



A Message from the Saint Louis Zoo

It's Time to Pass the Torch

Well, this is it – my last time writing to you as Dana Brown President & CEO. My successor, Dwight Scott, assumed the role of Dana Brown President & CEO on January 3. You are in good hands. And working with Dwight, I can clearly see his passion and dedication to animals and conservation. He will no doubt lead the Saint Louis Zoo to its brightest years yet.

Every year, we seek to be better than the year before. 2021 certainly had its challenges, but a lot of good things came from this year, as detailed in this letter. Families got to experience new adventures in visiting Emerson Dinoroarus and Michael and Quirsis Riney Primate Canopy Trails – such a happy change after spending more time than usual at home. Beloved events, like ZOOFARI presented by Wells Fargo, returned. Some of our in-person educational programs safely resumed. Many volunteers were able to come back. I think these steps toward normalcy are helping us move forward. Even though we are facing some tough circumstances right now with the Omicron variant, I hope you feel optimistic as you read this letter that good things are still on the horizon.

I'd like to close this letter to you by saying this: in the 20 years I've been privileged to serve you, I've been blown away by your love and support of our Zoo. You have made the Zoo a truly extraordinary institution. Because of you, we've been able to modernize our Zoo's century-old campus with world-class animal habitats, including the Judy and Jerry Kent Family Sea Lion Sound, McDonnell Polar Bear Point, Centene Grizzly Ridge and more. You helped support educational programs for underserved audiences. You helped build the Zoo Endowment to over \$100 million. You advocated for us when Proposition Z was on the ballot. And finally, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, you supported our Zoo when we needed you most. Our success is really your success.

Please enjoy reading this recap of our year in 2021, and I hope you and your loved ones have a healthy and happy 2022.

Jeffrey P. Bonner, Ph.D., *President Emeritus*



Dwight Scott,
new Dana Brown
President & CEO

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Our Dedication to Animal Care

The world around us has changed a lot during the past two years, but one thing has remained consistent and unwavering – our commitment to caring for and conserving animals. Here are some of our accomplishments in 2021.

Nearly 100 Animals Fully Vaccinated Against SARS-CoV-2 by End of 2021

A big aspect of animal care is preventative health, meaning we take proactive steps to keep animals healthy and thus preventing opportunities for them to become sick. Part of preventative health care for the animals includes vaccines. In the fall of 2021, our animal care teams began vaccinating our most at-risk animals – primates, hyenas, big cats, river otters, painted dogs and bat-eared foxes – against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease.



Spotted hyena

Male chimpanzee Jimiyu was the first animal at the Saint Louis Zoo to receive the first of Zoetis' two-dose vaccine, which has been authorized for use on zoo animals on a case-by-case basis. As of December 8, 2021, all animals that were scheduled to be vaccinated have received both doses of the vaccine; 97 animals are fully vaccinated.

“We are very fortunate to partner with Zoetis and have access to this vaccine as an added layer of protection to keep our animals healthy,” said Luis Padilla,



Chimpanzee

DVM, DACZM, Vice President of Animal Collections. “Many of the recently recognized emerging diseases share a connection between humans and animals. Now more than ever, it is important that we recognize that the health of humans, animals and the environment are interconnected and dependent on each other.”

Saint Louis Zoo Joins American Red Wolf Conservation Efforts

Responding to an urgent call to keep American red wolves from going extinct, we began transforming part of our land in Franklin County, Mo., into a conservation habitat for these critically endangered species in 2021. This dedicated 20-acre space within our 355-acre Saint Louis Zoo Sears Lehmann, Jr. Wildlife Reserve will allow up to 12 mating pairs of wolves to breed in a private, protected natural setting. Each breeding pair will have their own designated habitat. The wolves will come from other conservation organizations as early as 2022. This facility will not be open to visitors — we want the wolves to learn natural survival skills without much human interaction in the secured facility.



American red wolf

The few remaining wild American red wolves are secretive, elusive animals active after dusk, but many cannot avoid the daytime actions of humans that are limiting their natural range. The wild population has been decimated, with the majority of American red wolf deaths caused by illegal hunting, vehicle strikes and habitat loss.

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We are collaborating on this critical conservation project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which is responsible for managing the wild American red wolf population and reintroduction efforts in the eastern U.S., as well as with the Conservation Centers for Species Survival (C2S2), a science-based global initiative taking collective action to save animals from extinction.

Our American red wolf conservation facility is supported by private donations from an anonymous donor, as well as Kevin Beckmann, Ralph Hoffman, and USFWS Recovery Challenge grant funding through C2S2. We also are grateful to the Endangered Wolf Center, which has generously shared its 50 years of expertise related to the location and construction of the Zoo's new wolf habitats.

