Spring at the Zoo is a magical time. As the last of the winter’s snow melts away and the flowers begin to bloom, the Zoo breathes new life. Whether it is a new baby animal or the first Del’s lemonade of the season, a trip to Roger Williams Park Zoo this time of year is special. While you are visiting make sure to stop by our World of Adaptations to see our river otter triplets born in March 2018. Much like they would do in the wild once old enough, our pups are set to leave mom and dad this Spring and start families of their own. As part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ North American River Otter species survival plan, our three youngsters will be making new homes throughout the country and ensuring a thriving otter population through this cooperative breeding effort. River otters are one of over 30 species housed at our Zoo that are managed collectively in North America to ensure their long-term survival. Together with other AZA zoos we participate in the Saving Animals from Extinction program – known as SAFE. I know that together and with your help we will ensure all future generations can forever enjoy wildlife and wild places.

I look forward to seeing you at the Zoo!

By Jeremy Goodman, DVM
Executive Director, RWP Zoo and RI Zoological Society

Download your digital eMembership Card on the App Store or Play Store for fast and easy access.

Download the eMembership Card app, under institutions select Roger Williams Park Zoo. Click “Find my membership cards,” enter your last name and the phone number used when purchasing - then start using your card!

Start Using Your Membership Right Away!

Please allow up to 4 hours for eMembership card app to update with your membership information. But don’t wait to visit the Zoo! Just bring a valid photo ID to any admissions booth to take advantage of your membership right away.

Please note: If you purchased your membership through the mail, your membership will be active within seven to ten working days of receiving your payment. If you are unable to find your membership on the eMembership card app, please contact the membership office at 401-785-3510 x375 during our business hours for further assistance.
Meet Ryder, the Zoo’s most adventurous youngster and first ever southern black howler monkey baby! Born on November 21, 2018 to first-time mom, Finley and dad, Ramone, this little one loves to explore and discover new friends inside his Faces of the Rainforest home.

Born with straw-colored fur, you would think Ryder gets his charming good looks from mom, yet as young males mature his coat will change to black by two and a half years of age. Now nearly five months old, he has begun trying solid foods — at least what he can snag from mom while she’s eating. Although curiosity may have this brave little one trying to venture off on his own, howler monkeys are not fully independent until age one reaching maturity at about three and a half.

**MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO**

*DID YOU KNOW?*

Southern black howler monkeys have a prehensile tail with a bare patch at the end on the underside, which they use for grasping, like an extra hand when in motion. Strong prehensile tails enable howler monkeys to grip and hang from branches. The hairless underside is sensitive, enabling them to identify texture.

**FUN FACT**

Howlers’ noises can be heard 1.8 miles away in the forest, and 3 miles away over water. This loud volume is a result of the monkey’s deep jaw and enlarged larynx and hyoid apparatus (a resonating chamber).
DiD you know?

An agouti can jump up to five feet, straight up in the air from a standing position, then spin around, land, and dash off in the opposite direction!

Roger Williams Park Zoo is lucky to be the home of an Agouti family. Dad, Nelson and mom, Pecan are the proud parents of Gunnar, born on November 17, 2018, with a second baby due in May. Generally, visitors to the Zoo will only see Pecan in the Faces of the Rainforest exhibit. Additionally, Delilah, one of our charismatic agouti animal ambassadors, will be visiting with young people in schools throughout the area to help children learn about saving rainforests.

What exactly is an agouti you ask? An agouti is a large long-legged burrowing rodent related to the guinea pig, native to Central and South America. Pairs, like Nelson and Pecan, are together for life, and breeding can happen year-round. The gestation period lasts up to 120 days, and between one and four offspring arrive in each litter. Interestingly, babies can see when they are born, and can move quickly enough to evade predators just one hour after birth. This animal generally has coarse, glossy fur that is typically greenish-brown in color. If one looks closely they will observe the rump, an orange to red color. Agoutis are critically important to the dispersal of Brazil nut seeds. In the wild the agouti will consume other seeds, fruits, roots, and leaves. If plant material is scarce, they will also eat insect larvae. At the Zoo the red-rumped agoutis eat rodent chow, guinea pig chow, cucumbers, celery, broccoli, string beans, carrots, butternut squash, peanuts, and other mixed nuts. Red-rumped agoutis prefer a forested environment, but can also inhabit thick brush, savannahs or agricultural areas near water.

Fun Fact

Agoutis are equipped with sharp incisors that are able to crack the shell of a Brazilian nut.
Congratulations to Poppy and Ricky – the proud parents of triplet binturongs born March 8. The binturong, an animal native to Southeast Asia, is vulnerable due to major threats to the animal’s habitat, degradation of the forests they live in, as well as logging and conversion of forests to non-forest land-uses throughout the binturong’s range. Sometimes known as the “bear cat” because it has a face that looks like a cat and a body like a bear with long shaggy black hair, this animal is not related to either animal. Binturongs have stiff white whiskers and a prehensile tail that can act like a fifth hand which is almost as long as their body.

