

Animal Tales

The inside scoop from your favorite zoo!

FALL 2018

BUT, THEY LOOK SO LONELY



One of the common questions we get at the zoo is, "Why is there only one animal in the exhibit? They look so lonely!"

Because we are a very social species, we tend to put the "human parameters" of what determines "quality of life" on animals. The truth is that while some animals are very social and choose to live in family groups or in large groupings, such as herds or flocks, there are some animals who actually prefer to live alone. Animals that are solitary are also often territorial and do not like the company of another animal in their territory, especially an animal of their own kind. The few times a solitary animal is with another of its kind is when it is ready to mate or is helping to care for its offspring.



At the zoo, being solitary is not the only reason you will find some of our animals living by themselves. Age becomes a factor as they get older, and the stress and potential for injury increases dramatically when paired with a younger member of their species. This scenario in the wild would normally result in the older one being killed and consumed.

As a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Rolling Hills Zoo participates in many Species Survival Plans (SSPs), and while we are working to bring in new animals to the zoo, we are also charged with caring for our geriatric population and providing quality of life until their passing, as is the case with Motomba our African lion. At one time there were three lions in that exhibit. The female, Torrey, and male, Simba who was also Motomba's brother, have since passed away. To bring in a younger male would likely cause serious injury or even death to Motomba who is now the ripe old age of 21, and he is not listed on the SSP for breeding due to his age.



Unlike the lions, many of the big cat species live solitary lives in the wild, except to breed, as in the case of our snow leopards and Amur tigers. While we have two snow leopards, they are never on exhibit together because it would be dangerous for our female as the male is so much younger. With our Amur tigers, Dhenuka and Andrea, while they are recommended for breeding by the SSP, they are not together unless we are breeding them. With four to five tigers killed each year around the world during breeding, this process is closely monitored by our keeper staff because things can get volatile quickly, and the swipe of a claw hitting a jugular vein can mean sudden death.

Sometimes a species might be alone in an exhibit due to the loss of their mate, as is the case with our mandrill, Julie. With the sudden death of our male, Frank, the SSP may eventually pair Julie with an older male since she does not enjoy the company of other females. Rusa, the zoo's female orangutan, was in a similar situation when our male, Clyde, passed. Since she too does not enjoy the company of other female orangutans, we had to wait until the SSP had identified a compatible partner for her.

Then there is the case of those who do not play nice with others, as with the zoo's capybaras. These two brothers, who were raised together and got along initially, began fighting when territory became an issue with the move to Rolling Hills Zoo. For that reason, a bamboo barrier was built between their pens to reduce visibility and stress.

Sometimes animals are exhibited alone because they are part of a "surplus" within the species, and the zoo is providing a service to the SSP by housing them. In the case of Joya, the zoo's one-horned rhino, there are more males than females in the zoo population.

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Howard Joins Rolling Hills Zoo's Board of Directors

Joshua C. Howard, attorney with Clark, Mize & Linville, Chartered for the past nine years, was recently elected to the Rolling Hills Zoo's Board of Directors.

Born and raised in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, Josh is a graduate of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and received his Juris Doctor degree, with highest distinction, from the University of Nebraska College of Law.

Josh met his wife, Jill, while at UNL, and they moved to Salina in 2009. Josh and Jill, who is from southeast Nebraska, moved to Salina not only for Josh to work at a highly respected law firm, but also to be close to family, including Jill's extended family who live in Salina.

Josh's clients look to him in planning their personal, financial, business, and family matters. In particular, Josh works with clients to construct and implement estate plans to best meet their needs and transfer their wealth as efficiently as possible.

He also has the experience necessary to walk his clients through the legal requirements and asset transfer process for an estate or trust administration. Josh's practice further focuses on corporation and LLC formation and maintenance, real estate transactions, and agricultural law issues. His practice allows him to proactively assist individuals, and he has enjoyed building trusted relationships with his clients.