A Helping Hand for Hellbenders: 1,000 Hatch at the Zoo, 800 Released into Missouri Rivers

Behind the scenes at our Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium is a 32-foot-long, man-made Missouri stream for breeding hellbenders (the official endangered species of the state of Missouri). Zoo employees breed groups of these large aquatic salamanders and head-start their young for their eventual release into Missouri



Ozark hellbender

rivers, their native home. This work is done on behalf of the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute Ron and Karen Goellner Center for Hellbender Conservation.

From October through early December 2021, 750 Saint Louis Zoo-bred Ozark

hellbenders hatched at the Herpetarium. In addition, 583 Ozark and eastern hellbenders hatched from eggs that the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) brought to the Zoo from Missouri river systems. A total of 1,333 newly hatched baby hellbenders are being cared for by experienced and dedicated herpetology keepers.

As rewarding as it is to care for the young hellbenders, it is equally as fulfilling to see them released back to their native home. In 2021, over 800 Ozark and eastern hellbenders raised from eggs at the Zoo were released into their native Missouri Ozark rivers this summer by MDC State Herpetologist Jeff Briggler, Ph.D., in cooperation with the Zoo and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Even through the COVID-19 pandemic, the team of biologists from MDC and the Zoo have continued to collaborate while staying safe and providing the best care for the hellbenders. Since 2008, 9,476 Saint Louis Zoo-raised endangered hellbenders (8,599 Ozark and 877 eastern) have been reintroduced to the wild in Missouri.



Ozark hellbender

Conservation Underway at the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park

Although the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park is a quiet, vast landscape compared to the Saint Louis Zoo, it is still busy with activity. Members of our team began



A family explores nature at the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park

biodiversity studies at the property in 2020. Among the animals we are studying at the 425-acre property include bats, birds, coyotes and foxes, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians. Our educators also have been busy hosting nature-based learning initiatives for members of the north

St. Louis County community. Thirty-four programs were hosted for 230 participants in 2021. These programs included opportunities for young children and families to explore ecosystems of freshwater ponds and create nature art, as well as “healing hikes” for adults.

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Donna discovers her birthday treats in her habitat



Three Asian Elephants Celebrate 50th Birthdays in 2021

Three members of our Asian elephant herd — Ellie, Pearl and Donna — turned 50 in 2021! To give you a little background on these Asian elephants: Ellie is mom to Priya, Maliha and Rani; Pearl is mom to Raja (our male Asian elephant); and Donna is a beloved auntie to the younger elephants.



Ellie (and daughter Priya) open birthday treats

Median life expectancy for female Asian elephants under human care is 47.5 years old. At 50 years old, our “Golden Girls” are geriatric and considered to be older than average. All our elephants receive customized care based on several factors, including age, and their health care plans are tailored throughout their lives. They receive wellness checks every day. Diets are carefully

calculated and nutritionally balanced by our Zoo’s professional nutritionist. Exercise is another important aspect of elephants’ care.

“We do a lot of exercises that involve stretching,” said Katie Pilgram-Kloppe, Zoological Manager of River’s Edge. “The older elephants also really enjoy swimming with the young ones. Studies of older elephants have shown that their quality of life is improved when they spend time with the younger elephants. It helps keep them young!”



Pearl with her birthday treats

Follow our blog and social media as we continue to highlight how we provide exceptional care to all our elephants.

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New Animals at a Glance

Births: 4,788

Southern rockhopper penguin



Acquisitions: 606

Amur leopard



Spider tortoise



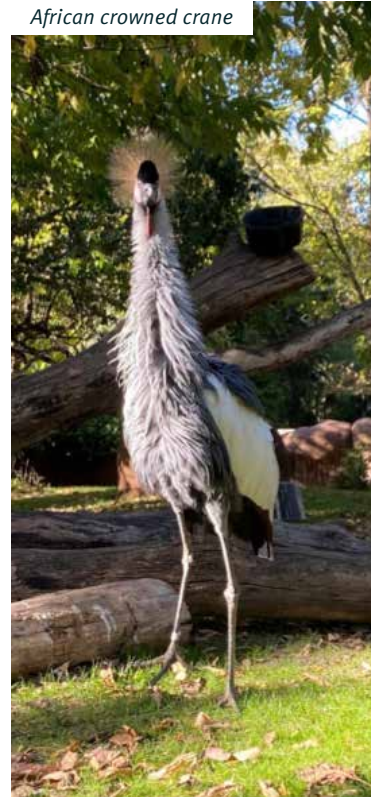
Speke's gazelle



California sea lions



African crowned crane



Tailless whip scorpion



Virgin Island tree boa



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The Return of Some Normalcy at the Zoo

After months of sheltering at home and having our typical routines disrupted due to the pandemic, it was a relief to see glimpses of our pre-pandemic lives returning in 2021. Every baby step toward “normal” is cause for celebration! Here are some small ways our Zoo was able to safely resume some of its operations.