When the triplets were about one-week old associate veterinarian, Dr. Kim Wojick examined the babies for heart murmurs and cleft palates. Happily, all three are healthy and according to the animal care staff, very noisy. Dad Ricky will be separated from the group, like in the wild.

At Roger Williams Park Zoo, first time mom Poppy is feeding and nurturing two of the triplets. The smallest of the triplets was pushed away from Poppy by the two stronger siblings. As a result, Thistle, as she is named, is being hand-reared in the Zoo’s Veterinary Hospital. The animal care staff is working round the clock to feed Thistle, and make sure she gains weight appropriately and continues to grow. The goal is to get this small binturong strong enough to reunite with her family.

The young are born with their eyes closed and weigh about 150-300 grams, staying hidden in their mother’s fur for the first few days. They begin to eat solid foods at about 6 to 8 weeks and are sexually mature at about 2 and a half years of age.

**Fun Fact:**
As binturongs travel around the forest, they rub a pungent substance produced in their scent glands onto branches and foliage. The animals use the odor to mark territory as well as to attract mates. The substance smells like buttery popcorn!

**Did You Know?**
The binturong is one of only two carnivores that has a prehensile tail. The other is the kinkajou. By grasping onto branches and trunks with the furry extension, the binturong moves more easily along the trees.
It's a lovely family of four – dad Gauguin, mom, Suni and the children female Gigi (born January 2018) and male Luke (born December 2018). The family, busy and active, live in the Faces of the Rainforest exhibit. A pair, like Gaugin and Suni often mate for life, and are very devoted to one another. They will strengthen their bond by grooming one another. Births are single, and when baby Saki monkeys are first born they cling to their mother’s belly and later are carried on her back until they can travel independently. Luke is still on his mother’s back but will soon be venturing out and about in the exhibit. However, Gigi is agile and moves swiftly around her habitat using her long powerful back legs to jump great distances.

How do they stay healthy at the Zoo to do all that jumping around? They enjoy primate chow, peanuts, sweet potatoes, eggs, bananas, corn on the cob, pears, string beans, carrots, peppers, oranges, grapes, squash, cucumbers, celery, and meal worms.

**Fun Fact**
Saki monkeys are known as “flying monkeys,” capable of leaping as much as 30 feet between branches.

**Did You Know?**
Saki monkeys are extremely territorial and will let out a loud roar to let others know that they have entered their territories.
World Veterinary Day celebrates the contributions of veterinarians from around the globe that help to ensure humans, animals, and the environment prosper together.

Roger Williams Park Zoo’s veterinary department is responsible for the care of everything from millipedes in the Zoo’s education ambassador animal collection to the Zoo's three largest residents, African elephants Kate, Ginny, and Alice. Providing daily medical care to invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals -- their patients vary from 2 grams to 10,000 pounds! Dr. Mike McBride is Roger Williams Park Zoo’s director of veterinary services; responsible for the daily operations of the Zoo’s John J. Palumbo Veterinary Hospital, a state-of-the art medical facility which consists of rooms for radiology, treatment, surgery as well as a complete laboratory and pharmacy. The veterinarians and the certified veterinary technicians oversee the health and welfare of more than 150 animals and are charged with managing everything from diagnosis and treatment, to preventative medicine, surgery, and nutrition.

“My job gives me the opportunity to work with a huge variety of species and individual animals,” said Dr. McBride. “It can sometimes seem overwhelming to keep up with all the variety of animals at the Zoo, but that is also what makes it so rewarding.”

If animals become sick or injured, the veterinary department can provide them with the upmost care they need. Nonetheless, like with humans, it is always better to prevent problems in the first place. Practicing preventative medicine and monitoring the ongoing health of the Zoo’s animals through routine examinations, bloodwork, vaccines, and good nutrition is key.

Dr. Kim Wojick, the Zoo’s associate veterinarian, is responsible for most of the routine examinations and medical care for the Zoo's animals. So why did Dr. Wojick become a veterinarian? “I have wanted to be a veterinarian since 2nd grade, although at that point I wanted to be a veterinarian for unicorns. I ended up choosing exotic animals due to the variety of species and the opportunities to help with conservation.”

Abigail Nickolopoulos, the Zoo’s associate veterinary technician, also enjoys working with the Zoo's vast variety of exotic animals. From monitoring anesthesia and taking radiographs to caring for neonates, her role allows her to interact with all the animals that call the Zoo home.

“I love my job here,” says Nickolopoulos, “one day I might be helping radiograph a giraffe, the next giving an injection to a rattlesnake and later taking blood from a bird. With the size of our collection we can really focus on each animal getting great preventative medical care and ensuring that they live their healthiest lives possible.”