The couple has two children, an 8-year-old, Elizabeth, and a 5-year-old, Luke. As a family, they enjoy exploring Salina and the many attractions Kansas has to offer. Visiting the zoo, playing at parks, and exploring science museums are at the top of their family fun list right now. Josh is a graduate of the 2010 Leadership Salina Class, and they enjoy being members of First Covenant Church.

Because the zoo is such an important part of the community, making the decision to accept a position on Rolling Hills Zoo's Board of Directors was an easy one for Josh. "The zoo greatly impacts our community, especially through educating our area's youth about animals and conservation," he commented.

As far as his role on the board, Josh sees it as an advisory position. One that looks at the zoo's "big picture" and helps shape the plans for the zoo's future goals and development. "I am very honored to be asked to serve in this capacity, and I look forward to working with the other members of the board as we guide Rolling Hills Zoo into the future," shared Howard.

But, They Look So Lonely Cover Article continued...

With our Sichuan takin, Deshi, there are more than a dozen takins that need placement, and while they have been successful in all male groups, the zoo doesn't have the space for more than one since they would each need access to indoor air conditioning during Kansas' summer heat. Needless to say, our climate also dictates which species we can host at the zoo.

Twenty years ago as the zoo was being built, the priority was to create exhibits that were as naturalistic as possible, allowing each species an area that met its current needs. However, those exhibits did not include secondary housing for older animals or species who are solitary by nature, and while some exhibits have space for newborns, not all were built with offspring in mind. Today, zoos are adding these additional features when building new exhibits as they evolve and grow in their role of animal management.

Although some of our exhibits may never have more than one animal on exhibit, either due to the animal's

preferences or the situation, Rolling Hills Zoo will continue to evolve our facilities, increasing our ability to care for and breed species as the need arises.





ART GONE WILD'S PLEIN AIR EVENT IS A GUEST FAVORITE!

During this year's Art Gone Wild Plein Air Event on September 15th, 22 regional artists along with the Zoo's own animal artists showcased their artistic talent during Salina's wildest plein air event.

Plein air is a unique art form where artists create their art in the "open air" and take their inspiration from the beauty of nature. This year's plein air event also included Children's Art Stations and a Chalk Art Station as a way for guests to engage in the experience. RHZ's animal artists were also creating that day.

This year's *Art Gone Wild Gallery Show* features 95 juried pieces by 24 regional artists using 11 different mediums. The art created during the plein air event, as well as RHZ's animals' art will also be on display. The majority of the art in this show will be available for sale.

New to the gallery show this year is an exhibit called "The Faces of Rolling Hills Zoo." These pieces were created by members of the Kansas Figure Drawing Group, with RHZ staff modeling for the group. Each piece captures the essence and likeness of the individual during a 20-minute pose.



The Art Gone Wild Gallery Show is open through January 6th, and is included with your Zoo admission.

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ZOO TO YOU

TRAVELING TO NORTHWEST KANSAS SCHOOLS

Today schools are facing shrinking budgets and increasing demands on time in the classroom, and as a result field trips to enhance learning have become more difficult to include in the curriculum. In an effort to offer a variety of engaging learning opportunities and "reverse field trips" to students and teachers in northwest Kansas, the Dane G. Hansen Foundation has awarded Rolling Hills Zoo a \$25,000 grant to bring the Zoo's educational experiences to them.

"Education, both traditional and through life experiences, was always a priority in the Hansen family. The Trustees are pleased to continue that tradition with the NW Kansas LEARNS initiative, offering students and teachers a variety of hands-on learning opportunities to enhance classroom education," said Betsy Wearing, Coordinator of Programs, Communications and New Initiatives for the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

Rolling Hills Zoo's *Zoo To You: Amazing Adaptations* program will help students develop a deeper appreciation of the natural world by connecting them to animals that will both inspire and ignite their sense of compassion and love for wildlife. Not only does this program introduce students to exotic species, but it also teaches them about native species that live right here in Kansas! Students will also gain a worldly perspective by learning about animals

from around the world and how to draw connections between animals of different species, including humans, and the many threads that connect us all. All Zoo to You programs meet Kansas curriculum standards.