Two New Exhibits Open

New Zoo exhibits couldn't have come at a better time for the community — everyone was ready for some new adventures in 2021! Emerson Dinoroarus opened to the public on April 17, and Michael and Quirsis Primate Canopy Trails opened on July 12.

Dinoroarus opened at the site of the former Emerson Children's Zoo. This engaging attraction for all ages features 16 different groupings of animatronic and stationary dinosaurs, some roaring and spitting or placidly munching on the lush vegetation. This seasonal exhibit will continue at the Zoo for the next couple of years while we work to reimagine, plan and redevelop the area into a new, permanent family and children's area.



Emerson Dinoroarus



Michael and Quirsis Riney Primate Canopy Trails

It's long been a goal to get the animals at the Primate House outdoors. The 1925 Primate House, which was renovated in 1977 and will continue to be used, had a few outdoor habitats available, but they could only be used for certain species. Many of the primates living at the

Primate House had never had access to the outdoors. All of the monkeys and lemurs now have access to sunlight and fresh air in their new outdoor habitats at Primate Canopy Trails. For guests, one of the enticing features of the exhibit is that they can venture up into the treetops on an elevated boardwalk to see the animals, mimicking the life of a primate in the tree canopy of a forest!

ZOOFARI Returns!

We were happy to welcome our friends back, in-person, for our Zoo's biggest fundraiser of the year, ZOOFARI presented by Wells Fargo! As most recall, we typically host this event in June, but in 2021 we wanted to celebrate this safe, outdoor event with our Zoo friends in the fall. As the sun set and music began to fill the air, guests grazed along the pathways and enjoyed sweet and savory dishes from food stations. Live entertainment was stationed throughout the Zoo, and in Lakeside Cafe, guests could participate in activities to benefit our Zoo. This year, we highlighted the African painted dog and our work to conserve this unique animal. In the end, over \$890,000 was provided in support of the Zoo's mission to conserve animals and their habitats, surpassing the initial fundraising goal by more than \$90,000.

Record-Breaking Revenues Earned Across the Zoo

As a free zoo, we rely on revenue from guest services. I'm thrilled to say that we saw new revenue records across the Zoo. As a snapshot, we are happy to report \$11.5 million from food service, \$7.7 million from retail, \$2.7 million from Adventure Pass sales, and \$1.7 million from Emerson Zooline Railroad tickets.

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Zoo's Inclusive Services Continue to Grow

In 2021, we earned Sensory Inclusive certification through a partnership with KultureCity, a nationally recognized nonprofit that provides sensory inclusion training and tools to venues and large-scale events. As part of the certification process, our team receives ongoing training on how to recognize and assist guests with sensory needs and how to handle a sensory overload situation. As you walk around the Zoo, you'll



see new KultureCity signage that indicates areas where there may be sensory challenges, such as noise, temperature, smells or sounds, as well as quiet spaces for relaxing.

We also were able to bring back Sensory Night at U.S. Bank Wild Lights in 2021; the event was

canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. This night is for individuals with sensory sensitivities, like those on the autism spectrum or with sensory processing disorders. This special night mirrors the traditional Wild Lights experience, but also includes sensory maps, quiet areas and trained Zoo staff to assist individuals with sensory sensitivities. Nearly 500 guests were able to attend the event last December.

Over 11,000 Zoo Parents

Our Zoo Parents are essential in helping us care for and feed the 12,000 animals at the Zoo. Support for animal care has been especially critical throughout the pandemic, and we're fortunate to have received phenomenal support for the Zoo Parents Program. In 2021, we were thankful to have 11,601 Zoo Parents, who contributed over \$473,000 to the Zoo. The most popular adoption of 2021 was the horned puffin for Valentine's Day, with 1,335 adoptions.

We're also grateful to have loyal Zoo Parents; almost 200 have been Zoo Parents for 40 years. Many thanks to all our Zoo Parents for helping us provide the best animal care possible.

Volunteers Return to the Zoo

When our Zoo closed to the public to prevent the spread of COVID-19, we also had to say a temporary goodbye to our volunteers. While we still remained connected virtually, volunteers had to pause their valuable on-site work.

