



PITTSBURGH ZOO
& AQUARIUM

2022

annual report





At the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium, being a champion for animals is at the center of all that we do.

The Zoo provides the very best nutrition, enrichment, and environment to the animals in our care, serves as a critical reservoir for endangered species, and offers robust conservation, research, and education programs.

If 2021 was a year of getting back on track after being hobbled by the pandemic, 2022 found the Zoo once again making great strides in conservation, research, and education. Animals are amazing, and each day we build upon our work to inspire our guests with the wonder of wildlife. The linchpin for all activity is the Zoo's mission: we connect people to wildlife, inspiring our communities to conserve nature for future generations. Looking back, there is much to celebrate among our impactful conservation and community initiatives.

HATCHING NEW PLANS

The Zoo developed and completed a comprehensive five-year strategic plan. This crucial document reflects the voices and diverse perspectives of more than 8,000 stakeholders who responded to our survey and participated in personal interviews, meetings, and workshops. An institutional collection plan was finalized, presenting a detailed analysis of the species we currently house at the Zoo, as well as animals we hope to acquire in the future.

This includes a Species Selection Tool that provides rationale for each animal and guides the collections future development to align with the Zoo's mission, goals, programs, and master plan. A new animal welfare monitoring process was generated and incorporated. Through this process, every individual animal in our collection will have a welfare assessment completed at minimum once every quarter. The addition of these two new tools offers real metrics to which we can measure success.



WELCOMING NEW FRIENDS

The Zoo is honored with the unique responsibility of caring for some of the planet's most incredible species. In 2022, we welcomed two nyala calves, Geo and Stevie, into our Zoo herd. Three exciting new Aquarium residents – the predatory Arapaima (fish that can reach up to 10 feet long and 400 pounds) – arrived in the spring after a 2,200-mile-long trek from Florida. Two teams of aquarists designed and fabricated a long-haul mobile tank and successfully transported the large fish to Pittsburgh over a three-day journey. Princess Daisy, a new female donkey, made her debut in Kids Kingdom. The International Conservation Center (ICC) celebrated elephant calf Tsuni's first birthday in July – a milestone for our staff who dedicated so much of their time to her round-the-clock care in her first few months. At the Zoo, we celebrated the 14th birthdays of Angeline and Zuri – a testament to our commitment to increasing the sustainability of the African elephant population in North America.



CONCENTRATING ON CONSERVATION

On the conservation beat, seven Kemp's Ridley sea turtles were successfully released in the warm waters off the coast of Cape Canaveral, Florida, as part of the Zoo's ninth year of participation in the Sea Turtle Second Chance program. In our partnership with the International Elephant Foundation, rangers in Uganda confiscated over 12 tons of leg-hold traps and wire snares that devastate wild pachyderm populations. The Abronia Project in Guatemala released its 200th Campbell's alligator lizard bred in human care back into the wild. This species was believed extinct until a small population was found in a single tree! Closer to home, a backyard conservation initiative with high school STEAM programs focused on environmental DNA study of hellbenders as a sentinel species to predict habitat health. Water was collected at specific sites and analyzed for hellbender DNA – a much safer inventory method than a physical survey, which proves difficult and can result in injury or mortality to Pennsylvania's state amphibian.

TREATING OUR CREATURES

Worldwide, there are less than 300 board-certified specialists in zoological medicine and the Pittsburgh Zoo now has two! Dr. Lauren Kane was boarded by the American College of Zoological Medicine in October. Veterinary highlights from the past year include the first time both a polar bear and pygmy hippo were anesthetized and brought to the animal hospital for a full exam. All of the aquarium's sharks and rays received complete exams with bloodwork, ultrasound, and gill scoping, as part of our revised preventative medicine program. Successful emergency surgery was performed on a largemouth bass with an infected reproductive tract. Every great ape received a flu shot – voluntarily presenting for their injections – and a veterinary cardiologist helped Harry the gorilla bounce back from a combination of dental and heart disease.





SPARKING CURIOSITY

The Zoo has the power to inspire new conservationists. In the world of Zoo education, Zoo Camp celebrated its 35th anniversary, was recognized by *Pittsburgh City Paper* with the Best Camp Award – and completely sold out! Two new vehicles wrapped with eye-catching animal designs allowed us to take the show on the road to over 200 schools and community groups, covering 3,000 miles throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia. The “Be an Animal Champion” activity guide was created for schools featuring QR codes that connect teachers to many of our conservation partners, including the Red Panda Network, Cheetah Conservation Fund, and the Seafood Watch Initiative. Over the summer, we traveled to over 30 libraries to pilot a new children’s educational program, “Sea Turtles, Save Turtles!”, about the dangers of single-use plastic.



ENHANCING EXPERIENCES

2022 witnessed many new meaningful guest experiences and learning opportunities that motivate visitors to become animal advocates. The fully immersive virtual reality attraction Gorilla Trek transported over 8,000 visitors on a once-in-a-lifetime simulated journey to view mountain gorillas in the mists of Rwanda. Wild Burgher, a new dining experience, was introduced featuring made-to-order burgers ranging from standard fixings to bacon jam and falafel. All-new silk and steel sculptures cast light throughout the Zoo as the Asian Lantern Festival returned for a second year, focusing on Asian cultures and extinct and endangered animals. A total of 109,132 guests were amazed by this spotlight spectacular. Winter nights were a little warmer as Zoo Lights, our drive-thru holiday event, illuminated the Zoo for a third straight year. More than 40 lighted animal figures were added to the shiny safari, bringing the total of in-house designed-and-created displays to over 150. Lewis the giraffe was a hit around town as the star of the Pittsburgh Wild ad campaign, appearing everywhere from banners to buses, encouraging people to visit the Zoo.