The Zoo To You program will be offered to students from grades kindergarten through 8th grade, in schools within the Hansen Foundation's 26-county service area, beginning November 1st and continuing through February 28th, 2019. Providing transportation to and from the schools will be a cargo van sponsored by Long McArthur Ford of Salina, KS.



This new outreach initiative, NW Kansas LEARNS, funded by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, is combined with their other recently announced initiatives, NW Kansas ARTS and NW Kansas READS, all of which help to fulfill the Hansen Foundation's mission to improve the quality of life and provide opportunities to the people of

Northwest Kansas. Other organizations included in the NW Kansas LEARNS initiative include The Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum and Boyhood Home, the Kansas Cosmosphere, and the Kansas Historical Society. All of these opportunities are offered at no cost to NW Kansas schools in the Dane G. Hansen Foundation service area.

**DANE G. HANSEN
FOUNDATION**

Animal Updates: What's New at the Zoo?

Saying a Fond Farewell to Lucky, Alice, and Frank

Saying Good-bye to Lucky

Lucky, one of the goats in Kid's Country, was euthanized in July due to age-related illnesses. Lucky was donated to the Zoo in 2005 when he was just one year old and has called Kid's Country his home for the last 13 years. He was a very sweet goat and will be missed.

Alice Will Be Missed

Alice, one of the Zoo's young whitetail deer in North America, contracted a very fast moving and aggressive virus in August and had to be euthanized. Alice was donated to the Zoo last year by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, along with another fawn, Iris - both only one month old upon their arrival.

Frank's Sudden Death Was a Shock to All

We unexpectedly lost our male mandrill, Frank, who passed away on July 31st. Frank was a beloved member of our family and one of our signature artists, the only one who created his art through finger painting.

Frank enjoyed painting, often painting himself as well as the canvas, by rubbing the scented paint onto his chest and chin as an olfactory sensation.

Born October 14, 1996, Frank has called RHZ home since May 1999. He was one of the original mandrills when the zoo opened, along with his half-brothers Jesse and Doug, otherwise known as the James

Gang. Doug, the oldest, left the zoo in 2008 on a breeding recommendation by the Species Survival Program (SSP), and Jesse, the youngest, left the following year.

His companion Julie, now 24 years old, joined Frank at RHZ in March 2009. Due to reproductive issues of the pair, he never sired offspring, but they were a great match otherwise. Julie was very protective of Frank and often bobbed at staff if they focused too much attention on him.

"Frank was a good boy who liked attention and training, even though the keepers were not able to get him to present his feet for inspection," shared Lynne Rank, great ape keeper at RHZ. "He was a respectful mate with Julie, and when she would scold him he would run away from her. Even so, they were never found far apart." Frank will be greatly missed by all of our staff, visitors and those who loved his signature artwork.

Mandrills are listed as a Vulnerable species on the IUCN Redlist (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

New to the Zoo!

Due to new laws passed this summer, RHZ acquired four new tarantulas from the traveling exhibit, *The Art & Science of Arachnids*, owned by Build 4 Impact. These species, the ornamental tarantula, the Sri Lanka tarantula, the yellow-back tarantula, and the ivory tarantula, can no longer cross state lines without government paperwork, so Aaron Cleveland, COO of Build 4 Impact, chose to donate them to the Zoo.

They will be on exhibit in the Reptile Building.

BRINGING BEES BACK TO THE GARDEN

Honeybees are dying off worldwide. In the U.S. alone, honeybee populations have declined by about a third in recent years. The bee's plight is alarming because we depend on them for crop pollination since a third of everything we eat would not be here without bees.