Thanks to the passion and dedication of the Zoo’s veterinary department, we continue to work towards our mission to conserve species for future generations. The Roger Williams Park Zoo veterinary department is comprised of Dr. Mike McBride, Dr. Kim Wojick, Abigail Nickolopoulos, and Bonnie Soule.

**Did You Know?**

The term veterinarian comes from the Latin world veterinæ which means ‘working animals’.
DIY Toilet Roll Zoo Animals

Does your little one love the Zoo? Now you can take the Zoo home with you! Assemble your very own adorable Zoo animals with this upcycled toilet roll craft.

What you need:
- Toilet roll tubes
- Scissors
- Paints
- Paintbrush
- Craft glue and/or glue gun (adult supervision recommended)
- Colorful construction paper
- Optional: Googly eyes

Follow these easy steps:
1. Paint your toilet roll tubes - the more colorful the better!
2. Using construction paper cut out your animal’s head, arms, and legs.
3. Before you glue the head together, we recommend assembling it first.
4. Once you have created your creature’s head, you can start gluing. Depending on the thickness of your paper, choose between craft glue or a glue gun.
5. Add your arms and legs, and voila you have your very own adorable animal!

Try this:
- Create an entire series of adorable Zoo animals for your child to play with.
- Have your child create creatures from his/her imagination. Experiment with different colors, utilize different materials (feathers, tissue paper, buttons, etc.), or even toilet rolls vs paper towel rolls. The possibilities are endless!
- Turn this craft into a learning experience. Explain to your little one why it is important to save and protect these species.

Wild Trivia

Celebrate Endangered Species Day on May 17 – raise awareness about the importance of protecting endangered species, their habitats, and learn what you can do to help protect them.

1. Which of these endangered species were saved from extinction by Zoos?
   A. Amur leopard
   B. California condor
   C. Golden lion tamarin
   D. All of the above

2. Which North American state is home to more than 8,000 indigenous species, most of which are endangered?
   A. Texas
   B. Tennessee
   C. Hawaii
   D. California

3. Which of these endangered species were among the first to be listed under the Endangered Species Act?
   A. Whooping crane
   B. Grizzly bear
   C. American alligator
   D. All of the above

Answers located on bottom of page.

Guess Zoo?

These photos show close-up views of Roger William Park Zoo’s endangered species. Can you identify what’s in each picture?

Answers located on bottom of page.
Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information visit www.aza.org

Please follow us online and share your photos and stories!

Bite
Sample over 40 restaurants

Boogie
World Premiere Band

Bid
Online Auction

PLEASE FOLLOW US ONLINE AND SHARE YOUR PHOTOS AND STORIES!

2019 RHODE ISLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Officers
Maribeth Q. Williamson, Chair
Howard Merten, Vice Chair
Sandra L. Coletta, Treasurer
Margaret Ferguson, Secretary

Board of Trustees
Kristen Adamo
Nancy Allen
Douglas Caniglia
Barbara Cottam
Teresa A. Crean, AICP
Sarah Denby
Dana L. Goldberg
Marta Gomez-Chiarri
Patrick T. LeBeau, CFP®
Kimberley M. Little
Liz Rollins Maura
Jeffrey Mello

John J. Palumbo
Steven M. Parente
Marc Santos
Jonathan Seely
Dr. Karen E. Silva

Trustees Ex-Officio
Jeremy Goodman, DVM
Executive Director
Rhode Island Zoological Society/Roger Williams Park Zoo

Wendy Nilsson
Superintendent of Parks
Providence Parks Department

Carey Pierce
Youth Advisory Council

Chairman Emeritus
Sophie F. Danforth

Trustees Emeritus
Margaret E. Curran, Esq.
Thomas P. Dimeo
Jocelin Hamblett
James S. Harper III, VMD
Bradford B. Kopp
Arthur D. Little
Nancy G. R. Moger
Richard Nadeau
Jane S. Nelson
Cate M. Roberts
Philip A. Segal, Jr.
Robert F. Stoico

Photo Credits
Missy Wade
Brooke Ignagni

Roger Williams Park Zoo is supported and managed by the Rhode Island Zoological Society and is owned by the City of Providence.

Designers
Sara Beatrice
Tandem Designworks

For membership information call (401) 785-3510 x375 or visit rwpzoo.org.

WILD is an online publication of the Rhode Island Zoological Society, Roger Williams Park Zoo, 1000 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02907-3859.

June 29, 2019 • 7-11 pm*
at Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI

Member tickets: $100  •  Non-member tickets: $125
rwpzoo.com/zoobilee  •  401-941-3910 x453

*VIP early admission 6 pm  Zoobilee is a 21+ event

Presented by
ALEX AND ANI®