



SUMMER 2017

LINCOLN PARK ZOO®

FOR WILDLIFE. FOR ALL.



**Polar bear
matchmaking**

**Mingling with
penguins**

**Smart
summer fun**

A MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS OF LINCOLN PARK ZOO

SUMMER 2017

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FOR MEMBERS OF LINCOLN PARK ZOO

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Our Impact Depends on You

Who funds Lincoln Park Zoo? You do! Through purchases and contributions, zoo members, donors and visitors provide more than 80 percent of the annual operating budget necessary to keep this privately managed institution open and free every day and support its mission of wildlife conservation, animal care and learning. Support the zoo at lpzoo.org/donate.

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Kobe, a 16-year-old female polar bear, explores Walter Family Arctic Tundra, a state-of-the-art habitat she shares with 7-year-old male Siku.

Photo by Todd Rosenberg.

**LINCOLN PARK ZOO
MAGAZINE**

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Summertime and the Learning is Easy

Summers at Lincoln Park Zoo are immersive experiences. The outdoor animal exhibits and lush gardens burst with life. Chilean flamingos offer wing salutes at the willow-fringed Waterfowl Lagoon. Red-eared slider turtles bask among the reeds on rocks at Nature Boardwalk. Clusters of summer camp kids clad in colorful T-shirts follow instructors on learning adventures around the grounds. Globe-trotting tourists and locals alike flow through the gates, the first-timers among them perhaps amazed they're able to do so for free.

We complement that organic surge of life with an action-packed calendar of events and experiences, from family-oriented fare like Campout at the Zoo to after-hours gatherings for grownups like our Adults Night Out series.

These programs serve many purposes. They provide vital earned-revenue streams for our privately managed institution, helping us provide a free, family-oriented wildlife experience in the heart of Chicago and advance the highest quality of animal care, education, science and conservation. They impart knowledge. From wildlife-themed chats at Adults Night Out to horticultural presentations at Summer Wine Fest, entertainment and enlightenment are not mutually exclusive benefits of a Lincoln Park Zoo experience.

The most immersive experience of all may be our new Malott Family Penguin Encounter program at Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove. This amazing opportunity, led by zoo educators and animal care staff, actually allows small groups of guests to enter the exhibit. You'll learn about endangered African penguins and species conservation challenges as the most curious among the colony waddle up for a closer look at you. In a sense, you are their enrichment just as much as the fish they're fed and nest burrows claimed by mated pairs.

At South Africa's Boulders Beach, wild African penguins have colonized oceanfront habitat right next to human settlement. It's a striking example of wildlife adapting to our urbanizing world—a synergy our welfare-minded scientists are studying here at the zoo as well. You can read all about Malott Family Penguin Encounter in this issue, then register for a session at lpzoo.org/penguinencounter.

Time to hit the beach. It's summer at the zoo, after all. ■

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Kevin J. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KEVIN J. BELL
PRESIDENT AND CEO



Photo by Allison Sacerdote-Yelat

Swab Story

Amphibian health is a great indicator of ecosystem health. Amphibians dwell in both aquatic and terrestrial environments. They can respire through their skin, which means that it's penetrable to gases and liquids and subsequently sensitive to environmental contaminants. In the food chain, amphibians are secondary consumers; they eat insects but are also prey for other animals.

This is why Lincoln Park Zoo scientists are measuring the effectiveness of an amphibian reintroduction and habitat restoration initiative in Lake County's MacArthur Woods Forest Preserve by monitoring the cortisol (stress hormone) levels of wood frogs, an Illinois Species in Great Need of Conservation (an Illinois Department of Natural Resources designation); spotted salamanders, a rare

species in northeastern Illinois; and spring peepers, a frog species undergoing local population decline.

In partnership with Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, scientists at the Davee Center for Epidemiology and Endocrinology use a noninvasive skin swab method—invented by Davee Center Director Rachel Santymire, Ph.D.—to test for stress and disease. From these results they'll be able to ascertain each population's overall health and adjust habitat restoration and reintroduction efforts accordingly.—Emily Altimari

Left: Ashley Hosmer, an intern supporting this research initiative, swabs a northern leopard frog to collect secreted hormones tested for stress levels.

Paint by Numbers

In April, a non-breeding pair of African painted dogs arrived at Regenstein African Journey. Topaz (left), a 7-year-old female, joins Lincoln Park Zoo from nearby Brookfield Zoo. Male Mikumi (right), who will turn 3 years old this year, hails from the Endangered Wolf Center in Eureka, Missouri. In the wild, these endangered dogs are found in sub-Saharan Africa, where they live and hunt in packs ranging from two to 30 members.—EA