Bees and flowering plants exemplify the nature of symbiosis – two organisms who benefit entirely from their relationship with each other. Our newest bee hive exhibit, *Bringing Bees Back to the Garden*, demonstrates the important relationship between bees and flowering plant species and how this interrelates with our own lives.

Earlier this year we added two bee hives to the Zoo along the pathway near the reptile building. This was made possible through a grant from the Association of Zoological Horticulture, a gift from Robert Brown, and guidance from Keith Westervelt of Blueville Nursery.

The hives consist of a series of stacked boxes. The bottom foundational box of the hive is the brood frame (the brood are the eggs, larvae and pupae of honeybees).

This is where most of the activity is taking place. The queen bee lives in this space and is constantly laying eggs. Some bees are prepping the comb for the queen to deposit eggs, others cap the cells with the eggs inside, and other bees are storing honey in order to feed the larva once the egg hatches.

As the new colony settled in, the Zoo's beekeepers, Gerrett Morris and Brenda Gunder, supplemented the bee's food source with sugar water until the bees had filled eight of the 10 frames in the second box with brood and honey. After the 8th frame was full another tier was added. This tier is a small box called the honey super, and is where the honey will be harvested from. Our hope is to sell some of this honey at the Zoo's Gift Shop later this fall.

Aside from honey production, this exhibit will aid our education team as they discuss the importance of wildlife conservation and demonstrate how animals can relate to other organisms in their environment.

New Staff at the Zoo!

Rolling Hills Zoo would like to welcome the following new employees:



Nick Mihalitsas
Small Primate Keeper

Nicholas "Nick" Mihalitsas was hired as a small primate keeper at Rolling Hills Zoo. He previously worked at the Scovill Zoo in Decatur, Illinois where he was a swing keeper. There he worked with primates, carnivores, hoofstock and various species of exotic birds. Nick has a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from Ohio State University.



Jennifer Vrchota
Small Primate Keeper

Jennifer Vrchota is working as a small primate keeper at RHZ. Jennifer comes to Rolling Hills Zoo from Bramble Park Zoo in Watertown, South Dakota. Jennifer worked with a variety of animals while at Bramble Park. Jennifer graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in ecology and environmental sciences with a minor in communication studies and theatre.



Brooke Rose
Hoofstock Keeper

Brooke Rose is a new hoofstock keeper at Rolling Hills Zoo. Brooke was a keeper at the Wildwood Wildlife Park in Minocqua, Wisconsin prior to coming to RHZ, where she worked with a large variety of animals. Brooke attended the University of Wisconsin where she majored in biology, and minored in captive wildlife management.

OTHER STAFF NEWS

Jennifer Nunez, a 2018 graduate of Ell-Saline High School, worked in guest services this summer at Rolling Hills Zoo and is now doing a volunteer internship in the carnivore area on Sundays while she pursues her degree in biology at Hutchinson Community College.

Devney Olson-Bowen has accepted the position of Keeper Supervisor at Rolling Hills Zoo. Devney brings to this position several years of supervisory experience as well as a good background in animal enrichment evaluation which will translate well as the zoo develops our Animal Welfare Assessments per AZA new standards. Devney has been a hoofstock keeper at Rolling Hills Zoo for the last 2 ½ years and is replacing Vickie Musselman, who is moving into an administrative role as Curator Assistant/Registrar. In that role, Vickie will be assisting Curator, Brenda Gunder, in managing the animal collection and maintaining their records. Vickie has been with Rolling Hills Zoo for over 19 years, starting in March of 1999 before the zoo officially opened.

TASTE OF ADVENTURE

• FEATURING TRAVIS LIVIERI •
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th at 6:00 PM

Explore an evening of cocktails and dinner while enjoying an exceptional presentation by Travis Livieri, Executive Director and Founder of the Prairie Wildlife Research, as he shares with us the ecology and history of prairie dog and black-footed ferret endangerment.

