A message from Interim Executive Director, Robert Churchill

This year, we are proud to be celebrating our 90th year as Sacramento’s zoo. The zoo has been an important part of the greater Sacramento community for generations. Many of you have grown up at the zoo, and have brought your children and grandchildren to the zoo as we have evolved as one of the region’s most well loved amenities.

As the year comes to a close and we put a bow on our 90th year, we celebrate the generations of families who have enjoyed this magical place and the animals who call it home. We are grateful for your support and we are equally grateful that you are a part of the Sacramento Zoo family.

When I reflect on the progress and forward momentum at the zoo, it is so easy to be excited about the future that we all look forward to on these 14 acres. So many exciting things have happened at the zoo in 2017 alone, including the completion of a new fence around the zoo’s lake area plus a beautiful lake path and lookout (dedicated to the memory of past director, Mary Healy), the construction of a new climbing and shade structure for lions (which they seem to love), the launch of a refreshing new brand for the zoo and so much more. As we looked toward our future, we were thrilled to reveal plans for a state-of-the-art Biodiversity Center and, working with world-renowned architects CLR Design, plans are very nearly complete for a revolutionary 20-year Master Plan that will help us to completely reimagine the Sacramento Zoo.

As we close the chapter on our 90th year, we look forward with great anticipation to a very bright future for Sacramento’s beloved zoo. But we can’t get there without you! Please consider making a year-end gift to the nonprofit Sacramento Zoo. With your support, we are able to provide nutritious food, world-class veterinary care, compassionate daily care and so much more for the more than 500 rare, exotic and endangered animals that call the Sacramento Zoo home.

Thank you for being part of the Sacramento Zoo family. Thank you for being a part of our past, and thank you for growing with us as we look forward to a very exciting future!

Happy holidays from our family to yours,

Robert Churchill
Animal Chatter

**CARNIVORES** At the recommendation of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Red Panda Species Survival Plan®, a pair of young red pandas have joined our zoo. Although they will not be on exhibit due to how sensitive they are to their environment when breeding, guests will still be able to see the zoo’s other two resident red pandas, Takeo and Pili.

**UNGULATES** We are proud to introduce the newest member of the eastern bongo herd born just before midnight on September 4. The female calf, named Taylor Swift by her caretakers, was born to parents Sukari (born at the Cincinnati Zoo in 2014) and Penny (born at the San Francisco Zoo in 2014). Bongos are Critically Endangered; it is estimated there are fewer than 200 individuals left in the wild.

**BIRDS** The American flamingo chicks that have been making daily debuts for the public are now being transferred to the next stage—getting to know their flock-mates. After keepers feel comfortable with how the “introductions” are going, the youngsters will be allowed to become part of the flock!

**PRIMATES** Late in the evening on September 4, the Sacramento Zoo’s Wolf’s guenon family welcomed a new addition. Zookeepers had been monitoring the mother closely prior to the expected birth. The male infant joins the family group that includes mom, dad, and two older sisters.

**GOODY**

This fall, Goody the reticulated giraffe celebrated her 19th birthday! If Goody’s name sounds familiar, it is probably because the zoo has spoken a lot about this very special giraffe and all the wonderful care she receives at the Sacramento Zoo. Goody has arthritis and chronic joint abnormalities that affect her gait and overall movement. Just like most hooved animals, giraffes spend most of their life standing! Additionally, the majority of the body weight of a giraffe is supported by their front feet. At 1,600 pounds, joint abnormalities and arthritis can be very detrimental to a giraffe’s quality of life. This diagnosis, while not reversible or reparable, is managed through daily care from the dedicated veterinary and animal care staff. In addition to a specialized boot she wears to help modify her hoof and correct her posture, Goody also receives laser therapy, acupuncture, pulse electromagnetic therapy mat time, icing, medications, and topical pain relief patches.
Did you know that your local Sacramento Zoo is an active participant in animal conservation right here in central California? In 2017, the zoo's veterinarians examined 81 wild giant garter snakes, a record-breaking number, right here at the Dr. Murray E. Fowler Veterinary Hospital, directly aiding in the recovery process of this local species.