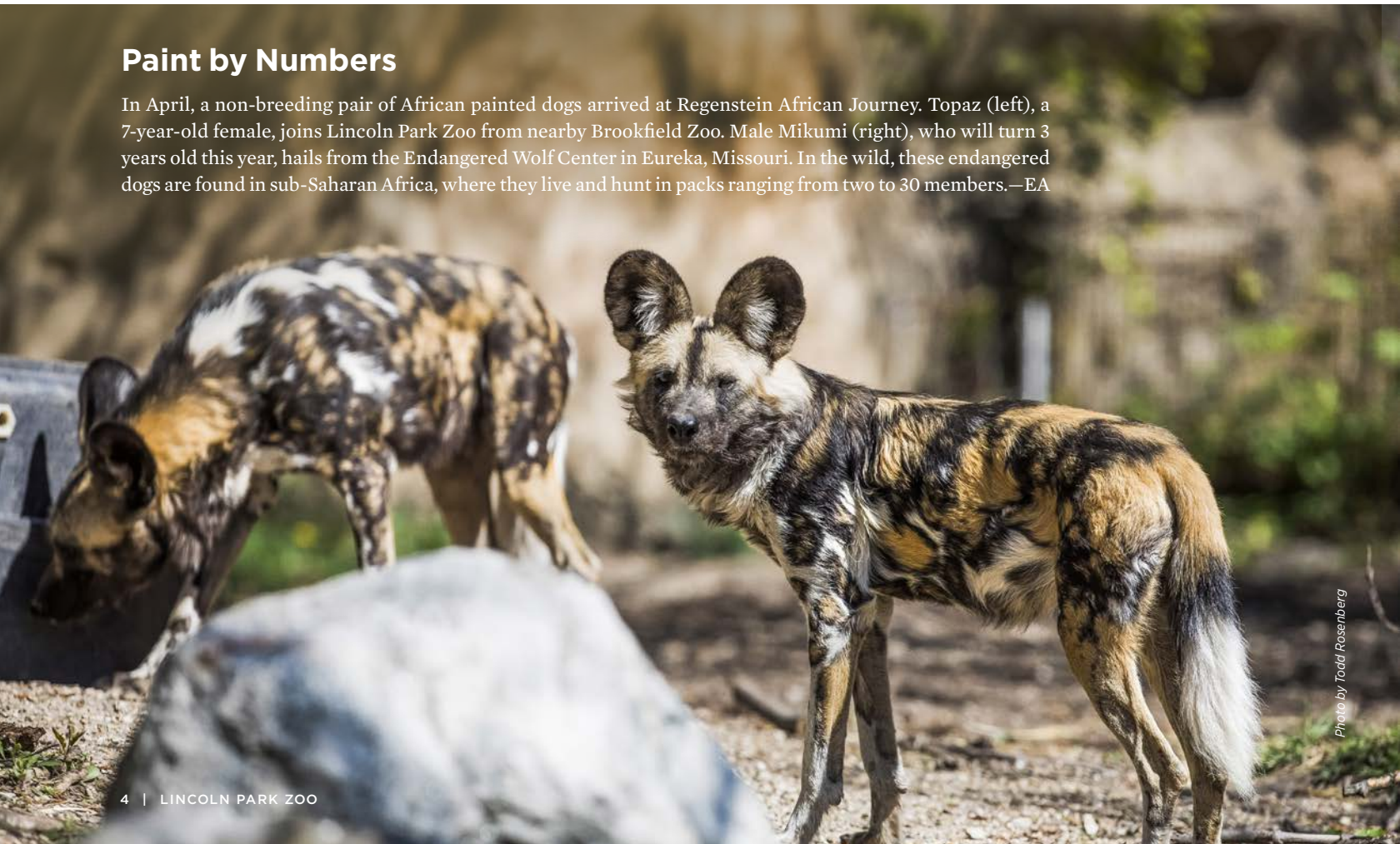


Photo by Todd Rosenberg

Solidarity for Songbirds

Poaching, habitat fragmentation and commercial markets for captive-bred birds have devastated songbird species across southeast Asia and Indonesia. Unfortunately, international conservation alliances that confront these threats and plan species recovery projects can be fragmented too.

This past February, as part of an effort to streamline those efforts, Executive Vice President Megan Ross, Ph.D., and Hope B. McCormick Curator of Birds Sunny Nelson met with partners from the region and around the world at the second Asian Songbird Trade Crisis Summit at Jurong Bird Park in Singapore. The gathering was cohosted by Wildlife Reserves Singapore and TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network managed by the World Wildlife Fund and International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The group, which meets every two years, has identified 28 species of most concern. They've established task forces to map out collaborative strategies for focuses from wildlife law enforcement to reintroduction methodologies to discerning genetic relatedness of species through non-invasive biological sample collection.

"Not much is known about many of these species, including how many are left in the wild," says Ross. "These meetings are hard, because you hear comments

like, 'We think there might be seven left.' These birds are being publicly traded in huge numbers, but they exist on such a small scale in the wild."

During a visit to the four-story, warehouse-like Pramuka Bird Market (pictured below) in Jakarta, Indonesia, Ross and Nelson saw thousands of songbirds crowded into stacked cages. While welfare concerns are neglected, such markets are common in a culture where songbirds convey status as personal possessions.

"There's a saying in Indonesia that success depends on having a home, a wife and a bird," says Nelson. "Songbird competitions are very popular, and some offer big prizes like cars to the winners. Parents pass along training tips to children."

Respecting such proud cultural traditions while working with local governments, breeders, and others to institute sustainable conservation practices is a riddle no one has yet solved. But an ongoing, three-decade recovery effort for the region's endangered Bali mynah—in which Ross and Nelson are also involved—may provide a successful model for other species.

"We're not there to change their culture. We're providing resources in an advisory capacity," says Ross. "We have practitioners from around the world in these groups who have worked with captive species and reintroduction efforts, and we want to help."—Craig Keller



Photo by Megan Ross, Ph.D.

Zebra doves for sale at Pramuka Bird Market in Jakarta, Java, Indonesia.



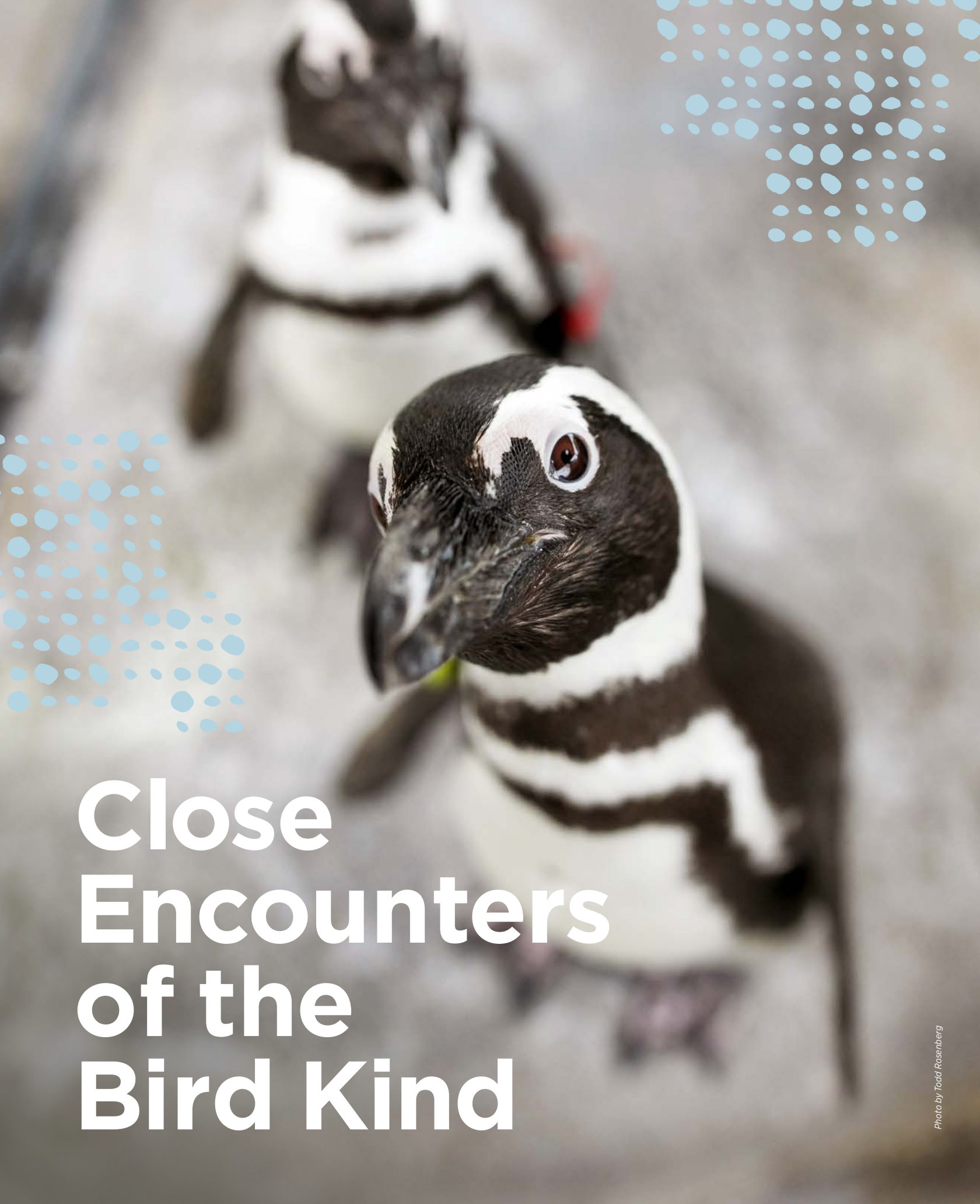
Photo by Todd Rosenberg

Treetop Tyke

A baby Diana monkey was born April 29 at Regenstein African Journey. Shown here with its mother, 20-year-old Cece, the infant's sex is not yet known. The family includes father Hops, 22, and another offspring, female Bailey, 2.

Native to western Africa, Diana monkeys are named for their browband, said to resemble the upturned crescent on the brow of Roman goddess Diana. Besides their distinctive coloration, this guenon species is remarkable for its array of facial expressions and vocalizations used to communicate within groups. In the wild, male Diana monkeys sound long-distance, anti-predator alarm calls that distinguish between predators such as leopards and eagles. Other prey species depend on these "police of the forest" for protection.