Travis has received several awards, including an Emmy & U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester Partner of the Year. Travis was also featured in Jane Goodall's "Hope for Animals" and appeared in the documentary film "Return of the Prairie Bandit" in 2011. He is a member of the The Wildlife Society, the American Society of Mammalogists, and the Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Implementation Team

\$30/MEMBERS • \$35/NON MEMBERS
Reservation required.

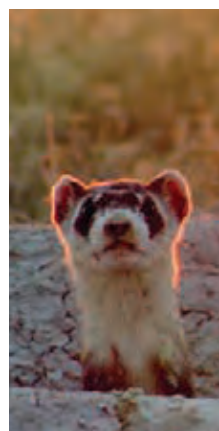
Reserve online at rollinghillzoo.org or call (785) 827-9488 ext. 114.
Reservation deadline is 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 6th.



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**RESERVE
ONLINE
TODAY!**



ZOO TEENS

CELEBRATE A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER AT RHZ!

financed by money earned through face painting and the sales of sno cones and jewelry in the zoo. To qualify for the trip, each teen is required to volunteer a minimum of 79 hours in a variety of areas which include animal touch carts, camp assistance, birthday parties, Toddler Tuesday, and the zoo's special events. This year 11 teens qualified for the trip. The following are highlights from their journey.



Departing RHZ early, their first stop was at the Sea Life Aquarium in Kansas City. There the teens were able to touch marine life, play the interactive game *Saving Sea Turtles*, and view some fascinating sea creatures such as seahorses, sharks and sting rays.

The next stop was at Escape Rooms KC where the teens split into two groups, each in a different escape room. These rooms proved to be more than challenging as neither group made it out in the allotted time. In their own defense, the two rooms were the most difficult rooms available, one having only a 5% success rate. Nevertheless, both groups had a great time. Afterward, the teens enjoyed some good barbeque at Plowboys before retiring to their hotel in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Day two started at 5:30 a.m. as they headed out to Meramec Caverns in southeastern Missouri. Here the teens learned the difference between stalactites and stalagmites and managed to turn all their phones off for a whole 30 seconds in order to experience absolute pitch blackness! From the caverns they traveled on to St. Louis to ascend

Each year the Zoo Teen program at Rolling Hills Zoo ends the summer by taking a trip

to the top of the St. Louis Arch. The arch was a bit uncomfortable for some and a real treat for others. However, leaving their comfort zone in order to expand their awareness is one of the lessons embraced at the zoo, and all the teens were on board for the experience. After the Arch, the final stop was at the St. Louis Zoo, recently voted the #1 zoo in America. The zoo staff treated the teens to a night scavenger hunt, testing the teens' knowledge of animals and trivia, followed by a flashlight tour of the zoo. The day ended with the teens making their beds under the sea lion tunnel where they rested comfortably after a busy day.



The day ended with the teens making their beds under the sea lion tunnel where they rested comfortably after a busy day.

The next day the teens enjoyed breakfast in the zoo with a quick peek at the animals they hadn't seen the night before. They were also able to pet the stingrays and visit the gift shop before the return trip home. The eight-hour drive went by quickly with numerous games of 20 questions along the way. The Zoo Teen trip was a wonderful way to end an extremely

successful summer at the zoo!

The Zoo Teens want to extend a special thank you to **Long McArthur** who donated the use of the van for this year's Zoo Teen trip.

Know a Teen interested in becoming a Zoo Teen?

Any 13-17 year old teen who wishes to learn more about the zoo, wildlife conservation, exotic animals, or gain valuable job-related experience may apply to become a Zoo Teen by downloading an application online at rollinghillszoo.org/volunteer. The application deadline is February 1, 2019.



presents...

RHINO RUMBLE POKER RUN



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018

Let the rubber hit the road for a wild ride through Central Kansas!

