Christmas at the Zoo

Barbara Thomason

Saturday, December 2, 2017 was Christmas at the Zoo, which is the one day in the year when the Animal Enrichment team of volunteers provide special Christmas treats to the animals. This special group of ladies work hard each year preparing for this event, which the animals, FOZ, and the zoo visitors all seem to enjoy thoroughly.

Some animals get toys and others get special food treats. The tigers get pumpkins. When they first spot the pumpkins, they immediately run up to them and stop short for a brief assessment, followed by playing around with them as if they were beach balls. Then they take possession of their pumpkins and retreat to their special place.

Sriracha, the female Tiger settled into the grass to enjoy her pumpkin.

Tzatziki and Sriracha got their Christmas treat; they love their pumpkins!

Tzatsiki immediately took his pumpkin into the water. He loves the water.
Watermelon, sweet potato and corn on the cob are some of the favorite foods. FOZ always check with the Zoo staff to ensure each animal receives appropriate food.

The lemurs received a variety of special treats, including carrots, apples, sweet potato and kale.

The marmoset monkeys are being fed dried cranberries by a Friend of the Zoo member as part of their special treat.

Our kinkajou anxiously waits for its special Christmas treat.

The binturong receives apples, grapes, carrots and sweet potatoes. Grapes are her favorite, since those are the ones she ate first.

Christmas at the Zoo is only one of the ways The Friends of the Zoo works to improve the quality of life and welfare of each animal at the zoo.
Animal enrichment is very important to zoo animals; along with health and diet, it is crucial to an animal’s quality of life. Your donations to Friends of the Zoo help make this possible.

The black-handed spider monkeys love to get their treats wrapped in a box, specially prepared for them by the Enrichment Team. The boxes are filled with things that rattle when the box is shaken. Their favorite treats are grapes, bananas (who would have guessed that one) and raisins.

The Catalina macaws are always entertaining. They love visitors and some of the macaws will talk to you. Their Christmas treats included seeds, walnuts and apples.
Message from the President
Pat Engelhard

We have been in the process of upgrading our website for a few months and were finally able to launch it at the end of October, thanks to the work of our excellent web designer Andrew Nisbet. If you haven’t already seen it, please visit us at hilozoo.org. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

And, with Christmas approaching, we hope you’ll be able to visit our Zoo Gift Shop for some truly unique gift ideas.

Continuing with the profiles of your Friends of the Pana’ewa Zoo Board members, this month I am introducing an 80 year old firecracker of a volunteer, Shey Kravas. She is an energetic and willing member of the Animal Enrichment Team, who says she loves goats but that her favorite animals might be Cookie, our Petting Zoo sheep.

In addition to all her time consuming but necessary chores for FOZ, Shey belongs to Friends of the Hilo Library and was volunteering one day a week at Hale Anuenue Restorative Center until she recently injured her foot. She loves to read and kayak, although she admits to not having been kayaking here in Hilo yet. Shey is the most appreciative fan of her grandson, William, a member of the Hilo High Viking Basketball squad. She keeps “stats” for him at each of his games.

Before Shey came to Hilo, about 5 years ago to live with her daughter and son-in-law, both nurses in Hilo, and her grandson, she lived with her husband of 54 years, who was an attorney in Chicago. She graduated from Indiana University, where she was Queen of the Military Ball, and from which she got her teaching certificate. She taught for 35 years in most elementary grades but spent the longest time, 28 years, teaching kindergarten in Portage, Indiana. She even had two young students who later went on to enroll their own sons in the same Portage school kindergarten class that Shey was still teaching!

Her Animal Enrichment Team members and the FOZ Board are so glad that Shey has chosen to live in Hilo and volunteer her time at our jewel of a Zoo.
What’s New in the Zoo

Swanee, how I love you, how I love you
My dear old Swanee!

Our new Black Swan was donated by Hilton Waikoloa and she is aptly named Swanie! She was resident swan at the Hilton for 20 years and is now well adjusted in her new home in the entrance pond at our zoo. She is joined by a dozen large Koi that shared her Hilton home and they all happily swim around together like old friends. Swanie loves visitors ♥♥♥ If you stand by her gate at the pond and call her by name she will speed over and sometimes stretch her neck towards you bugling and honking in delight!

Black Swans are commonly found in estuaries and waterways of southeastern and eastern Australia. Look at how striking the bright red bill is against the black feathered head and neck. The cygnets (immature swans) are grayish brown with pale-edged feathers and grey bills.

O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?

Our handsome new Moluccan Cockatoo “Romeo” will be arriving second week in December. He will be a wonderful new addition to the zoo and we are excited and looking forward to his arrival! Romeo will soon be out and about with his FOZ volunteer handlers to meet and greet zoo visitors.

The wild Moluccan Cockatoos makes its home in the forests of the island of Seram, Malaku, Indonesia. Malaku is the province where they are from, and the word means ‘land of many kings’. Surely, that includes the Moluccan who reigns as pink (salmon) king of the jungle. There are various ways Moluccan is pronounced, but Muh LUCK in or Muh LUKE in are the most common. Continued on page 6
Friends of the Zoo (FOZ) gathered for a Christmas Luncheon which was organized by our own Joy Katada. It was a wonderful chance for the Enrichment Team to get together and chat for awhile, as they don’t always get to see each other at the zoo; some members only donate their time on Saturdays while others only come on Wednesdays.

Everyone had a great time, sharing stories, eating, and sharing sweet treats, while Secret Santa came and went, leaving behind some little gifts for all the FOZ Team. Many thanks go out to Joy, who did such an outstanding job of making this a special and memorable occasion.

Calendar

**Benefit Book Fair**
Saturday, December 9, 2017
10:00am – 3:00 pm

**FOZ Board Meeting**
January 15, 2018

**FOZ Board Meeting**
February 26, 2017

Ways to Help the Zoo

**Amazon Smile:** Friends of the Zoo is now included in the charities able to participate in Amazon Smile. When a customer chooses us we will receive 0.5% of their order. Use the following link to sign up: [https://smile.amazon.com/](https://smile.amazon.com/) and follow the instructions, or if you just want to change from another charity to FOZ, log into your account and select “change charity”. Don’t forget to send the link to your friends; the animals will love you for it.

**Recycling:** Designate FOZ as the beneficiary when you recycle your HI-5 items at The Arch of Hilo, Mr. K’s Recycle and Atlas Recycling Centers.

**Adopt any animal** at the Zoo for a year. For a donation of $25 you will receive an adoption certificate, fact sheet and photos of your “adoptee.”
Friends of the Zoo Membership

Pana‘ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens is a unique and beautiful place enjoyed by thousands of people every year. Friends of the Pana‘ewa Zoo is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the zoo and contribute to the well-being of the resident animals. All donations to FOZ are used to help the zoo.

If you enjoy the zoo and want to help make it better, please consider joining Friends of the Zoo. Your donation is tax free, you will receive a 10% discount on all purchases at the zoo gift shop, and you will be helping your zoo to thrive. Stop by the gift shop to pick up a membership application or visit our website hilozoo.org to print one.

If you are already a member: thank you for your support and please consider renewing your membership today.

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Donations to FOZ

You love animals and so do we!
It’s the end of the year and a great time to donate to Friends of the Zoo. The animals will benefit from the many things which are funded by donations, which include buildings, shelters and barns, to mention a few, and you will benefit by being able to deduct the donation from your 2017 taxes. You can mail your donations to:

Friends of the Zoo
P O Box 738,
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!