Look for the family and its new arrival in their leafy habitat near the building's southeast entrance.—CK ■



Close Encounters of the Bird Kind

An immersive, new zoo experience lets guests dive into an African penguin colony and the conservation efforts supporting this endangered species' survival



Photo by Todd Rosenberg

BY BEN HUNT

“She’s *obsessed* with penguins.”

That’s how Elin Oettinger’s family described her during a recent visit to Lincoln Park Zoo. Elin grinned and nodded in agreement. Her experience that morning may have deepened the obsession.

Elin had just taken part in a Malott Family Penguin Encounter. She and her younger brother Copeland were among the small group of people that had been inside Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove, the new exhibit that opened last fall. As a

penguin waddled curiously at their feet, zoo staff described the biology, care, and conservation of African penguins.

Penguin Encounters are a new type of experience at Lincoln Park Zoo. Registrations have only been open to the general public since mid-April, following several weeks of previews for members and volunteers. But the program’s origin goes back to before the exhibit was even under construction.

“As we were designing and planning the exhibit,” says Sunny Nelson, the zoo’s Hope B. McCormick Curator of Birds, “we thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if we could bring people into their environment and experience everything the penguins are experiencing?’”

To make that possible, the exhibit was built to accommodate up to 10 non-penguin visitors. Twice a day, staff members greet participants who have registered and paid online for the fee-based program. After a tour of the exhibit’s exterior, the group goes behind-the-scenes to a designated prep room. There, everyone puts on light protective gear to make sure that curious penguins won’t nip at their shoes. They follow a path along the

back of the exhibit to a bench built into the rocks. At this point, they may already hear the distinct vocalizations which inspired the alternate name “jackass penguin.” Once all the guests are seated, the keepers open a gate. Soon a tuxedoed bird shuffles down the path, and hearts melt.

Nelson points out that it is not uncommon for zoos and aquariums to have encounter programs featuring penguins, but she says they typically involve penguins being brought into a separate room. Lincoln Park Zoo’s program is unique because it occurs inside the birds’ normal habitat. When encounters are not taking place, the penguins have free access to the encounter area. That makes program participants essentially houseguests.

The significance of being inside the penguins’ home was felt by Mike and Doreen Lubeck (pictured, left), two longtime zoo members who signed up for a program during the preview period. “It pulls you into nature,” says Doreen. She and Mike attribute the behavior of the penguins to the familiar setting. “I was surprised by how comfortable he was,” says Mike, referring to the 1-year-old penguin they met during their encounter. “You get to see them just be themselves. If you pay attention, you see a little bit of their personalities.”

Zoo staff have also taken note of the penguins’ comfort level, especially since the encounters are entirely voluntary for them. When a session begins, the keepers do not even know which birds will participate, although some join in more often than others. (The regulars are usually the ones who approach first; the keepers close the gate after one to three penguins have entered to make it easier to monitor their behavior.)



Photo by Chris Bijalaba



South Africa's Boulders Beach colony inspired Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove's design and Penguin Encounter, which gives visitors like zoo members Mike and Doreen Lubeck (preceding page) firsthand insight into the lives of African penguins.



Photo by Todd Rosenberg

Their willingness to take part suggests that the penguins find the experience motivating. “We’re not feeding them in that space,” explains Nelson. “Even though we’re not giving them that food reinforcer, we have birds that are participating and want to go in and see what’s going on.”

Beyond being comfortable for the animals, meeting the penguins inside their habitat suits the program’s educational goals. African penguins are an endangered species, with a population at less than 5 percent of its size a century ago. The story of how they reached that state—and what is being done to help—is directly related to where they live in the world.

While people usually associate penguins with remote, icy environments, African penguins are only found north of the Antarctic Circle. They breed in colonies along the southern coast of Africa. Unlike their Antarctic cousins, African penguins often share space with people. One of their colonies sits squarely in Simon’s Town, South Africa, a suburban community near Cape Town. The colony, located on a semi-protected area known as Boulders Beach, has become a tourist attraction. Its rocky *fynbos* landscape also provided inspiration for the appearance of the penguin exhibit.

Their proximity to people makes the penguins at Boulders Beach an object lesson in coexistence. In the past, humans harvested African penguin eggs for food and used the nitrogen-rich soil in their breeding sites for fertilizer. (Why was the soil so high in nitrogen? Penguin guano, i.e. poop, had accumulated there for centuries.) These practices declined in the 20th century, but new threats have taken their place: climate change,



Take Action!

Get Cozy with the Colony
→ Register for a Penguin Encounter at lpzoo.org/penguinencounter.

oil spills, and the depletion of prey by commercial fisheries.

At the same time, people are taking actions to mitigate those threats and restore the population of African penguins. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) has taken a lead role in these efforts, naming African penguins as one of the 10 focus animals in its Saving Animals From Extinction (AZA SAFE) program. In addition to a collaborative breeding effort known as a Species Survival Plan® (SSP), AZA SAFE involves the development of artificial nest boxes to reduce the pressure of habitat scarcity on African penguins.

During Penguin Encounters, staff from the zoo's Learning Department talk about these issues with participants. Before entering the exhibit, participants see pictures of Boulders Beach. They ponder what it would be like to live next door to penguins. They learn about the threats African penguins

“Not many realize they are an example of urban wildlife.”

have faced, as well as what people are doing to help them. They learn how they're supporting conservation efforts with their program fees, and how they can help by making sustainable seafood choices.

Jo Ann Potashnick, another longtime member who attended a preview program with her family, appreciates the additional context. “It’s magical to see animals in their environment,” she says. “But it wasn’t just seeing them up close. It was putting into perspective their conservation.” As a result of attending a Penguin Encounter, she feels more likely to support efforts to preserve African penguins in the future.

Potashnick’s reaction aligns with Lincoln Park Zoo’s newly adopted vision: inspire communities to create environments where wildlife will thrive in our urbanizing world. Most people already agree that penguins are cute. Not many realize they are an example of urban wildlife. Penguin Encounters are the zoo’s latest way to reach animal lovers like Elin, the young visitor who was “obsessed with penguins,” and channel their passion into a better world for wildlife.

Ben Hunt is the Interpretive Content Developer for the zoo’s Learning Department. He is part of the team that leads Penguin Encounter sessions at Robert and Mayari Pritzker Penguin Cove.

Take Action With Us

BY MEGAN ROSS, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

You might find Penguin Encounter’s nose-to-beak experience inspiring but frustrating. You love the zoo’s African penguins but have no idea how to help ensure this endangered species’ survival in the wild. Here are a few ways you can make a difference:

1 Your **support of the zoo** helps us help African penguins! Visiting the zoo, becoming a member, ADOPTing a penguin, or participating in a Penguin Encounter benefits our work with the AZA SAFE program. That includes providing artificial nest boxes for wild colonies impacted by habitat loss.

2 For penguins to thrive, they need healthy fish populations. Sustainable fisheries carefully manage harvests today to ensure fish tomorrow for penguins—and people. To support this, you can:

→ **Buy sustainable fish.** Download the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch app. Buy green “Best Choices,” and look for yellow “Good Alternatives” or eco-certified options. Use these recommendations when dining out or shopping for seafood. The zoo is a proud partner of the Seafood Watch program, helping consumers and businesses make choices for a healthy ocean and support diverse marine ecosystems.

→ **Diversify your diet.** Shrimp, canned tuna, and salmon comprise more than half of the seafood Americans consume. Check Seafood Watch to learn which fisheries for each are sustainable or look for other “Best Choice” or “Good Alternative” options.

→ **Speak up.** At your grocery store or favorite restaurant, ask “Do you sell sustainable seafood?” If not, request that they provide sustainable options and clearly label them. Customer demand can help drive busi-

nesses to change!