The Zoo just wasn't the same without them. Typically, over 1,800 volunteers give over 100,000 hours of service each year. They have such positive attitudes and bring smiles to our guests' faces. Happily, beginning in June 2021, we were able to welcome our volunteers back in phases. Fifty-nine percent of volunteers have resumed their in-person efforts. We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers, and we're glad to see them on campus again.



Zoo Preschool Resumes In-Person Classes

We're proud that we're among a handful of zoos to have their own preschool. We believe nature is the best classroom for children — 50% of class time is spent outdoors. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, the 2020-2021 academic year went virtual. Students participated in hands-on science and art projects with their teachers and classmates through a virtual platform, went on virtual Zoo field trips, and gathered in-person for masked nature meet-ups. Although our curriculum pivoted remarkably well, we were glad to welcome students back to the Zoo for the 2021-2022

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academic year! Safety precautions for students include smaller class sizes and wearing masks. And, as always with our program, much of class time is spent outdoors. Classes have been working on a variety of projects, including studying animal care and setting up a veterinary hospital with plush toy animals. A Zoo vet

came to class and gave students lots of advice about how to care for their animals. We're glad to welcome our young conservationists back to the Zoo!



A Year of Philanthropy

We couldn't do nearly all we do for animals without the generosity of donors. We're fortunate to have many loyal supporters, and we wish we could list them all in this letter. Here are some friends who were particularly generous in 2021.

Creating the Canopy: Bringing Michael and Quirsis Riney Primate Canopy Trails to Life

The success of Primate Canopy Trails is rooted in teamwork. In addition to the many Zoo departments that collaborated on this exhibit, generous donors helped bring it to fruition. Champions for our primates include:

Michael and Quirsis Riney Family Foundation

When Quirsis Riney heard that this exhibit would bring the Zoo's smallest primates outside for the first time, she decided she and her husband, Michael, would get involved with the Zoo on a deeper level. They made a generous leadership gift to name the entire exhibit.

"We always try to support opportunities and institutions that embrace science and technology to create something truly unique," said Michael Riney. "The Zoo staff and exhibit designers have clearly worked hard to incorporate elements that have been proven to enhance the welfare of these primates, as well as create a truly interactive and educational experience for guests. This decision was an easy one knowing that our kids, among the millions of other children who visit the Zoo, will directly benefit from experiencing exposure to nature like this."

Henry A. Jubel Foundation

The Henry A. Jubel Foundation, as well as the Jubel family (Don and Karen Jubel, with their daughter Melissa and her husband Herbie Markwort) provided grants and gifts to assist with the construction of Primate Canopy Trails. Their philanthropy is recognized at the Primate Care Facility and the adjacent Courtyard. Don surprised Karen with the gift



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recognized at the Courtyard in her honor for their 40-year marriage and life together. He revealed it to her at the Primate Canopy Trails donor preview event in July.

“Our giving is focused on helping people learn through STEM initiatives and engineering-focused education,” said Melissa Markwort, Executive Director of the Jubel Foundation and Saint Louis Zoo Association Board member. “But we also wanted to give back to our community, and as the Zoo is such an important part of St. Louis, it just seemed the perfect opportunity.”

Dana Brown Charitable Trust

The Dana Brown Charitable Trust has been a longtime supporter of the Zoo’s mission with support going back more than two decades. Since Dana Brown’s passing in 1994, the Trust representatives have continued the legacy of his company, Dana Brown Private Brands, Inc. with gifts toward children’s health and education, arts and culture, and animal welfare. The Dana Brown Charitable Trust provided a leadership commitment to the Zoo to support Primate Canopy Trails. The gift is recognized with the Dana Brown Conservation Canopy, where guests can see primates eye to eye in the treetops.

The Estate of Rudolph Wise

Rudolph L. Wise Jr. grew his family’s St. Louis business selling gloves into a national safety and environmental company. When he passed away in 2017 at age 97, he left \$12 million in his estate to St. Louis nonprofits, including the Saint Louis Zoo. In addition to his bequest of an endowed fund for safety-related projects at the Zoo, Mr. Wise’s estate contributed a capital gift to support Primate Canopy Trails. The Wise family name is showcased at the Rudolph L. and Mary Frances Wise Sycamore Sanctuary, where guests can watch primates enjoying their treetop habitat.

Over 52,000 Member Households Support the Zoo in 2021

We rely heavily on the support of Zoo members, who are among our most dedicated friends. We are humbled by the continued support of our members, especially throughout the past two years when times have been difficult for all. In 2021, we ended the year with over 52,000 member households, who supported the Zoo with over \$5 million. We also are thankful to have 1,290 members in the Marlin Perkins Society (our upper-level membership group), who supported the Zoo with gifts of over \$2.7 million. In addition, of the Zoo’s 563 members of the Heritage Society (our recognition program for those who have provided a legacy commitment to the Zoo in their estate plans), 43 joined in 2021. We can never thank you enough for your generosity.

