

**MONTEREY
ZOOLOGICAL**

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June ~ 2023

Dear Animal Enthusiasts and Supporters of Monterey Zoological Society,

Welcome, to our 2023 update, and what an update it will prove to be as 2023 has followed suit with 2020-21 and 22 in the competition to surpass the stress of the previous year... But in the end, we're proud to say that we are STILL HERE and all the better for having survived that stress.

Board of Directors:

Charlie Sammut, President

Bart Walker, Board Chair

Vickey Overstreet, CFO

Darlene Geekie, Secretary

Justin Bond, Director

Cheryl Marquez, Director


Mike Eremeyeff, Director

Steve Flaherty, Director

Rob Dicely, Director

Kristine Perham, Director

In the interest of transparency and because several have inquired on the matter, the year started with yet another very unfounded and stressful legal battle that was waged upon our zoo founder, Charlie Sammut by the USFW Service regarding the movement of two lemurs nearly five years earlier. To make a very long story much shorter, Charlie was included in an investigation with several others who were being investigated for several matters he had nothing to do with however, upon finally meeting with the govt. to explain his minimal involvement, face to face, the govt. took little time doing the right thing, removing Charlie from the matter completely. Although we cannot begin to define stress caused by this nightmare, we could not be more thankful that it concluded or that it concluded in the fashion that it did. Charlie, Lisa and the Monterey Zoo Board of Directors are now back to doing what we set forth to do originally, bringing our community the world-class zoological experience it so deserves.

To conclude our legal report, our battle with  appears to be coming to an end. Although we are unable to share the details, we are happy to state that it should have no ill effects on Monterey Zoo whatsoever. Hopefully this is the last you will hear of PETA in our newsletters.

Advisors to the Board

James H Hay, DVM

Monterey Zoo has endured its fair share of weather at the end of 2022 and into 2023, to include mud-slides and unprecedented rains that forced the closure of our small zoo which in turn eliminated our sources of support for our staff and animals, but once again and as always, our community stepped up to keep us afloat (literally) therefore the animals never went without (anything!!!) and the staff remained the same.



www.montereyzoo.org
Monterey Zoo is a
501(c)(3) non-profit
charity - est. Dec. 2011
Tax ID # 26-0391615

Improvements...



Upon the completion of our incredible lemur habitat, generously donated by Monterey Zoo Board Member, Cheryl Marquez, our zoo's founder, director, builder etc... watched our family of lemurs grow and grow, eventually making the habitat seem small in his opinion. So back to the drawing board he went, hoping to build a large play-yard behind their exhibit that they could frequent should they wish to... Once again, our Anonymous Donor Angel heard of the project and told Charlie to, "go to work..." and to work he went, making yet another dream become a reality for six little lemurs. Today, their habitat, space and mental enrichment rivals that of some of the biggest zoos in the country. Today, all is as it should be in "Lemurville"



The dream...

The path from Charlie's drawing board to the reality is not always an easy path... but this time, it truly came to be.



The reality...



A very special thank-you to both Cheryl and our Anonymous Donor Angel for helping our zoo evolve and in doing so, helping make the lives of these little critters that much more special.

It's not always easy finding donors that our willing to contribute to the smaller critters but in our eyes, they're all the same animal, they're just different shape, deserving of the same love and attention.

Newcomers to Monterey Zoo...

No doubt the best part of our news-letter, newcomers to Monterey Zoo are always fun to report as our zoo family continues to grow. Due to our family, fortunately, remaining healthy and well, new-comers are few and far between however it does occasionally happen. One such newcomer is yet another addition to our "Insert Rhino Program". When a zoo in Florida called to see if we might be interested in yet a third-young -bachelor southern white rhino, Charlie of course was completely on board. This would complete our "crash" of rhinos as well as our initial plan to house three bachelors. "Bash" arrived in May of 2023, and was introduced to our "Buddy" and "Billy-Ray" shortly after. Today, our crash is doing very well, with all three rhinos getting along with each other as well as the two elderly water buffalo and three zebras they share their habitat with.

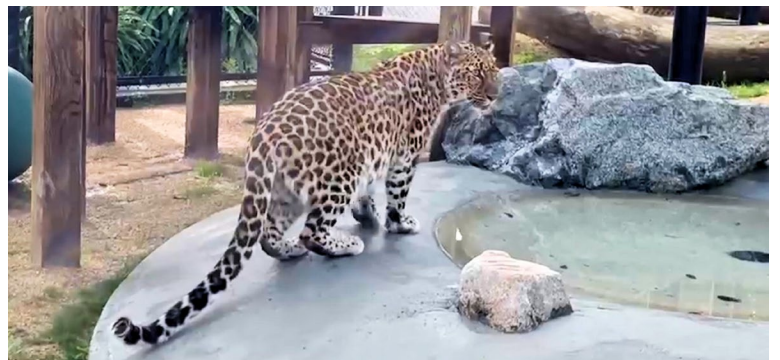


In support of our new found flagship species, Monterey Zoo has partnered with the **International Rhino Assoc. (IRF)** to support their efforts to save rhinos world-wide. We are planning to host our FIRST fund-raising event for IRF at our zoo on November 11th, 2023. This is going to be a very unique event and opportunity to meet a rhino, hands-on... followed by a very stimulating and compelling afternoon/early evening presentation and event. Please watch the event page of our website at montereyzoo.org for more information on this event. We hope you'll be able to join us.