→ **Amplify your impact.** Tell friends and family in conversations and on social media how sustainable seafood choices can be good for penguins—and us.



Teen Scene

BY CRAIG KELLER
PHOTOS BY CHRIS BIJALBA

Lincoln Park Zoo's new, tech-infused Learning Center brings together the Hurvis Center for Learning's teen programs under one roof. We asked four past participants to share how they benefited from the Malott Family Zoo Intern Program (ZIP), in which teens teach zoo visitors about wildlife at mobile learning stations; Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP), which partners teens with zoo scientists in urban wildlife research projects; Conservation Ambassadors Board (CAB), which plans conservation-focused public events at the zoo; and Camp Teen Volunteers (CTV), who help educators with grade-school-age kids at Conservation Camp.

Chental Handy

ZIP, 2013
ZIP mentor, 2014



Marvin Ambrocio

ZIP, 2012
ZIP mentor, 2013
RAP, 2014



“Through ZIP I found I had a passion for speaking to and educating large, public crowds. Now I’m using those leadership qualities to further my career.

We talked to almost 800 people on a really busy summer day—kids, teens, parents, adults, professionals. It makes you more flexible in connecting to different age groups. You’re in the spotlight and have to remember, ‘I’m wearing a green polo and representing the zoo, not just myself.’

Using interpretive skills and tools, we taught really cool things about animal adaptations and behaviors. Primates aren’t just swinging their arms around, they’re *brachiating* when they move through the trees.

I’m trying to help the environment in many ways. Thanks to ZIP I discovered a passion for environmental education.

Through Public Allies, which places young adults in leadership roles at nonprofits, I’m now a community outreach specialist for the Chicago Park District. I educate adults and kids about Hegewisch Marsh, a large wetland ecosystem, as well as natural areas in West Pullman, which has one of the oldest oak savannas in Chicago. I tell people, ‘Hey, you have this really cool space literally across the street from you. What can we do to get you more involved in conserving it?’”

“I learned a lot about wildlife around the city in RAP. That was my first experience doing scientific research. It was really cool for me as a high school student to help the zoo’s Urban Wildlife Institute (UWI) scientists with data collection. Another RAP intern and I even got our names in a published paper.

I studied spatial behaviors of butterflies and dragonflies at the zoo. We’d start at one end of Nature Boardwalk, walk to the other, and count the number of different species we saw.

We also put on waders and rowed out to the island there to trap, ID and release turtles to track those populations. The pond has quite a few species—huge snapping turtles, red eared sliders. The view of Nature Boardwalk from the island is beautiful. Not many people get to do that.

We also set up camera traps at the zoo and in forest preserves and parks around the Chicago area as part of UWI’s biodiversity-monitoring project. That was before they launched the chicagowildlifewatch.org website. It’s cool that the public now gets to help ID local species in those photos.

RAP and ZIP provided great professional development. I’m pursuing a degree in civil engineering now, which is not zoo-related, but those experiences helped me find and steer my passions.”



The Learning Center features tech tools like a floor-to-ceiling video touch-screen with a web cam teens can use to Skype with zoos and classrooms around the world. “We want teens to contribute in a collaborative way they know has value for the zoo’s mission,” says Teen Programs Coordinator Andy Weber.

Vanessa Rebolledo
ZIP, 2014
CAB, 2015



Abram Kidane
CTV, 2016



“Four years ago, I thought I just wanted to work directly with animals. Which is true—I’d like to have my own veterinary clinic some day. But through the ZIP and CAB programs I discovered I also like outreach—talking to people, creating awareness, and helping animals in that way too.

I helped produce two CAB events. Steve Ross, [Ph.D., director of the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes], spoke at one called Chimps at Dusk that included a scavenger hunt and team trivia to teach guests about chimpanzee welfare and how they could help. Don’t buy food products with palm oil, for example. It was cool to connect with someone so important in the field of primatology.

The other one was at Nature Boardwalk and had an urban wildlife theme. Guests did activities at different stations. We gave out plants to help save bees, and people built their own ‘birdnoculars.’

Planning a big event is not easy, but putting it on paper and seeing it executed is exciting. Board members didn’t know each other at first, so it was also a bonding experience that improved our teamwork skills.”

“I helped a pair of instructors with groups of 15–20 first and second graders at Conservation Camp. We walked around the zoo and helped them learn about animals using different themes. They were investigators for one and had to find clues around the zoo.

The instructors let me teach one of the lessons. I learned how to make it fun and interesting. Stopping in the middle of a lesson isn’t always bad. It’s okay to let kids ask you silly questions.

The kids learn so much. When they’re waiting for their parents to pick them up they tell you all about what they learned that day. That’s pretty unique. It was so much fun to spend time with them and learn about them.

It teaches you a lot about working with little kids and education. I’m a sophomore at Lane Tech and not sure what I want to do yet, but I’m interested in becoming a teacher in one of the STEM fields.

The instructors showed me how setting an example helps you influence the kids. When you sit down, the whole group sits down. When you focus and pay attention, they do too. It’s not only what you say, but what you do that has an impact.”

It's All Happening at the Zoo

We do believe it's true. Summer at the zoo is packed with events and activities that entertain and educate—often at the same time. After you waddle into a Penguin Encounter (page 6), check out these wildly varied options, then head to lpzoo.org/calendar to learn more and buy tickets.

BY CRAIG KELLER

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ASHLEY BEDORE



Twilight Safari

Wednesdays, June 28, July 26, August 23 & September 27, 6-7:30 p.m., ages 16+ \$13 (\$10 for zoo members).

Daytime crowds blocking your view? Join a Twilight Safari and see animals after the gates close! Zoo educators and horticulturists lead monthly walkabouts, delving into different animal and garden areas each time out.

Adults Night Out

Thursdays, July 6, August 10, October 12 & November 30, 6:30-10 p.m., ages 18+, \$15 (\$10 for zoo members).

Grownups at Adults Night Out roam the zoo, forage for beer and wine, and receive cognitive enrichment at informal chats by zoo scientists, educators, keepers, and horticulturists. Topics

on tap this season: polar bear match-making, plant-sex improv, and African lion pride dynamics. Special animal enrichment viewings, carousel rides and DJ tunes complete the scene. That buzz you're getting? Wildlife knowledge. Feel the learn.



Lincoln Park Zoo Challenge

Friday, August 25, 6-10 p.m., ages 21+, \$25 (\$20 for zoo members).

Solve clues and compete for sweet prizes (including one for best team costume) in the Lincoln Park Zoo

Challenge, an after-hours, all-adult adventure that turns the entire zoo into a living game board. Everyone wins at the end with a post-event celebration featuring category prizes, snacks and more. Tip: It wasn't Mrs. Peacock with a candlestick in the conservatory.

Zoo Rides

Open daily, all ages, \$3 (\$12 for 5-ride value pass).

The circle of life at the zoo extends to its AT&T Endangered Species Carousel and Lionel Train Adventure. Make the rounds astride the former's artisan-crafted wooden animals and through canyon and forest scenery aboard an electric locomotive designed by the iconic model-train manufacturer.

Campout at the Zoo

Check lpzoo.org/calendar for available Evening Encounters; families with kids ages 5-12; \$40 (\$34 for zoo members).

Full overnight spaces sold out fast for this program, where families pitch tents next to gibbons and flamingos. Evening Encounters also include after-hours exhibit visits, animal-themed activities, and s'mores 'round a campfire.