While we often think of implanting radio transmitters into people as a futuristic technology, it is the latest scientific trend for tracking giant garter snakes. Using non-harming traps, biologists capture wild giant garter snakes and, with the help of Sacramento Zoo and UC Davis veterinarians, complete comprehensive medical exams on each snake. Some snakes are implanted with radio transmitters. The snakes are then returned to the wild, where the radio transmitters allow researchers to track movement and other behaviors. The information obtained helps biologists create better homes for the snakes and screens for diseases from the changing environment.

When injured giant garter snakes are discovered, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife contacts the zoo so the snakes can be examined, treated and returned to the wild. One female was injured too severely to be able to hunt in the wild; she now lives at the Sacramento Zoo. The snake is also used by CDFW and USFW for training biologists to recognize this state threatened snake.

Giant garter snakes are the largest of the garter snake species and endemic (native) only to central California. Unfortunately, giant garter snakes are threatened, with only five percent of their historical habitat remaining. These shy snakes require pools of water to both hunt prey and escape predators. With the loss of natural wetlands, giant garter snakes have taken to living along the edges of rice fields and irrigation ditches. While their future is threatened, organizations are working together to protect and recover this important species.

The Sacramento Zoo is proud to work with UC Davis, United States Geological Survey, United States Fish and Wildlife Services and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to aid in their recovery process.

Want to do more for this native species? Take time to learn more about these harmless snakes, leave snakes as they are in the wild, support wetland conservation, and reduce water usage to further help giant garter snakes.
We celebrate those who have completed the program and welcome those who will embark on the journey to become one of the few, a zoo veterinarian.

**SACRAMENTO ZOO RESIDENTS**
**NAME / FIRST JOB AFTER COMPLETING THE RESIDENCY**

1974–76  
Dr. George Kollias, Cornell University

1976–78  
Dr. David Krogdahl

1976–78  
Dr. Graham Crawshaw, Toronto Zoo

1978–80  
Dr. Scott McDonald, Private Practice

1980–82  
Dr. Zalmir Cubas

1982–84  
Dr. Don Gillespie, Cincinnati Zoo

1984–86  
Dr. Joanne Paul Murphy, University of Wisconsin

1986–87  
Dr. Barbara Shor

1986–87  
Dr. Gretchen Kaufman, Tufts University

1987–89  
Dr. James Stewart, Private Practice

1989–90  
Dr. Joannes Bos

1989–91  
Dr. Mark Drew, Idaho State Fish and Game

1990–92  
Dr. J. Robin Scott

1991–93  
Dr. Nadine Lammerski, Riverbanks Zoo

1992–93  
Dr. R. Brooks Bloomfield, Private Practice

1993–95  
Dr. Genny Dumonceaux, Busch Gardens, Tampa FL

1994–96  
Dr. Mary Denver, Baltimore Zoo

1995–98  
Dr. Lisa Harrenstien, Oregon Zoo

1997–99  
Dr. Marni Lamm, LA Zoo

1998–00  
Dr. Keith Benson, Riverbanks Zoo

2001–04  
Dr. Lauren Howard, Houston Zoo

2002–05  
Dr. Nancy Boedeker, National Zoo

2003–06  
Dr. Cora Singleton, Los Angeles Zoo

2004–07  
Dr. Julio Mercado, Audubon Zoo

2005–08  
Dr. Deena Brenner, Denver Zoo

2006–09  
Dr. Jenny Waldock, Henry Doorly Zoo

2007–10  
Dr. Conor Kigallon, United Arab Emirates

2008–11  
Dr. Amanda White, USDA San Francisco

2009–12  
Dr. Anne Burgdorf, Sioux Falls, SD

2010–13  
Dr. Kristen Phair, Phoenix, AZ

2011–14  
Dr. Matt Kinney, St. Louis Zoo

2012–15  
Dr. Christine Molter, Houston Zoo

2013–16  
Dr. Katie Delk, North Carolina Zoo

2014  
Dr. Sean Brady, San Francisco Zoo

2015–18  
Dr. Mary Thurber

2016–19  
Dr. Matt Marinkovich

2017–2020  
Dr. Louden Wright

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**Leading the Charge in Animal Wellness**

