Our baby emu has a birthday coming up on March 22, 2019 - which means we have to stop calling her “our baby emu”! Bling grew from 6 inches at birth to over 5½ feet in her first year. The blue on Bling's neck makes her officially an adult.

Emus love to play in the water on hot days, where they will roll on their backs and kick their legs in the air. This is one of Bling’s favorite things to do on a hot day.

Bling must drink every day, and she doesn’t waste water. On very hot days you will find her breathing rapidly, using her lungs as evaporative coolers. Her large nasal passages have multiple folds inside. In cooler weather she uses these folds to recycle air and create moisture for reuse.

The ideal temperature for emus lies between 50° and 86° F. This soft-feathered, brown flightless bird does well in Hawaii.

Emus are the second largest bird in the world after the ostrich, and are only found in Australia. They have two sets of eyelids, one for blinking and one to keep out the dust. Their feet are long, with three toes. One toe on each foot has a long talon, for fighting. Emu feathers are soft and light-brown with dark tips. Each feather has a double shaft. They also are they only bird that have calf muscles to allow them to run and jump and make sharp turns.
Above: Bling having fun in her tub on a hot day when she was 6 months old. 

Right: Growing rapidly, showing off her beautiful feathers.

Far Left: Bling at 2 days old, born with stripes, which will disappear as she gets older.

Left: At 6 weeks, Bling shows off her beautiful longitudinal stripes. These stripes provide camouflage in the wild.

Left: Edward and Edwina, Bling’s mom and dad. Right: Bling’s dad carefully turning the eggs, which he does about 10 times a day. During the hatching process he never gets up to eat, drink or defecate, only to turn the eggs.
The Pana’ewa Zoo has many turtles and tortoises, from common- and alligator snapping turtles to an Asian Forest Tortoise. Turtles have recently been placed into a new group named “Archelosauria” with their closest relatives being birds, crocodiles and dinosaurs. These marvelous reptiles have been around for 220 million years, whereas humankind has only been around for 2.5 million years. Tortoises and turtles are both reptiles from the order of Testudines, but in different classification families. The major difference between the two is that tortoises dwell on land and do not swim, while turtles live mostly in the water. Ancient turtles were quite different with their long noses and many teeth. All modern-day turtles have sharp beaks and sharp ridges instead of teeth.

The first turtles had a shell only on the underside, while the top was completely exposed. Nowadays the bodies of tortoises and turtles are both shielded by a shell, the upper part is called a carapace, and the lower portion is called a plastron. The carapace and the plastron are attached by a bridge, which means that although the head and limbs of a turtle or tortoise may be withdrawn from the shell, the whole body can never by totally detached from it. These reptiles are generally reclusive and shy in nature.

Below: The Asian Forest Tortoise is considered to be the world’s most primitive living tortoise and is home to southeast Asia. It is the largest tortoise in mainland Asia, and can reach 55 lbs. in the wild and much more than that in captivity, and can be as long at 2 feet. These endangered dwellers of broadleaf forests feed mainly on leafy vegetative matter and fruits. They are social tortoises and communicate with head bobbing and a variety of vocalizations especially during mating season. They are also the only tortoise which lay their eggs above ground in a nest that the female constructs of leaf litter.

Above: Razorback musk turtles are common in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, Florida and Louisiana. They inhabit heavily vegetated shallow ponds, streams and swamps with slow moving water. They grow to 6 inches in length and can live up to 35 years or more in captivity. They are carnivorous, feeding upon crayfish, clams, aquatic snails, insects, fish and carrion. An interesting fact about the razorback must turtle is that, to deter predators, both sexes have scent glands under the rear of their shell which can release a foul musky odor similar to a skunk.
Turtles are not social creatures. They do not get lonely and do not need a friend. You can always put more than one turtle in the same tank, though some species tend to be more aggressive and some may fight, so this is best handled on a case by case basis.

Yellow-spotted amazon river turtle. This endangered turtle is found in South America. It spends most of the time in water, coming out to bask in the sun. They can grow up to 1.5 feet and weigh up to 18 lbs. They feed upon fruits, leaves, fish and shellfish. Unlike some other turtles, they do not pull their head and neck into their shell; instead, they tuck their head and neck under the side of their shell.