Summer Wine Fest

Friday, July 28, 6–9 p.m., ages 21+, \$49 (\$44 for zoo members); \$99 VIP Experience

Smell the bouquet in two ways at the zoo's Summer Wine Fest, which pairs wine tastings with garden strolls past fragrant flowers. Chat with zoo horticulturists while savoring a curated selection of varietals and blends accented with live music.

Yoga at the Zoo

Adult classes: Wednesdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m. & Saturdays-Sundays, 9–10 a.m., through September 3. Parent & Toddler classes: Thursdays, 10–11 a.m., through August 31. Visit lpzoo.org/yoga for class fee details.

There's only one yoga "studio" in town where you can strike a camel pose, then compare it to the real deal. Yoga at the Zoo offers weekly, outdoor classes for adults and parents with toddlers in a turtle-shell-shaped pavilion at Nature Boardwalk. Proceed at your own carapace.

Locally Sourced at the Patio

Wednesdays through August 30, 5:30–7:30 p.m., all ages, no cover charge for music.

Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music programs the live acts

at Locally Sourced at the Patio, a weekly acoustic-music series. The picturesque setting is just as harmonic: the zoo's alfresco restaurant at Café Brauer overlooking Nature Boardwalk. Order a drink special and soak up some natural rhythms.

Second Saturdays Garden Tours

July 8, August 12, September 9 & October 14, 10–11 a.m., all ages, free.

From the willow-draped Waterfowl Lagoon to mixed perennial-plant allées on the Main Mall, the zoo's gardens are as destination-worthy as the animal exhibits they complement. Enjoy blooms with a view on Second Saturdays Garden Tours monthly walkabouts led by zoo horticulturists.

Third Saturdays Garden Workshops

July 15, August 19, September 16 & October 21, 9:30–10:15 a.m., adults and teens, free.

Learn how to grow your own food! Third Saturdays Garden Workshops, led by Green City Market and The Organic Gardener at the Farm-in-the-Zoo's Edible Garden, provide tips on soil prep, sowing seeds, composting, harvesting produce and more.

Animal Training Sessions

Seal training & feeding: 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily. Polar bear training: 1 p.m. daily. Free.

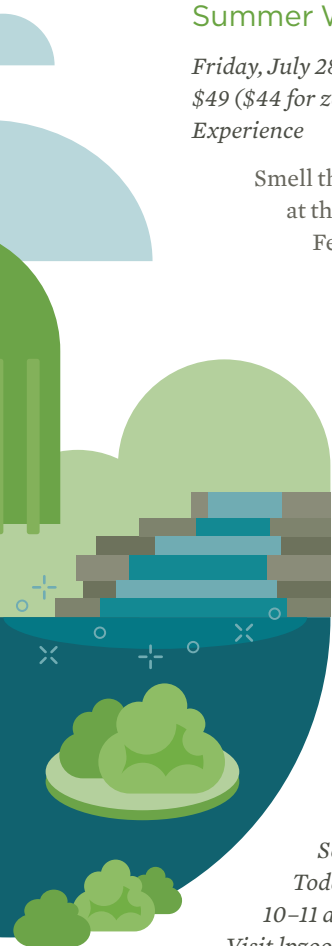
Harbor and gray seals at the Kovler Seal Pool and polar bears at Walter Family Arctic Tundra voluntarily participate

in their self care during operant-conditioning sessions with keepers. Get an eye-opening look at their amazing adaptations and the zoo's preventive care techniques as you get nose-to-nose with nature.

Gather: A Farm-to-Table Dinner

Friday, September 8, 7–10 p.m., ages 21+, \$175 (\$150 for zoo members).

Take a seat at a communal table and enjoy a five-course, locally sourced feast crafted by leading Chicago chefs and paired with wines at Gather: A Farm-to-Table Dinner. Reservations are limited for this luminous, evening experience amid the zoo's lush gardens.



Polar Attraction

Introducing polar bears can be an icy affair. Happily, relations quickly thawed for the Walter Family Arctic Tundra's matched predator pair.



Photo by Chris Bijlba

BY KATE SILVER

It's been just a few days since Siku and Kobe met for the first time this past spring, and gender roles are on display like a Mars and Venus playbook.

Kobe, with her rounded face and calm demeanor, is casually splayed on her blonde-ish belly in a cool, interior den at the Walter Family Arctic Tundra. She's gingerly eating bites of polar bear chow, one nugget at a time.

Siku isn't quite as laid-back. The 850-pound male—nearly one-third larger than Kobe—peers through a door and watches his female counterpart. He makes a deep-throated “chuffing” sound as he walks outside and then returns. His arctic, white coat ripples with each step before he pauses, dipping a back paw in a water bowl in what seems like a



Photo by Todd Rosenberg

desperate ploy to get her attention. The whole time, he's drooling.

Taking it all in, Lincoln Park Zoo General Curator Dave Bernier is impressed. "This couldn't have gone any better," he says. When it comes to introducing two massive, vulnerable carnivores, extensive preparation (and a healthy dose of optimism) come into play. For Siku and Kobe, the planning started eight months earlier.

The Planning

Siku arrived at Lincoln Park Zoo in the fall of 2016, when the new, 11,000-square-foot exhibit opened. At age 6, he was at the very beginning of his prime reproductive years, so the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Polar Bear Species Survival Plan coordinator (SSP coordinators oversee population management of select species) and the Population Management Center (PMC) began the process of matching him with a viable mate. Based at Lincoln Park Zoo, the PMC works with zoos across the country and in Canada to recommend match-ups in order to keep an animal population stable or growing.

PMC Director Sarah Long helped determine that Kobe was a good match. That means that at 16, she, too, is still in her reproductive prime. And, adds Long, "they're unrelated." Siku and Kobe are one of about 12 breeding pairs of polar

bears the PMC has recommended this year. With the changing climate and dwindling populations (in the wild and in zoos), the bears impart an important message to the public.

"The polar bear is essentially the poster child for climate change," says Long. As the Arctic warms, the species' habitat—and access to its preferred food, seals—is threatened. Scientists predict that up to two-thirds of polar bears could be lost within the next 100 years.

Lincoln Park Zoo does its part in educating visitors through twice-a-day keeper talks and informative signs. "The same adaptations that let polar bears thrive in the cold leave them vulnerable in a warming world," reads one of the signs outside Siku and Kobe's home, while another encourages visitors to join Polar Bear International's "Save Our Sea Ice" campaign to reduce carbon emissions.

The Introduction

Kobe, who came to Lincoln Park from the Pittsburgh Zoo, arrived at the Walter Family Arctic Tundra in mid-February. Zoo staff gave the two bears plenty of time to adjust to one another before the official meeting April 19. Kobe started out in an enclosed den, out of sight of Siku. But Siku knew. "He could smell her," says Bernier. "He was vocalizing very, very loudly. He wanted to get near her.

He couldn't see her yet, but he knew she was in the building." That's when the drooling began. In all his years, Siku had never been introduced to another bear. Kobe, on the other hand, had been around many bears, and showed less interest in Siku's scent.

Over the next 60 days, the bears were slowly revealed to one another. First, they could catch a glimpse from afar through an open portal. Then, they were allowed in neighboring rooms, separated by a wall and door. "Siku was obsessed with being near her," says Bernier. "He

would rattle the door sometimes." The two even slept parallel to one another in their different rooms.

Finally, it was time for what the zoo calls a "howdy." Staff removed a window panel from a door and watched as the bears put their noses to one another, through mesh. When that went well, it was time to open a door and allow for a formal introduction. Kobe allowed Siku to approach her, says Bernier. "They did some open-mouth mouthing at each other, touching each other's muzzles."