Brushing a tiger's teeth, cleaning a giraffe's ear and trimming a tortoise's toenails are all in a hard day's work for zoo veterinarians and those training to join the field of zoological medicine. The Sacramento Zoo plays a key role in the training of future zoo and wildlife veterinarians as the very first zoological medicine residency program in the world. Dr. Murray E. Fowler started the program at UC Davis in 1974, and as part of the training the residents in this program provided veterinary care to the animals at the Sacramento Zoo. This successful partnership has trained 36 resident veterinarians for careers in zoological medicine and given hundreds of veterinary students the opportunity to gain invaluable experience working with exotic and endangered species at locations that include your local zoo.

The multi-site, three-year residency program begins at UC Davis and the Sacramento Zoo. During the second year of the program, residents travel to the San Diego Zoo, and the third and final year of the program is at both the San Diego Zoo Safari Park and SeaWorld San Diego. This partnership benefits the animals and veterinary students and residents alike, allowing students to receive hands-on, onsite training where they gain proficiency under the guidance of knowledgeable and experienced zoo veterinarians.

Before joining the residency program, veterinarians have already received a lot of training and education. Typically, they have completed four years of undergraduate college, four years of veterinary school, and an internship for one to two years. A zoological medicine residency program is an additional three years of specialty education for a total of 13 years of college training! At the end of all of this residency, residents must then pass a comprehensive and difficult two day examination that tests their knowledge related to caring for the wide variety of animals that reside in zoos and the wild before they are board certified in zoological medicine, and considered a specialist in the field.
MATCHMAKING ZOO-STYLE: with planning by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Sumatran Orangutan Species Survival Plan® (SSP) – Makan may have found his future mate in Indah.

In mid-September, the Sacramento Zoo welcomed Indah, a 13-year-old female Sumatran orangutan from the Houston Zoo. She joined the zoo’s other two Sumatran orangutans, 45-year-old Cheli and 14-year-old Makan.

Just as preparing to move your family to a new state requires a lot of coordination, so did moving Indah from Houston to Sacramento.

The process began with the AZA Sumatran Orangutan SSP breeding and transfer recommendation. After both zoos agreed upon the SSP recommendation, Indah’s caretakers at Houston began training her for the move to California.

At the same time, Sacramento zookeepers walked through various scenarios regarding Indah’s arrival. Which den will she sleep in? Will it be better to introduce her to Makan or Cheli first?

Sacramento Zoo and Houston Zoo keepers also shared copious videos of Makan and Indah back and forth, preparing the Sacramento Zoo’s team for Indah’s personality and her preferences. Collaboration and communication is encouraged and occurs heavily between the keepers from both zoos. They care deeply about the animals under their care, and cooperative planning ensures the best transfer outcome for these animals.

While Indah was being prepared for the move, both zoos were also filling out paperwork and information sharing. Moving Indah across state lines required
Sumatran orangutans are listed as Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and are native to the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. These arboreal apes require tall and mature forests and therefore are especially vulnerable to loss of habitat from ever-expanding palm oil plantations and deforestation. In addition, poaching for the illegal bush meat trade and taking for the illegal pet trade make their existence even more difficult. Current estimates indicate that there are only around 14,000 Sumatran orangutans left in the wild. In addition to the wild populations, two entirely new Sumatran orangutan populations are gradually being established via the reintroduction of confiscated illegal pets.

Want to learn more about everything involved in Indah’s move from one state to another before coming to see her at the Sacramento Zoo? Visit saczoo.org/zoonews to read more about her journey.
The Zoo Teen program was established at the zoo in 2007 and has been a pillar of our volunteer base. Always expanding and often recurring, the teens are making a commitment to our community and our zoo. Teens spend their time inspiring zoo visitors to become better stewards of the earth through activity stations. Here are some of the impressive feats zoo teens have accomplished over the years.

