Friends of the Pana’ewa Zoo

From the President

Aloha Friends of the Zoo Members,

As we start the 38th year of YOUR Zoo at Pana’ewa, we will be looking forward to the arrival of new animals, which Zoo Manager Pam Mizuno will write about in this newsletter.

My thoughts are about those great folks who help with the Petting Zoo and Animal Enrichment. Many of them participate in both activities: the Wednesday enrichment day, when several of our hoofed and feathered friends are taken out of their pens and cages and walked around the Zoo in the early afternoon, and the Saturday Petting Zoo, again in the early afternoon, when kids of all ages are able to meet miniature goats, Guinea Pigs, Chinchillas, a potbellied pig, miniature horses, chickens and a variety of other interesting critters who live at our wonderful Zoo. We are so thankful for the dedication of these folks who come to the Zoo regularly and give up their time to make our Zoo inhabitants lives better. And they also make some of these animals available for Zoo patrons to cuddle and touch. So if you haven’t been the Zoo lately, please visit on one of those days so you can see something out of the ordinary at YOUR Zoo. And while you’re at it, give a big mahalo to those who work with our animals.

And while we’re recognizing people, our Zoo staff also deserves kudos. I was talking with one of our Big Island veterinarians who makes calls to attend to the medical needs of our animals. She commented that our Zoo staff is very competent and caring and that they do a good job of watching our animals to be sure they stay as healthy as possible. These folks who prepare the food and feed our animals, in addition to a host of other cleaning and fixing chores, will soon have new and very interesting inhabitants work with. So, thanks to Pam, George, Lorna, Patty, Bobby, Linda, Roger, Kyle, Steve and Sonny for all you do to make our Zoo a terrific place to visit.

Pat Engelhard
FOZ President

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What’s New in the Zoo

I am sooooo happy to report that on Tuesday, January 28, 2016, the Board of Agriculture voted unanimously to allow our importation of two Bengal Tigers for exhibition. FOZ President, Pat Engelhard testified on behalf of FOZ and Parks & Recreation Deputy Director, Ken Van Bergen testified on behalf of the department and presented Mayor Billy Kenoi’s testimony to the Board. Thank you to both of them and to all who provided testimony in support of our permit approval. The import permit was issued the very next day and we are in the process of working with Great Cats World Park in Cave Junction Oregon to get them here.

These beautiful young tigers (A white male and orange female) were born in early July and are being gifted to our zoo. Now that all necessary permits are secured we are hoping to have them here before the end of February.

The cubs will remain quarantined in the night house and attached play yard for 120 days after arrival and we are hoping to celebrate their Birthdays about the same time as their release from quarantine.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in the zoo very soon!

_Pam Mizuno_  
_Zoo Director_

Our Tiger Cubs at 3 Months Old
Tiger Facts

♦ The tiger is the biggest species of the cat family.
♦ Tigers in general can reach a length of up to 11 feet and weigh as much as 660 pounds.
♦ Subspecies of the tiger include the Sumatran Tiger, Siberian Tiger, Bengal Tiger, South China Tiger, Malayan Tiger and Indochinese Tiger.
♦ The coat of the Bengal tiger exhibits yellowish-orange color and are mostly dominated by the brown or black stripes that run across its belly together with a white tail.
♦ The length of the male Bengal tiger measures around 110 – 120 inches, in which the females are 94 – 104 inches long.
♦ The shoulder height of a Bengal tiger is about 35 – 43 inches; head and body measuring around 74 – 80 inches by length as well as a 39 – 42 inches long tail.
♦ Bengal male tigers weigh about 488 pounds on average, while the average weight of the females is 308 pounds. One of the heaviest cats existed in Chitwan National Park with the weight of about 520 pounds; some of these cats measured at 440 – 580 pounds, and the females measured at 326 – 360 pounds.
♦ White Bengal tigers are widespread across Bengal, Assam and Bihar.
♦ Rare white tigers carry a gene that is only present in around 1 in every 10,000 tigers.
♦ Many subspecies of the tiger are either endangered or already extinct. Humans are the primary cause of this through hunting and the destruction of habitats.
♦ Around half of tiger cubs don’t live beyond two years of age.
♦ A group of tigers is known as an ‘ambush’ or ‘streak’.
♦ Tigers are good swimmers and can swim over 3 ½ miles.
♦ Tigers usually hunt alone at night time.
♦ Tigers have been known to reach speeds up to 40 mph.
♦ Less than 10% of hunts end successfully for tigers.
♦ Tigers can easily jump over 16 feet in length.
♦ Various tiger subspecies are the national animals of Bangladesh, India, North Korea, South Korea and Malaysia.
♦ There are more tigers held privately as pets than there are in the wild.
♦ Tigers that breed with lions give birth to hybrids known as tigons and ligers.

18th Annual Plant Sale at the Zoo to be Held May 1

FOZ and local plant societies and growers will be holding our annual plant sale on Sunday, May 1. The plant sale will be set up outside the zoo at the entrance to the Pana‘ewa Equestrian Center.

Since this is the Sunday before Mother’s Day, everyone is invited to stop by and pick out something special for Mom.
Christmas Aloha for the Animals 2015

The Animal Enrichment team of volunteers provided special Christmas treats to the animals at the zoo. This special group of ladies works hard each year preparing for this event. Some animals get toys and others special food treats. Watermelon, sweet potato and corn on the cob are some of the favorite foods.

Please enjoy this photo gallery. As you can see, the animals and humans enjoyed the day.

*Shirley Howard putting presents in primadome.*

*Spider monkey enjoys a banana.*

*Friends of the Zoo President Pat Engelhard feeding treats to the goats.*
Capuchin monkey, Kiba, enjoying a favorite treat— an egg.

Spider monkey with a raisin box.

Glory, our petting zoo pig, enjoying some watermelon.

Binturong watching for her treats.
Important Date for 2016

Board meetings are to be held at 1:00 pm in the Duckie Pavilion on the following dates: February 18, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, September 15, October 20, and November 17.

August 20th will be the Annual Meeting.

Christmas for the animals will be held on December 3.

FRIENDS OF THE PANA'EWA ZOO

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