From the start, Kobe set the rules, and Siku followed them. If he came too close, she'd bellow at him and he'd back down. If she wanted space, she'd face off with him and he'd slowly back away. She was—and still is—in charge, says Bernier. "He is always pushing that envelope. He wants to be as close to her as he can. But he respects her when she's willing for him to be nearby or not."

Today and Tomorrow

In the bears' home at the Walter Family Arctic Tundra, they have steep, rocky terrain to explore, complete with an ice cave, a waterfall and stream, pools and dispensed, flaked ice. The bears eat a variety of foods, including fish, beef, a vitamin-rich, dry polar bear chow, lettuce, sweet potatoes, grapes, apples and pears. Each gets a beef shank, daily.

Using a tablet app called ZooMonitor, which Lincoln Park Zoo developed, scientists have access to data on the bears' behavior, and can evaluate their needs and welfare. And throughout the day, keepers are constantly enriching the bears, keeping them challenged and learning. That involves an array of activities, such as tossing paper bags with scents (such as hair from another zoo animal or spices, like cinnamon) into the outdoor space, giving them hardy plastic balls to toss around, offering "feeder" devices that challenge the bears to search for food and more.

And now, of course, Siku and Kobe have one another, which will bring additional enrichment to their lives—and, hopefully, more. When pairings work out, as signs point to with Siku and Kobe, they offer a glimmer of hope for the future. Drooling and all.

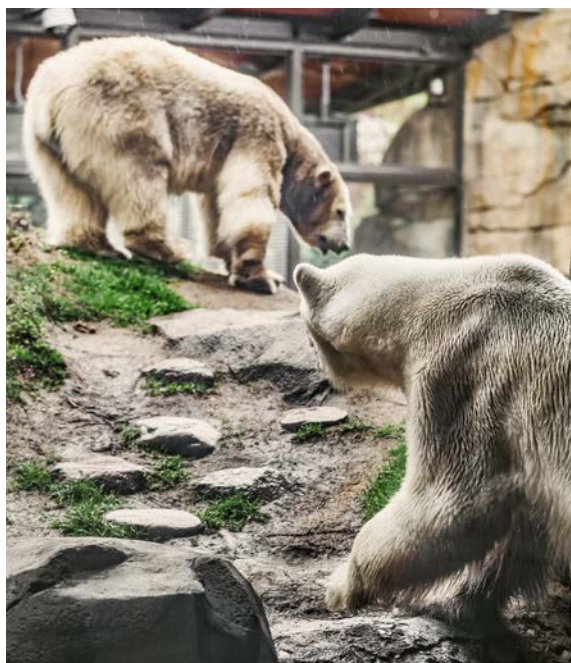


Photo by Chris Bijalba

Siku

Sex

Male

Born

December 3, 2009 at Toledo Zoo, Ohio

Age

7

Weight

Approximately 850 pounds

Arrived at Lincoln Park Zoo

October 26, 2016

Likes

Hiding enrichment devices in an underwater cave, swimming, pouncing on devices in the pool, interacting with keepers, watching Kobe

Favorite food

Beef, fish

Personality

Playful but determined

Motivated by

The possibility of Kobe's attention

Quirks

He's become very vocal and energized since Kobe arrived, and is constantly on the move—and drooling

History

Never been introduced to other polar bears

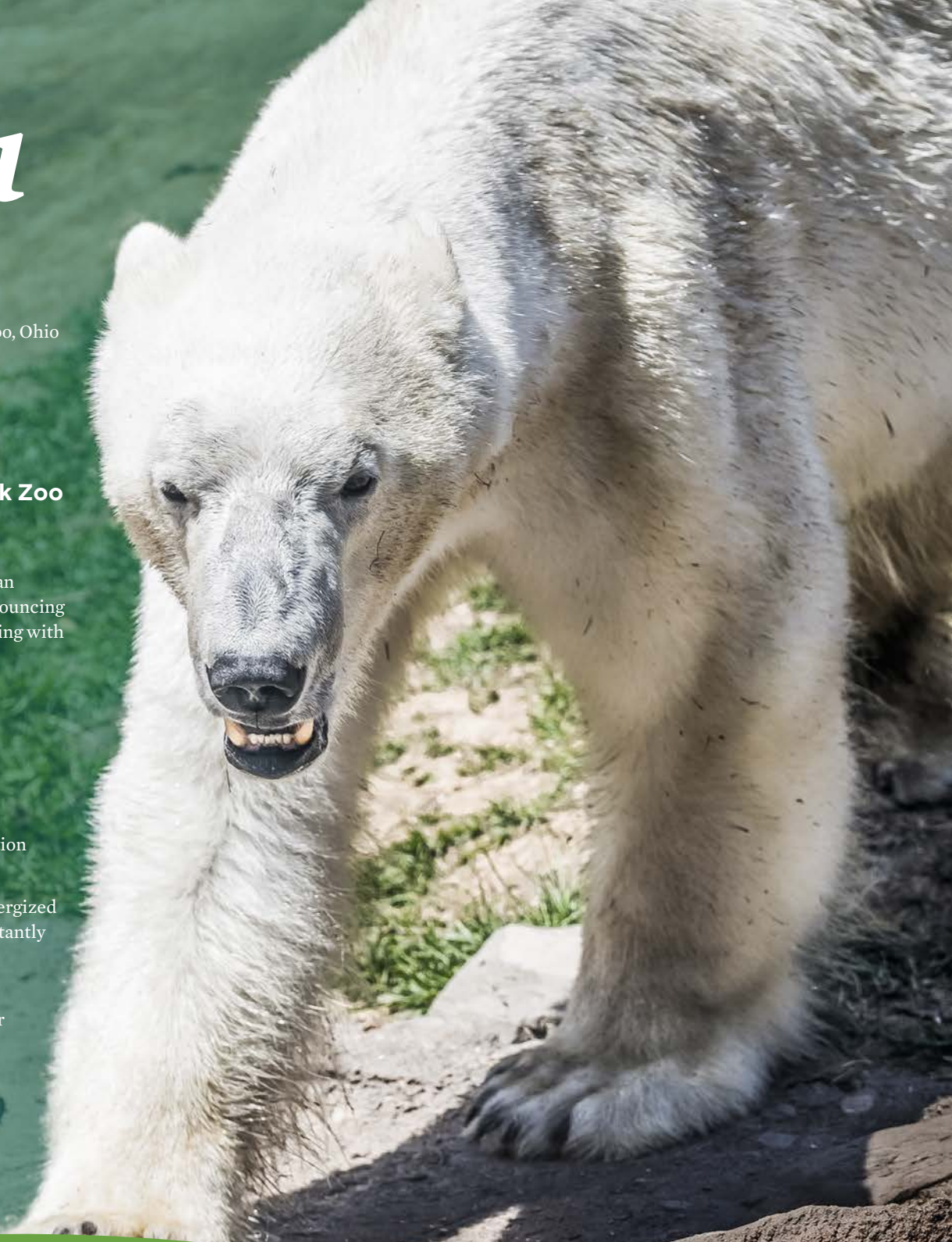


Photo by Todd Rosebeter

“He’s become very vocal and energized since Kobe arrived, and is constantly on the move—and drooling.”

A close-up photograph of a polar bear named Kobe. She is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the left. Her mouth is open, and she is eating a piece of raw meat. Her fur is a mix of white and light brown. The background is a blurred green field.