Top 3 Best-Hand Awards

- 1st Place - \$500 Gift Certificate to Harley Davidson of Salina
- 2nd Place - \$250 Gift Certificate to Harley Davidson of Salina
- 3rd Place - a Rolling Hills Zoo Family Membership

Also Sponsored by:



Early Registration: \$20
Day of Registration: \$25
Register online at rollinghillszoo.org!



Saturday, October 13, 2018

HALF-PRICE Admission*

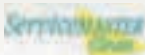
FREE Pumpkin Per Child!**

Wear Your Costume for a FREE gift!**

*Ages 12 & under w/paid adult. **While supplies last.

**Face Painting (\$) • Pumpkin Decorating • Games
Keeper Encounters • Magical Monster Bubbles
Fire Truck • Hay Bale Maze for Kids • Food & MORE!**

Also Sponsored By:



Sunday, December 2nd

10:30 am • 12:30 pm • 2:30 pm

Reservation(s) required.

Experience the *Magic of Christmas*
with your children this year during
Cookies with Santa at Rolling Hills Zoo!

Each child will get to decorate their own giant cookie, enjoy a special story and entertainment, write and mail a letter to Santa, create their own "Make & Take" ornament, and have a personal visit with Santa!

Children 12 and under:

\$10/Members • \$15/Non Members

Adults: Free (2 per child) • \$10/Extra Adult

Please note: Infants or toddlers under age 3 attending *and participating* in activities are required to purchase admission. If your infant or toddler, under age 3, will be attending but *not participating*, and only observing, then no admission purchase is needed.

Sponsored By:



For more information on ANY of these, or other upcoming events:

Call (785) 827-9488, ext. 114 or visit our website: **www.rollinghillszoo.org**





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SALINA **arts & entertainment!**
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Schedule of Events

October 2	Toddler Tuesday	December 2	Cookies with Santa
October 6	Rhino Rumble Poker Run	December 4	Toddler Tuesday
October 13	Pumpkin PaZoola	December 24	Christmas Eve <i>RHZ is Closed</i>
November 6	Toddler Tuesday	December 25	Merry Christmas <i>RHZ is Closed</i>
November 10	Taste of Adventure	January 1	Happy New Year <i>RHZ is Closed</i>
November 22	Happy Thanksgiving <i>RHZ is Closed</i>		

UNIQUE ZOOTASTIC HOLIDAY GIFTS

Rolling Hills Zoo has a great selection of unique Christmas gifts for everyone on your shopping list.

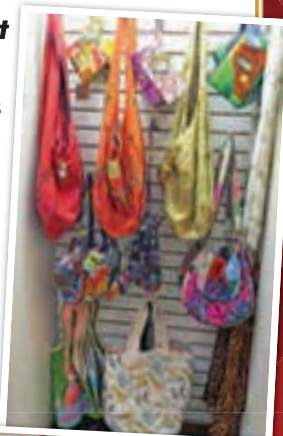
You can choose a **one-of-a-kind piece** of art from the **Art Gone Wild Gallery Show**.

A **membership to Rolling Hills Zoo** is the gift that keeps on giving all year long! We have memberships available for individuals, families, and couples.

If your animal lover has a favorite animal, they would love receiving an **animal adoption**. Each animal adoption includes a certificate of adoption, an animal fact sheet and animal photo.

The **Elephant Trunk Gift Shop at Rolling Hills Zoo** has a fun selection of gift items for individuals of all ages, including Fair Trade items, in which purchases of these items help to support people in under developed countries. Plus, we have a variety of tees for all ages, puzzles, books, stuffed animals, baby items, jewelry, and so much more! Don't forget to take a peek at our clearance section as well!

For the person that has literally everything, making a donation in their name to Rolling Hills Zoo provides a lasting gift that supports the Zoo, while also participating in wildlife conservation locally and around the world.



Our Mission

Rolling Hills Zoo is dedicated to the preservation of wildlife through participation in conservation programs and by providing fun and interactive educational experiences.

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