Red-eared slider turtle. These common turtles from the southern US are almost entirely aquatic, but being cold-blooded they must leave the water occasionally to sunbathe and regulate their temperature. They grow up to 12 inches long. They feed primarily on animals such as crayfish, tadpoles and crickets as well as aquatic plants. During the breeding season the female will dig a hole in the soil and deposit her eggs.

Turtles exhibit what is known as “negligible senescence”, which means that they do not continue to age once their bodies reach maturity. In theory, they might be able to live forever, though in practice this never happens: injury, predation, or disease eventually kill them.

Red-footed Tortoise. Found in northern South America, these medium-sized tortoises usually average 12-16 inches as adults. They have dark-colored, loaf-shaped back shells with a lighter patch in the middle of each scale on the shell, and dark limbs with brightly colored scales that range from pale yellow to dark red. These tortoises are omnivores; they eat mostly plants and fruit, but will also munch on fungi and live invertebrates. Due to their popularity as pets, over-collection threatens them with extinction.

Come and check out our turtles and tortoises at the zoo. Our Asian forest tortoise is quite active, and, depending on the time of day, some of the turtles – like like the yellow-spotted amazon river turtles and the red-eared slider turtles – you might even find out of the water!

All tortoises are turtles but not all turtles are tortoises.
March 2019

President’s Message

Aloha Members,

We have two upcoming events before the end of this Fiscal Year. They are the 20th Annual Friends of the Pana`ewa Zoo Plant Sale on Sunday, May 5, 2019, and the Tiger Fun Day on June 29, 2019.

Thanks to the work of Barbara Thomason, who took over the Plant Sale after the untimely passing of former FOZ member and Plant Sale organizer Dan Beer, the Plant Sale has continued. Dan’s right hand helper, John Cullen, continues to help Barbara with the heavy work while Barbara arranges all the vendors and logistics of hosting such an event. Many thanks to Barbara, John and others who help to make our Annual Plant Sale a success.

Barbara also helps immensely with our Animal Enrichment Team, along with Emeritus FOZ member Faith Elarianoff. Barbara makes special purchases of toys, medications, bedding and food for the Enrichment sessions. She arranges for treats for the Zoo inhabitants at Christmas. She mentors new Enrichment team and Petting Zoo volunteers. Faith also helps a lot with organizing and mentoring the Enrichment Team. She has a special understanding of animals, having a menagerie of her own at home. There are many on the FOZ Board and several non-Board FOZ members who help with enriching the lives of our animals, but special thanks must go to Barbara and Faith for their dedication over many years.

FOZ has hosted a celebration with our Tigers for many years. Namaste’s Birthday was a well-attended regular fall event for many years. After his passing, there was no celebration until the new Tigers, Sriracha and Tzatziki, arrived. After they had been in quarantine for 120 days, we celebrated their release with Tiger Fun Day, and have continued that event during the summer months. The Chair for this event is Dolores Coulson, who was responsible for introducing last year’s big hit “My Zoo Passport”. Look for a better one this year. Dolores is not only leading the efforts for the next Tiger Fun Day, but is also the editor of this exceptional newsletter. And as if that isn’t enough, she is also on the Enrichment Team with Barbara, Faith and others, and takes care of Animal Adoptions.

We thank these three ladies in particular and all the others on the Enrichment Team as well as those who handle the animals at every Saturday’s Petting Zoo for their volunteering. It’s the work of these folks who make our Zoo the special place it is. You can see them in action early on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. They will be happy to talk about their animal friends.

Pat Engelhard
Friends of the Pana`ewa Zoo President

Visit us on our website and Facebook.
Upcoming events

Pana’ewa Zoo 20th Annual Plant Sale
May 05, 2019   8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Don’t forget the Pana’ewa Zoo Plant Sale coming this May 5th. It’s one of the best plant sales on the Big Island. Last year’s plant sale was a lot of fun. So many knowledgeable vendors who specialized in their plants, many found their knowing extremely helpful in caring for the plants bought. Also very noticeable were the super healthy plants. Last year the Palm society gave tours of the palms they had planted in the zoo; perhaps they will do that again. Come early, and get the plants you want. You won’t regret it.

Tiger Fun Day   June 29, 2019

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for “Tiger Fun Day”. The tigers, Sriracha and Tzatziki, will be getting a special treat that day and you don’t want to miss it. Watch for the feeding schedule of several zoo animals in the next newsletter.