To add a little color to our lives, Monterey Zoo was called upon by USDA to assist in the closure of a large feline conservation breeding facility in Southern California. The Exotic Feline Breeding Ctr. had for many years contributed to feline conservation as well as helping populate zoos around the country with animals to do the same, however, the aftermath of COVID coupled with the changing challenges of doing business in California forced their closure creating the need to re-home many cats. Zoos around the country stepped up to provide homes for the cats to include Monterey Zoo. With all that said, we introduce "Zeya", an Amur Leopard.

Amur leopards are in fact THE MOST endangered species of cat on the planet today, but Zeya is beyond an age that allows her to participate in the captive breeding program and therefore simply needed a forever home at Monterey Zoo where her beauty and majesty can continue to benefit conservation.

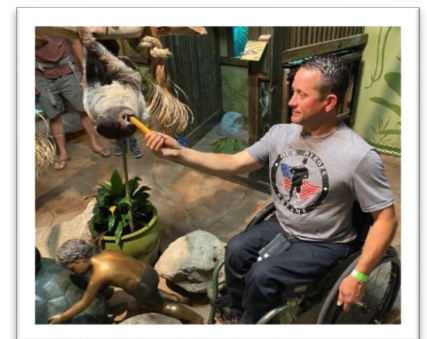


We lov'em all, big and small... so we were equally thrilled when our efforts (taking over a year) to achieve federal permits came to fruition, enabling us to adopt two new brown pelicans from a re-hab facility in Florida. "Danny" and "Sandy" arrived in March of 2023 along with a pair of laughing gulls they were in re-hab with. Obviously, all the birds were deemed non-releasable therefore needing a forever home at Monterey Zoo. One of the pelicans is actually missing half of its upper beak. We are exploring 3-D printer studies that we hope will provide for an awesome new story in our next newsletter.



Sharing with those who do so much for us...

As we strive to share and allow the animals of Monterey Zoo to help other non-profits in our community, we continue to work with the Our Hero's Dreams Foundation to assist disabled veterans with their challenges in life. We encourage you to visit www.ourherosdreams.org to learn much more about this special program.



We had so very much fun last year, donating our time and animals To the Monterey Firefighters for their annual calendar, we very proudly agreed to do it again for 2024. We'd love to show you more of the photos we shot for this year's calendar for they are nothing short of SPECTACULAR...

... but we don't want to ruin their release ~ but rumor has it That these calendars will be available at our Annual Zoo Gala on Sept. 23,2023 and we've even heard that you might be able to meet and be photographed with the models...



Your help and support is so very much needed, now, more than ever...

As we continue to allow our zoo to evolve into a more user friendly and educational experience for ALL, we continue to offer the opportunity for you to help. Benches, tables and glass-viewing windows (to enable the disabled to see our animals more clearly) are all still avail for sponsorship. These sponsorships are perpetual and ideal to commemorate a loved one, pet, your business in the community and more.



We're hoping you'll help us achieve this goal. For a \$750 donation, the OHD veterans along with zoo staff will volunteer their time to install one (or more) of these 38"x 84" tempered ½" window barriers. And for doing so, we'll install a forever plaque with your family's or company's name on the window to commemorate your effort to help our zoo and our community. **For more information, simply visit www.montereyzoo.org/donate/** and go to our Donate page where you can download a PDF with all the information you'll need to get your glass panel on the way.

Our 2023 Annual ZOO Fundraising Gala...

Our Annual Fundraising Gala is scheduled for **September 23th, 2023**. The theme this year is ***Out of Africa***, and if you've ever attended one of our galas before, you can imagine how spectacular this year's gala will be.

Tickets sell out FAST and we HATE having to turn anyone away so if you're one of the many regulars that attend this very unique and worth while event, PLEASE contact our office soon to inquire about tickets.



www.montereyzoo.org/events/ to learn more about this event.

This evening is a semi-formal event that includes fine wines, cocktails, a strolling appetizer reception, an exquisite plated dinner, a very memorable zoo presentation, live and silent auctions, raffles, live entertainment and more!!! It is without a doubt; unlike ANY other fund-raising event you have ever attended!

2022 Gala – theme:
A Night on the Bayou



Might you have a service or item you could donate to our live or silent auction for this event? It doesn't have to be animal related. Sports tickets, a cool collectable, a musical instrument... Anything you feel someone might enjoy enough to make a donation to the zoo.

We very much THANK all those who have helped us achieve so much in such a short period of time. We thank those who continue to help us today as we strive to become the BEST and BIGGEST "little" ZOO in the United States today. In fact, we're not feeling so "little" anymore...!!!

Best Wishes,
Monterey Zoological Society
Board of Directors