Kobe

Sex

Female

Born

November 27, 2000 at Roger Williams Park Zoo, Rhode Island

Age

16

Weight

565 pounds

Arrived at Lincoln Park Zoo

February 18, 2017

Likes

“Feeder” devices that hold food she can search for, sweet potatoes, naps, ice cubes, rolling around in dirt, interacting with keepers, sliding down the outside hill on her belly

Favorite food

Sweet potatoes, polar bear chow

Personality

Confident, relaxed but dominant

Motivated by

Food

Quirks

She’ll sometimes stick her lips out in a kind of polar bear “duck face”

History

Has been with other polar bears, but never reproduced

“She’ll sometimes stick her lips out in a kind of polar bear ‘duck face.’”



A Very Big Patient

Preventive care for a polar bear requires lots of hands on deck—and a creative prescription

BY JILLIAN BRAUN
PHOTOS BY CHRIS BIJALBA

What does it take to give a polar bear a medical checkup? Nearly 20 animal care experts (veterinarians, technicians, specialists and keepers), portable computers, ultrasound machines and scales, weeks of planning, patience, years of experience and one 565-pound polar bear.

Kobe, Walter Family Arctic Tundra's 16-year-old female polar bear, arrived at Lincoln Park Zoo in February from Pittsburgh Zoo as recommended by the Polar Bear Species Survival Plan[®]. This program is aimed at retaining genetic diversity and sustainability of the polar bear population over the next 100 years. That goal is obtained by scientifically discerning the most suitable breeding pairs to increase the likelihood of subsequent cubs. However, as the zoo's animal care staff got to know Kobe, it became apparent she was experiencing allergies, oftentimes scratching her skin or licking her paws—similar to behavior you might see in a dog.

Polar bear breeding season ranges from spring to early summer, followed by potential pregnancy and denning season later in the year. That meant the zoo had a small window in which to conduct a full

polar bear workup and provide any necessary preventive care. The zoo's Dr. Lester E. Fisher Director of Veterinary Medicine Kathryn Gamble, D.V.M., called upon reproductive expert Dr. Erin Curry, of the Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife, and board-certified dermatologist Dr. Cecilia Friberg, Dipl. ACVD, to evaluate Kobe's breeding potential and to assess the allergy issues.

On April 13, the team convened behind the scenes at Walter Family Arctic Tundra to begin the exam. After an extended ultrasound it was determined Kobe did not present reproductive concerns typical of a bear of her age, despite never having offspring. At the conclusion of a series of skin testing (similar to that received by humans), and including 70 different antigens, it turns out Kobe is allergic to mold.

However, Dr. Gamble could get creative in her methodology for treatment. "The goal is to slowly introduce Kobe to the antigens that cause an allergic reaction by creating a mixture of the antigens with organic honey containing local pollens," says Gamble.

Keepers will provide the dose during operant-conditioning sessions as part of Kobe's daily diet. The sticky honey naturally causes the bear to lick the roof of her mouth and expose her system gradually to build immunity to the allergens. In the end, the regimen will help reduce itching and enable Kobe to be more comfortable regardless of the season.





Photo by Chris Bijalba

Becky Lyons

Manager of Child and Family Learning

What she does: Manages team providing unique learning experiences for early childhood, family and adult audiences. Oversees youth camp programs, including Conservation Camp and Zoo Crew in summer.

Summer camp roll call: About 1,400 K-4th graders in Conservation Camp, 80 5-8th graders in Zoo Crew. “We might

Sunny Nelson

Hope B. McCormick
Curator of Birds

What she does: Ensures keeper staff has resources to care for the 72 species of birds here; works with other institutions to manage populations within Species Survival Plans; preps for seasonal habitat, husbandry, and enrichment needs.



Photo by Todd Rosenberg

have 135 kids here at any given time.”

Camp duties: Hiring instructors, scheduling activities with zoo keepers and scientists, safety issues, overseeing teen volunteers who assist camp groups, and more.

The payoff: “Seeing the kids and parents

excited about their zoo experience is special. Also, some questions PreK-K kids ask—while trying to figure out an armadillo’s shell, for instance—can be so ridiculous and profound at the same time.”

Ripple effect: “We’re seeing campers who were in our LEAP program as 2–3 year olds, and some campers continue with us as teen volunteers and interns. If you care about nature at an early age, research shows you’re more likely to become a conservation-minded adult!”

Favorite summer sight: “The Swan Pond and Waterfowl Lagoon exhibits require lots of work, but sometimes I pause to admire their beauty. The Chilean flamingos and migratory birds stopping through are wonderful sights to see.”

Penguin Cove update: “The African penguins are utilizing every inch of the exhibit, which tells me they’re enjoying the space. They’re fascinated by butterflies, bees, and flies, and move their heads in unison to look at them. We’ve seen pairs forming, but only Maynard and Sunny—who arrived at the zoo with that name—have a breeding recommendation now. We’ve given them off-exhibit space, hoping they will form a bond.”

Field work: “Applying our expertise to save animals in the wild—like Bali mynahs and piping plovers—is so rewarding. The zoo does more than what you see here.”

Mike Davenport

Curator of Horticulture

What he does: Manages and maintains landscapes, interiorscapes and arboreal operations across 49 acres within guidelines of zoo’s garden master plan.

The challenge: “It’s intellectually rewarding. The zoo’s gardens are like a huge puzzle you have to figure out. There are toxicity limitations because of the animals, and so many people come through here, so we have to select super-tough plants that can withstand big crowds.”

The numbers: “We’ve put in 120,000 plants since 2011.”

Current focus: “Our big project now is the Foreman Island restoration at Nature Boardwalk.”

Dietician duties: “We’re planting about 12 kinds of bamboo in our browse gardens, which will supplement the diets of herbivorous animals at the zoo. We’ve also planted trees for browse near exhibits, such as linden and willow by the rhino yard. If branches crack and fall in, the rhinos can eat it.”

Favorite garden spot: “The landscapes around the Café Brauer gate are pretty terrific with views of ponds and waterfalls on either side of the gate, sun and shade gardens that change with the seasons, and a zebra in the neighborhood.” ■—Craig Keller



Photo by Chris Bijalba



Village Green

The zoo and community partners dig in to bring a nature-filled oasis to life in Little Village

BY BETH BOTTS
PHOTOS BY CHRIS BIJALBA

Bending over a shallow wooden box with a long-handled paintbrush, Michelle Zamora carefully adds one more black ant to an army marching along the side. All around, dozens of other children, chattering in Spanish and English, are decorating brightly colored raised garden beds with beetles, butterflies and flowers, their hands smeared with paint, their laughter echoing from the apartment buildings across the street. At the other end of the city lot, volunteers are planting serviceberry and oak trees along with roses and hydrangeas in soil from which they've dug up decades-old bricks and debris.

Michelle, 12, a seventh grader at nearby Hammond Elementary School in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood, has come outdoors on a blue-sky afternoon in spring with her father and brother to help Lincoln Park Zoo and its community partners create a new green space for the school and its neighborhood. "As soon as I heard about this in school," she says softly, "I went home and told my mom that we had to be part of it."

A nature-filled open space the community can be part of: that's the hope for the zoo, the school, and their partners. "I love seeing people from across the street come out today," says Hammond School principal Anamaria Orbe. In Spanish, she assures a neighbor that the space will be open to all.

The zoo's staff designed the space to serve a range of needs.

In one corner, an outdoor classroom, with log-section stools, will provide a place for Hammond teachers to bring students outdoors. In some of the raised beds, the school will grow vegetables to show children where their food comes from. Other raised beds will be available to parents. An oval of lawn is intended for exercise and wellness activities such as yoga.

In one corner, the lot dips to create a slope—an exotic and exciting thing for children in flat Chicago. That will become a nature play area with tree stumps and a log for balancing, climbing, rolling, romping and making up games.