We would love to hear from you. If there is something you would like to see included in the newsletter or a special article, e-mail us at: newsletter@hilozoo.org
Spring is in the air and flowers are blooming everywhere. The fragrance of Honohono orchids, gardenias and scented begonias are intoxicating in the crisp cool morning air. The bright, vivid, unstoppable colors are a sight to behold! Many different varieties of Vireya (tropical rhododendron) are currently blooming and the colors are endless. All of this is only one reason out of many to put a zoo visit on your to do list in the coming weeks!
What’s New At the Zoo

Pam Mizuno - Zoo Director

Spring is in the air and flowers are blooming everywhere. The fragrance of Honohono orchids, gardenias and scented begonias are intoxicating in the crisp cool morning air. The bright, vivid, unstoppable colors are a sight to behold! Many different varieties of Vireya (tropical rhododendron) are currently blooming and the colors are endless. All of this is only one reason out of many to put a zoo visit on your to do list in the coming weeks!
Our newest edition to the petting zoo is a Flemish Giant rabbit named Renee. She is huge! Much larger than her friend Charlie rabbit who has been working at the petting zoo on Saturdays for a few months now. Charlie will be sharing his role as petting zoo bunny with Renee to allow everyone a chance to feel their soft downy coats. Stop by and see them both on Saturdays from 1:30 to 2:30 pm.

Makani is our new I’o, aka Hawaiian Hawk. He can’t be released into the wild because he is imprinted on humans and not socialized to avoid or fear them. Makani will be used to help Keauhou Bird Conservation Center continue with predator aversion training for ‘Alalā, aka Hawaiian Crow, prior to their release back into the wild.

This is an important step in the process to ensure the greatest survival rate for released birds. And on that note, please see the important ‘alalā announcement below!

This jungle fowl hen started early this year and she can be seen scurrying around the zoo grounds with her half grown brood following closely behind.

National Zoo Day
Each year on April 8, National Zoo Lovers Day is observed. This would be a perfect day to visit the Pana’ewa zoo and be one of the millions of people who visit a zoo each year. Enjoy seeing your favorite animals splashing in the water, swinging on their trapeze and have a fun-filled day. Finish it off with a drink and ice-cream from the gift shop.
We are happy and excited to announce the upcoming arrival of ‘alalā to our zoo, and we need your help! ‘Alalā are the most endangered Hawaiian bird alive today. There were once less than 20 live individuals, but thanks to the efforts of Keauhou and Maui Bird Conservation Centers there are now over 125 birds alive today!

‘Alalā were recently released back into the wild, but are only found in a remote forest location for now.

Sometime in the hopefully not too distant future, two ‘alalā will live at the Pana’ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens! It is important for residents and visitors to learn more about our native crow, and the plan is for two birds to be moved here. The first step is to construct a new aviary building where the ‘alalā will live.

Estimated cost of the new aviary is $128,000 and Friends Of The Zoo’s goal is to raise funds to complete this project. We need your help! Any donations provided for construction of the new ‘alalā aviary building will be greatly appreciated!

All donations may be sent to Friends of the Zoo, PO Box 738, Keaau, HI 96749. Please note “For ‘Alalā” on the check.

Origami artist Shannon Nakaya has created hand made origami ‘alalā and will be offering them for sale on her website www.origamidog.us. 50% of all sales will be donated to FOZ for the aviary building.
~ Calendar 2019 ~

Pana’ewa Zoo Plant Sale
Sunday, May 5th, 2019
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Benefit Book Fair
Saturday, June 2nd, 2018
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Tiger Fun Day
Saturday, June 29th
9:00 am – 1:30 pm

FOZ Board Meetings
January 21, 2019
February 25, 2019
March 25, 2019

Memberships
New and Renewal

Your continued support helps enhance the animals life, from treats and toys to medical expenses. It also helps to make your experience at the zoo more pleasant.

Whether you are renewing your membership or would like to join, it’s easy and fast. Just follow the link below, fill out the form and mail it in.

http://www.hilozoo.org/assets/-membership.pdf

Thank you for your support!

Symbolic Animal Adoptions

The adoption packages have been upgraded and there are more to choose from. Perfect for special occasions, why not get a Symbolic Animal Adoption for your kids, friends, wife, husband or for all of them?

Your donations help enhance and create new habitat, provide treats and toys, veterinary services and medication, procure supplies, upgrade enclosures, funding for small exhibits and enrich the animals’ experience.

Check them out! Just follow the link to our web page and choose your animal.
http://www.hilozoo.org/adoptions.html

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