**2007 YEAR ZOO TEENS STARTED**

**NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL ZOO TEENS:** 337

**TOTAL HOURS VOLUNTEERED:** 46,505 HOURS

**NUMBER OF VISITORS INTERACTED WITH:** 109,021

**# OF PUBLIC EDUCATION STATIONS WORKED:** 2,283

**DONATIONS RECEIVED AT EDUCATION STATIONS:** $11,425.03

Donations have helped fund: conservation, Small Wonders of Africa, animal care, medical care for Goody the giraffe, Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project, animal enrichments (boomer balls, puzzle feeders, etc. for Animal Care), zoo teen program.

**2017 IS OUR 10TH YEAR ZOO TEENS STARTED**

**MOST HOURS WORKED BY 1 TEEN:** 655

**IN 3 PROGRAM YEARS (27 MONTHS)**

**MONTHS THE PROGRAM HAS RUN:** 81

**YEARS THE PROGRAM HAS RUN:** 9

**YEARS SPENT IN THE PROGRAM**

One – 151 (52%)
Two – 87 (24%)
Three – 47 (16%)
Four – 14 (5%)
Five – 10 (3%)
Six – 1 (>5%)

48% STAY FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR!

**AVERAGE # OF YEARS IN THE PROGRAM:** 1.8 YEARS
The Art of Body Language

Animals communicate with one another in a variety of ways. Communication occurs in the form of scent, sound, sight, body language, touch or even a combination of senses. The purpose of this communication could be to welcome, or to attract, to fool, threaten, or to even keep the peace amongst social groups. One of the most noticeable, but also subtle and often overlooked communication types, is the use of body language.

At one time or another, most of us have witnessed an animal's body language. For those with pets, you have probably observed that when a house cat is scared, their tail puffs up, they rise up on their toes, and the hair along the back and the body becomes erect. This is an example of the cat using body language to convey to you (or another animal) that they are a big and formidable opponent. Guests can walk through the zoo and see all of the animals using body language in many unique ways.

Chimpanzees live in large groups and have very complex societies. They use body language to communicate with one another all the time. A low-ranking member of the group needs to be able to notice when the dominant male is ready to display (his hair stands on end, he starts swaying his body, and he may use an object to throw as he runs through the group) so they can stay out of his way.

Body language can be enhanced when in combination with other types of communication. For example, if a lion wants to protect their enrichment item from another lion it may pin its ears back (body language) and add a verbal snarl to drive the point home to the other lion.

Some body language you see is part of expressing territorial ownership of a nesting site or are breeding and courtship behaviors. Flamingoes are a wonderful example of this type of communication. Not only are flamingoes loud, but during breeding season they march, move their heads from side to side (flagging), sway their necks, and can become very "fluffy" when a bird comes near their nest as a warning to stay back.

On your next visit to the zoo, watch the body language of the animals. Can you interpret what they are trying to say? Or are they simply hanging from the mesh to soak up the morning sunshine? Remember, there is a lot more to an animal's communication than just body language. Did you hear the ruffed lemurs making their loud territorial call or the male lion or jaguar roaring? The best interpreters for the art of an individual animal's communication are the zookeepers who care for them every day.
Upcoming Events & Special Programming
At the Sacramento Zoo

WELLS FARGO WEDNESDAYS
First Wednesday of Every Month
Thanks to the generous support of Wells Fargo, the first Wednesday of each month is Wells Fargo Wednesday, and each month once school class will receive a scholarship to visit the zoo! Up to four children ages 2-11 will receive free admission to the Sacramento Zoo with a paid adult.

THANKZOO
Friday, November 24
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
At this time of Thanksgiving celebrations, our thoughts turn gratefully to you, our community, with warm appreciation. As a special thank you, everyone will receive child-priced admission the day after Thanksgiving at the zoo, and receive $10 off of your membership. Only available during ThankZoo.