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Endowment Reaches \$100 Million Milestone

The Zoo's Endowment hit a major milestone in 2021, thanks to many donors who make gifts to the Tribute Fund, remember the Zoo in their wills and trusts, or establish named endowed funds in memory or honor of loved ones. Since its inception in 2004, the Endowment has grown to over \$100 million.

Endowment represents three worlds: this year, future years and forever! Like an apple tree, it grows larger every year. We harvest the fruit annually, but never cut down the tree for its wood. Each year the harvest provides for immediate priorities while continuing to grow for the future as an everlasting resource.

The Zoo's Endowment supports a range of priorities, from animal care to landscaping, camp scholarships, and guest experiences. Endowment gifts are a timeless

way for donors to support the Zoo and walk their values even beyond their lives. A devoted friend of the Zoo, Jean McCool, did just that.

Jean McCool is remembered by Zoo staff as a dedicated Zoo Parent who loved the “underdogs” most of all. Her favorite adopted animals were the cinereous vulture, reticulated python and Chinese alligator. Jean passed away last spring, but her devotion to animals will live on at the Zoo, caring for her adopted family of underdogs every year in her memory. As a Heritage Society member, Jean made a provision for the Zoo to receive a portion of her estate when she died. As part of the Zoo's Endowment, her legacy gift will support those animals she loved forever.

For the promise of Animals Always, we thank the donors who support the Endowment to provide not only for today, but for all the tomorrows to come.

10-Year Anniversary of the Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine

In September 2021, the Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine (ICM) team celebrated 10 years of helping to ensure healthy animals and healthy people. The ICM is made up of experts in veterinary medicine and conservation biology. Their work involves wildlife conservation, public health and helping to ensure sustainable ecosystems — all three are interconnected and affect each other.



A blood sample being collected from a red-eared slider turtle

The ICM was established in 2011 when Saint Louis Zoo leaders realized the importance of our Zoo strengthening contributions to

One Health. The goal of One Health is to bring together different disciplines—human medicine, veterinary medicine, ecology, public health, anthropology, economics, etc.—to achieve the best health for people, animals and the environment.

Some of the ICM's main projects include:

- Studying infectious diseases shared between human and nonhuman animals (called zoonotic diseases) and finding solutions to help.



Bolivian river dolphin rescue

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- Working to ensure the conservation and health of animals like turtles and tortoises, Bolivian river dolphins, African vultures, North American canids, and Cuban crocodiles.
- Engaging local schoolchildren in science and conservation projects, as well as mentoring the next generation of One Health practitioners.



ICM team with African white-backed vulture

“I feel fortunate to have led the Institute for Conservation Medicine during its first 10 years,” said ICM Director Sharon Deem, DVM, Ph.D., DACZM. “We have accomplished much in

advancing animal and human health and wildlife conservation. However, the threats to both conservation and public health also have grown during this decade, evident from current events, including the ongoing pandemic. But there is much room for optimism. There are ways people can help — even small changes, like using reusable bags and water bottles. COVID-19 has opened humanity’s collective mind to the interconnection of the health of all life. We have the opportunity to address these health challenges by caring for humans, animals and environments.”

Looking to the Future

I think we all are excited for the future and look forward to what new adventures will come.

The Zoo will enter a new era with the opening of the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park. Just imagine all we can do to help conserve animals and help connect people to animals in nature ... 425 acres of opportunity! The Kent Family Conservation and Animal Science Center, in particular, will help sustain populations of endangered species. We’ll have the space we need to breed critically endangered animals, and conservationists will be able to conduct valuable research that will benefit animals here and around the world. I can’t wait to see how it takes shape.

It’s time to say so long, but not goodbye — even though I have some new adventures on the horizon, you’ll still see me visiting the Saint Louis Zoo. Who knows, on your next Zoo visit, you may

see me wandering in the crowd, experiencing the magic of our Zoo as a guest — instead of “Where’s Waldo?” it’ll be “Where’s Jeffrey?” One of my favorite things to do at the Zoo is witness the connections our guests make with animals. It never gets old. And you never can underestimate the power of a Zoo visit — a child who is fascinated by Kali the polar bear or empowered to help the planet by taking a #byetobags pledge could be our next CEO in 50 years.

Again, thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve you as the Dana Brown President & CEO. What an incredible journey it has been, and the Saint Louis Zoo will never be far from my thoughts and heart.



Grevy's zebra