthony dart frogs may be tiny (smaller than the size of dime), but their exhibit is one of the most complex in the rainforest. **Because amphibians like the dart frogs breathe through their skin, each element of their exhibit had to be carefully curated to create a mini ecosystem supporting plant and animal life in balance.**

Zack Fodera, our resident amphibian expert, began with an empty 55 gallon glass tank and a lot of research. The wrong plant, and the frogs could die! Eventually, Zack found the perfect ratio of water to substrate to plants, to maintain the ideal temperature, humidity, and cleanliness. Because of their size, Zack also had to consider the dart frogs' movements in each aspect of the exhibit, asking himself, "Could this be a place where a frog could escape? Could a frog be trapped here accidentally?" The completed exhibit (six months in the making) perfectly suits the needs of the frogs, while allowing you to see them from just inches away.

# Happy One Year!

## YOUR MISSION: MONKEYS REPORT

One dollar at a time, **you donated more than \$420,000** for the De Brazza's monkey exhibit. One year ago, that exhibit opened. Since then, more than 100,000 guests have come face to face with Ruby and Kanoa. You made this possible! Now, we're taking you behind the scenes with Gina Gley, the area supervisor who cares for the De Brazza's.

**Gina, what is your favorite part of your job?**

I love bonding with the animals and getting to know them. Being able to learn their personalities and take care of them. And being able to provide them with the best possible life.

**How did you prepare to give them that best possible life?**

I did a lot of research. We designed the exhibit around their natural behaviors and environment. For example, they are arboreal, so we knew we needed to make platforms up high. They like water, so we created a water feature for them to interact with.

**Once they were here, did anything surprise you about them?**

Yes, they love climbing the exhibit mesh. It scares me! Ruby will climb all the way up to the top and climb across completely upside down. We added shade panels to the top of their climbing structure. But, instead of sitting in the shade, they love to sit on top. They also like to spend time in the shift between outside and inside. There, they can watch us clean inside while seeing what's going on outside. They are very interactive with people and are always surprising me!

**What has been the biggest impact of the new exhibit?**

The neat thing about all these new exhibits is that each of the species in this corner of the zoo is from a different part of Africa. You can see how they differ and how they're similar. And you start to understand their adaptations and conservation needs.

◀ *Gina works closely with every animal in her section of the Pueblo Zoo. That close care builds strong relationships with each animal, such as Razan the ring-tailed lemur pictured with Gina.*



# Thank you for making memories with us!

From the rockin' 1,400 person crowd at Brew at the Zoo, to the sold-out Zoofari, to a popular re-envisioning of senior week, you have kept us busy with events—and we love it! Please join us in giving a special thank you to our premier event sponsors.

A & K Roofing and Gutters  
Big Bear Wine & Liquor  
Black Hills Energy  
Colorado Lottery  
Brian Corsi, Allstate  
Credit Union of Colorado  
Cathy & Ken Danylchuk  
Mike & Tanya DeRose  
Fieldman Financial Services LLC  
Health Solutions  
Hewitt, Heerschap, Couch, PC  
K. R. Swerdfeger Construction, Inc  
Judith Krause  
The Lloyd Family  
Park West Dental  
PB&T Bank  
Professional Bull Riders  
Pueblo County Sheriff's Office  
Pueblo Electrics  
The Rickman Pack  
Rocky Mountain Eye Center  
Michael & Cheryl Rohr in memory of Greg Rohr  
The Law of Office of Adam J. Schultz  
Southwest Motors  
Marijane Spear, E.A., Income Tax Specialist  
Studio Share LLC  
The Sullenberger Family  
Bill & Barbara Vidmar  
Vidmar Motor Company



## BRING THE ZOO TO YOU

Education Programs bring a new perspective to your curriculum, and engage your students.

- ✓ Up close encounters with animals
- ✓ Meets Colorado academic standards
- ✓ Introduces conservation and preservation
- ✓ Breaks down fear barriers with animals
- ✓ Pre-K - 12th grade + adults, too!

**Beat the Crowd — Register Today!**

Go to [pueblozoo.org/education-programs](http://pueblozoo.org/education-programs) and fill out the online form.

## OUR MISSION

To empower people to  
engage in conservation  
of animals and their natural habitat

ACCREDITED BY THE  
**ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS**



*Photo: David Hayden*

## Letter from the Director

Who among us can't relate to getting older and all the subtle inconveniences and complications that go with that. I know I can, and I hope that as I continue to "mature" I have people around me that are as caring and attentive to my needs as our zookeepers and staff are to our animals. Thelma is just one of many animals at the Pueblo Zoo that are living healthy, enriching lives far past their expected life span. We consistently have animals that hold the record for the oldest of their species under human care. **Thanks to you, our keepers can spend the needed time and attention on them, train to provide optimal care, give them quality diets and diagnose and treat them in their time of need.** As the Director of the zoo, my concerns also expand to our staff and their needs. In striving to pay a living wage, offer health benefits and provide opportunities to thrive and develop in their careers, we are facing our tightest budget in a while. We are running full tilt to keep up with the mandatory minimum wage increases. It is morally and legally the right thing to do but it is not easy while not sacrificing on animal care, safety and guest experience. But you keep our passion and zoo fed with your support. Thank you for that. We hope you will help us finish the year strong as we help Thelma and all of our animals live strong.



With much gratitude and wishes for good health,  
- Abbie Krause, Executive Director

## Upcoming Events

### October 1: Winter hours begin

Open Daily 9:00am - 4:00pm

### October 26: ZooBoo! 🍊

Goblins, princesses and super heroes welcome! This is something different than your typical haunted house or corn maze...this is a unique Halloween event with your favorite exotic animals! Dress up in your most creative costume and have a spooktacular time at the Pueblo Zoo. 11:00am - 2:00pm

**Member BooBonus:** Early Admission 10:00am - 12:00pm

More details online: [www.pueblozoo.org/zooboo](http://www.pueblozoo.org/zooboo)

### November 1: Conversation with the Curator 🐘

Join Pueblo Zoo curator, Ashley Bowen, to hear about incoming animals and other exciting activities happening this winter. 12 pm, main classroom.

### November 9-10: Military Weekend 🇺🇸

Free admission for all military with valid military ID.  
(Includes spouse and dependent children)

### November 27-December 29: ElectriCritters 🎄

Celebrate the holidays with the largest display of lights in SoCo! Opens Nov 27 with Gingerbread Contest & Tree Lighting! Runs Thurs-Sun Nov 29-Dec 1/Dec 5-8 and Nightly Dec 12-23/Dec 26-29. Don't miss free photos with Santa in Island of Life every Friday in December! Hours: 5:30 - 8:30pm  
Full details: [www.pueblozoo.org/electricritters](http://www.pueblozoo.org/electricritters)

### December 6: Conservation Talk Series 🌿

Learn how staff and volunteers are bringing our mission to life.

## Holiday Closures

Go to [www.pueblozoo.org/visit](http://www.pueblozoo.org/visit) for all the information.