Alongside the lawn, a swoosh of a bed holds native grasses with seeds for birds and native flowering plants such as bee balm and coneflower that offer pollen and nectar for insects. The hopeful young trees planted around the site will grow to provide acorns, berries and perches for the local squirrels, cardinals and cedar waxwings.

This project is part of the zoo's focus on urban ecosystems, "where nature is present for the benefit of humans and wildlife alike," says Stephanie Bohr, Director of Community Innovation and Collaboration. "What we've come to understand is that to protect wildlife, you need to involve people."

Little Village, or La Villita, is a working-class Mexican-American neighborhood on Chicago's near southwest side, where families live in well-kept brick two-flats and 19th century



Brightly colored, raised garden beds decorated by children with beetles, butterflies and flowers transform an underused lot at Hammond Elementary School in Little Village. The multipurpose community garden is a collaboration brought to life by local residents and Lincoln Park Zoo educators and horticulturists.



frame houses. It's a good place for the zoo to reach out because of its "great tradition of community activism and awareness," Bohr says.

The Marshall Square Resource Network, a local coalition, helped connect the zoo with partners such as Latinos Progresando, the OPEN Center for the Arts and Hammond Elementary School. Last year, the zoo brought its Young Researchers Collaborative science-research program to seventh and eighth graders at the school. Then the subject of the underused school lot came up.

Safe, open space is scarce in Little Village. Local residents hesitate to use local boulevards and parks for fear of gangs. Too often, families stay indoors.

The school lot was an obvious opportunity to bring people out into nature. But "we wanted to let the community decide what it means to them to engage with nature," Bohr says. "Community gardens are great, but not everybody's a gardener." Lisa Hyatt, the zoo's Manager of Community Engagement, talked to students, parents, staff and neighbors to understand their needs and work out a plan. Funding came from the Pritzker Foundation, the Caerus Foundation and

a Trustee who is generously supporting community engagement and learning initiatives.

The result of all that input is a multi-purpose space that will serve wellness, wildlife and education. For Hammond's teachers, it offers new opportunities for teaching a wide range of subjects, not just science. "Nature is interdisciplinary," Bohr says. It also will be available for programming by community groups such as the OPEN Center for the Arts, which has partnered with the zoo on several projects.

With more planting help from Hammond students in a spring break science program, the garden is shaping up. It's designed to be attractive for people throughout the year, shares Joe Rothleutner, the zoo's Director of Horticulture, whose team translated the community's wishes into a design and led the planting. But every part of it—including the native plants intended to attract animals where teachers, children, parents and neighbors can get to know them—is planned to serve nature too. ■

Take Action!

EXERCISE YOUR GREEN THUMB

Reap expert tips in the Farm-in-the-Zoo's Edible Garden at our monthly Third Saturdays Garden Workshops through fall! → **Learn more at lpzoo.org/garden-workshop.**



Photo by Todd Rosenberg



Photo by Todd Rosenberg

Save on Summer Fun

From Adults Night Out to Yoga at the Zoo to alfresco bites (see page 12), members have it made in the shade with discounts on events and programs. Event ticket discounts vary (see lpzoo.org/calendar), and members get 10 percent off summer learning programs (like Twilight Safari after-hour tours) and at zoo restaurants. That includes the Patio at Café Brauer, a scenic gem nestled next to Nature Boardwalk. Bon appétit.

Park! Who Goes There?

We've installed a new parking management system in our Cannon Drive parking lot that reduces the frequency of delays and errors some guests previously experienced.

Household-level members: Yellow parking passes received prior to May 19

no longer function, but replacement passes were sent to your homes in May. New passes can be redeemed by scanning the QR code on them at the lot's exit station.

Household- and Individual-level members: To get your flat-rate \$9 parking benefit, swipe your membership card when entering the lot, pull a ticket, and pre-pay at stations at Gateway Pavilion and in the lot south of the zoo's East Gate.

Safari members and above: No change for you. Swipe your membership card in at the entrance and out at the exit.

Give Bees a Chance



Members and their guests learned about bees, tasted honey varieties, greeted goats, and cultivated agricultural knowledge at expert chats during Members-Only Morning on Saturday, May 13.

The event, packed with activities and games, gave participants exclusive access to the Farm-in-the-Zoo before gates opened to the public.

Bear Necessity

SuperZooPicnic: Polar Picnic was one cool affair on Friday, June 9. The annual after-hours member celebration gave members and their guests the entire zoo for one night. Special viewings of polar bears Siku and Kobe, picnicking on the South Lawn, carnival games, learning activities, hula-hooping to DJ tunes, and a pie-eating contest for kids made this year's gathering paw-satively perfect. ■

Take Action!



SQUAWK THIS WAY

Taking flight in July: a special Puerto Rican parrot ADOPT and Wish List that let you support care for one of the world's most endangered birds. Customize your ADOPT with an adorable plush, photo and other fun options, then treat the zoo's parrots to nutritious enrichment from our Wish List. → Shop at lpzoo.org/ADOPT and lpzoo.org/wishlist.

Green Darner Dragonfly

Despite its alien appearance, a green darner dragonfly blends into its verdant environs while perching vertically on a plant at the zoo's Nature Boardwalk.

Common throughout North America, the species rivals monarch butterflies in its epic annual migration. Swarms travel from Canada and the northern United States as far south as Central America for the winter.

One of the largest dragonfly species, green darners get their common name from long, slender abdomens that resemble darning needles.

Huge compound eyes give these predatory insects nearly 360-degree vision that includes color receptors for ultraviolet light. Their four wings can span three inches and move independently, letting them fly forward, backward and quickly change direction when hunting insect prey.

Green darner dragonflies appear at Nature Boardwalk as early as late May after living as aquatic, wingless “nymphs” hatched from eggs on the pond shoreline or developed from larvae that’s overwintered here. Nymphs molt into dragonflies after a few months. This miraculous metamorphosis is followed by a brief coda: adults live only about a month. Book now before those flights depart for Mexico in August and September. ■

—Craig Keller



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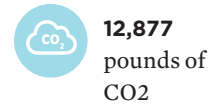
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Upcoming Events

Go to lpzoo.org/calendar for details on upcoming events.

July

- Thursday, 6**
Adults Night Out
- Saturday, 8**
Second Saturdays Garden Tour
- Friday, 14**
Zoo Ball: *The Mane Event*
- Saturday, 15**
Third Saturdays Garden Workshop
- Wednesday, 26**
Twilight Safari
- Friday, 28**
Summer Wine Fest

August

- Thursday, 10**
Adults Night Out
- Saturday, 12**
Second Saturdays Garden Tour
- Saturday, 19**
Third Saturdays Garden Workshop
- Tuesday, 22**
Wine & Wildlife
- Wednesday, 23**
Twilight Safari
- Friday, 25**
Lincoln Park Zoo Challenge

September

- Friday, 8**
Gather: A Farm-to-Table Dinner
- Saturday, 9**
Second Saturdays Garden Tour
- Saturday, 16**
Third Saturdays Garden Workshop
- Wednesday, 27**
Twilight Safari
- Friday, 29–Sunday, October 29**
(16 select dates)
Fall Fest

October

- Tuesdays, 3, 10, 17 & 24**
Zoo Ghost Tours
- Monday, 9**
Columbus Day Camp
- Thursday, 12**
Adults Night Out
- Saturday, 14**
Second Saturdays Garden Tour
- Thursday, 19**
Haunted Zoo Lecture
- Saturday, 28**
Spooky Zoo Spectacular