HOLIDAY DRIVE FOR LOAVES & FISHES
November 1 – December 24
Join the Sacramento Zoo in giving back during the season of giving thanks. Donate baby wipes, new gloves, new socks or unused toiletries at the zoo when you enter and receive $1 off admission as a thank you from the zoo.
*Not applicable on ThankZoo

HOLIDAY MAGIC
Saturday, December 9
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bundle up the family and come enjoy the holiday season at Holiday Magic! The highlight of the day is watching the animals receive special treats. Staff will be on hand to share facts, secrets and answer your questions. New this year is a member-only breakfast with Santa.

WINTER CAMP
December 27-29
January 3-5
Winter at the zoo is unlike any other time of year! Campers will explore the zoo, learn about the animals, participate in games and crafts and even get up-close and personal with some of our animal ambassadors!
ZOO MEMBERSHIP
Pay once and they can visit all year with the special gift of zoo membership! Many packages are available to suit your needs. Visit saczoo.org/membership

ZOO PARENT
The purr-fect gift for the animal lover in your life! Sponsor their favorite zoo animal with a Zoo Parent package and their name will be displayed at the zoo all year! Choose from many packages Visit saczoo.org/zooparent

GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING
This holiday, honor your loved ones with a special honorarium gift displayed right here at the zoo. You can choose from many ways to show you care including: pavers, benches, picnic tables or a donation in someone's name. Visit saczoo.org/support

*ALL DONATIONS TO THE ZOO ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GIVING OPPORTUNITIES VISIT SACZOO.ORG OR CALL 916-808-5888

PAJAMA PARTY – FREE DAY
Sunday, December 24
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wear your PJs and celebrate Christmas Eve at the zoo! Invite your friends and neighbors to this free admission day. Zoo closes early at 1:30 p.m.

THE SACRAMENTO ZOO IS CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS.

MUSEUM DAY
Saturday, February 3
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Celebrate Sacramento Area Museums on Museum Day. Enjoy half-price admission to the Sacramento Zoo and Fairytale Town and free admission to more than 25 local museums.

ESTATE PLANNING SAFARI
February 7
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
This free informative seminar will navigate through a jungle of topics presented by local attorney Mark S. Drobny, California State Bar certified legal specialist in estate planning, trust and probate law. RSVP required. Lunch included.

I HEART SACRAMENTO ZOO
Sunday, February 11
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bring your valentine to a special I Heart Sacramento Zoo day organized by the Sacramento Zoo Teen volunteers. The event features valentine-themed animal enrichments, informative talks and activity tables – all included with general admission.

GIVE THE GIFTS THEY’LL ALWAYS REMEMBER

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THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE FLOCK!

ENJOY EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND FUN THINGS TO DO FOR SACRAMENTO ZOO MEMBERS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

Member Appreciation Mornings
>> Friday and Saturdays in November, 9 to 10 a.m.
Bundle up the family and visit the zoo before we open to the public! Enjoy free rides, a 20 percent discount in the Zoofari Market gift store and so much more!

Yoga at the Zoo
>> Saturdays in November 9:15 to 10 a.m.
Free family-friendly yoga session for Sacramento Zoo members with Yoga Seed. Bring a yoga mat and get your zen on at the zoo!

ThankZoo
>> Friday, November 24
Purchase a Sacramento Zoo membership as a gift or for yourself. Receive $10 off any membership when you purchase it at the zoo on November 24.

Member Shopping Days
>> Friday, December 8 thru Sunday, December 10
Don’t wait till the last minute. Get all of your holiday shopping done early. During Member Shopping Days members receive 25 percent off unique gifts at the Zoofari Market gift store.

Holiday Magic
>> Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m.
Member-only hour.

Breakfast with Santa
>> Saturday, December 9, 8:30 and 9:45 a.m.
Enjoy a delicious member only breakfast and then enjoy a special visit with the one and only Santa Claus! Special ticket required to this member only breakfast.

VISIT SACZOO.ORG/MEMBERSHIP OR CALL 916-808-5888 TO JOIN TODAY!