POLISHING THE PREMISES

Our physical infrastructure has direct impact on our ability to fulfill our mission. If facility management had a zodiac, 2022 would be The Year of Roof Replacement! A total of 10 roofs were renovated, the most notable endeavor being the complexly designed roof of Worlds of Discovery – all while these buildings remained open to our visitors. A complete renovation of the alpaca yard has propelled these underdog ungulates to a focal point of Kids Kingdom. Previously, their exhibit only allowed them to be viewed during peak season; now, they offer the full alpaca package all year long! After millions of children climbed the original structure, the Spider Climb was completely overhauled with an all-new web of cables and netting. Improvements to the Tropical Forest Complex included a skylight that grants our orangutans a view to the sky and exposure to fresh air.

by the numbers

36

million users

reached with Facebook



8,000
animals

call the Pittsburgh Zoo home



35

years of Zoo Camp

22,491

member households

2,200
miles

the distance to transport
Arapaima from Florida to
new home in Aquarium

225

facility rentals



600
species

represented at the Zoo



8,000
stakeholders

contributed to the
Zoo's master plan

by the numbers *Animal Health*

2,400
prescriptions filled



1,900
lab tests



1,500
exams



180
anesthetic events



11
*species treated with
laser therapy*

3
CT scans

1
MRI



new faces

The Zoo was delighted to welcome new faces to our Zoo family in 2022, including:



Morgan Ealy & Whitney French

Ayeshah Al-Humaidhi

Marissa Netti

Morgan Ealy

Jill Sampson

Whitney French

Zachary Sandler

Daryl Hoffman



Daryl Hoffman



Ayeshah Al-Humaidhi



Jill Sampson

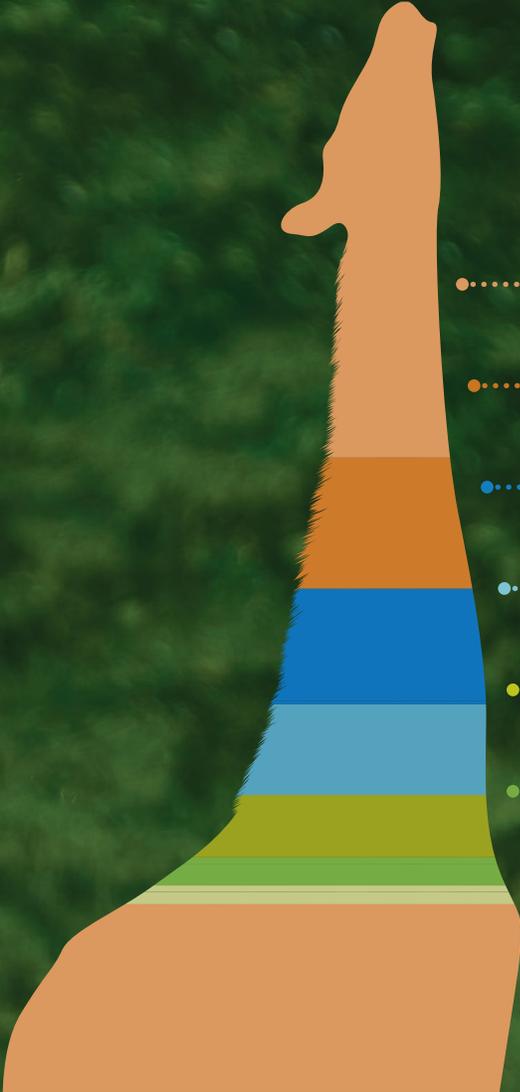
retired



Ken Kaemmerer, (12 years of service)

revenue

Total revenue: \$25,891,035



40% Operations & Admissions

19% Special Events

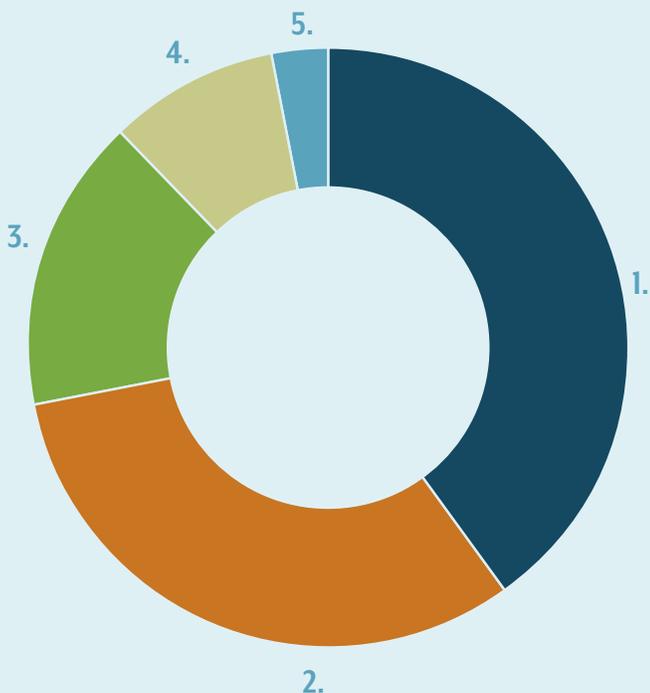
16% Allegheny Regional Asset District

14% Membership

7% Community Outreach & Marketing

3% Conservation Education Programming

1% Unearned Revenue



expenses

Total Expenses: \$21,744,316

1. Administration, Business Operations 38%

2. Animal Husbandry 32%

3. Maintenance, Horticulture, Landscaping 17%

4. Utilities 10%

5. Education 3%



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thank you for your support
