



# JULY

MONTHLY OVERVIEW REPORT / 2025

COLCHESTER  
ZOOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

Charity no. 1105621



# THE ZOO

## ANIMAL TRANSFERS

6 Orpington hens arrived from a private breeder on 15th July; these are currently out of public view serving 30-day quarantine.

On the 16th July 2025, we welcomed two female lion-tailed macaques, Kizzy and Jade. Following a breeding recommendation from the EEP (EAZA Ex situ Programme) Coordinator, they arrived from Fota Wildlife Park in the Republic of Ireland.

Smooth-coated otter Dara moved off show in preparation for transfer to another zoo.

Male squirrel monkey Malcolm transferred to Ponderosa Zoo, West Yorkshire on 22nd July.

The female Philippine tree skink housed at Kingdom of the Wild moved out of public view; there is currently one male in the habitat at Kingdom of the Wild.

Male Visayan spotted deer Flynn transferred to Watatunga Wildlife Reserve, Kings Lynn on 26th July.

A group of 17 silver dollar fish arrived on 26th July; these are currently out of public view serving 30 day quarantine.

## 1 ANIMAL BIRTH

On 13th July, female rock hyrax Cindy-Lou gave birth to twins; this is her second litter since arriving in 2023.



# THE ZOO

## HABITAT PLANNING

The Animal Care Team and Gardeners carried out a number of habitat adaptations this month, such as new perching in the prehensile-tailed skinks and Victoria crowned pigeons.

## HABITAT MAINTENANCE

New lighting was added to the slender snouted crocodile habitat and the welders commenced work altering the rhino indoor house to hang the gates and in the elephant house to remove old stalls, alter enrichment devices and make adaptations for training purposes. The plumbers also started work in the elephant house installing a new heating system.

## ROOF REPAIRED

The orangutan habitat reopened to visitors this month following repairs on the roof.

## WALLABY WALKABOUT

Work continued this month converting the old Wallaby Walkabout habitat into a sheep and goat walkthrough with new housing, fencing and foot paths.



## MORE ZOO NEWS

Animal Management Team inspections were conducted on Rainforest, Reptile, Sealion and Tiger sections.

An internal team leader meeting was run by the Team Leader of Africa Section following her keeper exchange at ZSL London Zoo with their evidence-based animal care team and media training was conducted for Team Leaders and Deputy Team Leaders by the Director of Science, Education and Training.

# EDUCATION



**157**

SCHOOLS VISITED  
COLCHESTER ZOOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY THIS MONTH

BRINGING IN A TOTAL OF

**9,853**

STUDENTS

**94**

SCHOOL  
SESSIONS RAN  
AT THE ZOO



**0** OUTREACH  
SESSIONS

No outreach sessions ran this month.

**0** HOME EDUCATION  
SESSIONS

No home education sessions ran this month as they are only conducted September to May.

Two of the team attended a climate change event for schools in East Anglia and spoke to many teachers about how we can support them in making school climate plans.

The education team commenced their summer activities throughout the zoo once the schools broke up.

# VOLUNTEERS

**4** VOLUNTEERS  
ATTENDED  
PER DAY

REACHING UP TO

**1,000**

VISITORS IN A DAY

The volunteers used props, answered questions at habitats and roved around the zoo. Topics included big cats, bears, ape intelligence and activities related to the UmPhafa Nature Reserve.

On the 19th and 20th July, volunteers assisted with GIANTS weekend between the paddocks and inside the giraffe house.

They helped run activities such as 'do you weigh as much as an elephant poop?' and 'can you jump the length of a saltwater crocodile?'

Artefacts such as the hippo, rhino and giraffe skulls, as well as elephant foot and tooth, were used to draw people in and were a hit with children trying to guess what animals they are from. Overall, 1,400 visitors engaged with the activities.



**211**

VISITORS ENGAGED WITH  
AT THE EXPLORATORIUM

EDUCATED USING

**221**

BOXES

# UMPHAFA NATURE RESERVE



## FIELD RANGER DEPARTURE

Another field ranger left this month, having joined us in March 2022, to move back home.

## TWO NEW INTERNS

With Writtle University College leaving, the team welcomed two more interns for the month. They helped clean out the cheetah boma of all the old bones, carried out brush packing and camera trapping, snare sweeps and fence patrols, put out the animal licks, eradicated alien plants and helped with perimeter burns.

## MAINTENANCE AT UMPHABA

As well as continuing with perimeter fire burns, the maintenance team fixed solar geysers, carried out road repairs and made a rocket stove which uses firewood to heat up water.

## PECAN NUTS

The team managed to sell the collected pecan nuts and made a profit to purchase a new trail camera.

## PROJECT RHINO

The runway along the river was finished in time for the Mapwing (Midlands Aerial Patrol) sponsored by Project Rhino to test it out; one of the field rangers helped with the aerial survey.

## GAME COUNT

The monthly game count suffered with the wind with the lowest game count recorded in the last 4 years; July and August are historically low counts anyway, but the weather made it worse



Cheetah Ashia has been seen several times this month, she looks in good condition and relaxed. The cheetah males are also doing well and are feeding together.

# CONSERVATION

## COLCHESTER ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY DONATIONS

**£5,025**

### **LWIRO Primate Rehabilitation Centre**

Our £5,025 donation will support food provision for the 129 orphaned chimpanzees and 113 monkeys under the centre's care. These primates are victims of illegal trafficking and bushmeat trade and require a balanced, daily diet to support their health and rehabilitation. The centre has played a vital role in caring for confiscated wildlife and in working to stop the illegal animal trade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

**€2,000**

### **A.E.E.C.L Lemur Consortium**

Our €2,000 for annual membership of the lemur consortium to help advance the understanding and conservation of Madagascar's lemur populations through scientific research, captive propagation and protection of their natural habitat. Investment in local communities through education, resource management and communication helps ensure the communities of today can forge a safe haven for wildlife tomorrow.

**£10,000**

### **Elephant Orphanage Project**

Our £10,000 donation will provide operational expenses to cover elephant food, veterinary supplies, kit and equipment and to help sponsor a keeper, providing salary, rations, medical support and training. EOP currently employs a team of 23 elephant keepers who care for 17 elephant orphans around-the-clock; Aaron, our sponsored keeper has been an elephant keeper since 2012.

**£7,500**

### **Orangutan Foundation**

Our £7,500 donation will go towards the veterinarian's salary and post-release monitoring of the Bornean orangutan population in the Lamandau Wildlife Reserve, Indonesian Borneo. Lamandau Wildlife Reserve was first established as a protected area in 1998 and now supports a significant orangutan population and is one of the only orangutan release sites in the region.

The Zoological Director and Animal Records Officer visited Cudmore Grove, Mersea, to survey the Hog's fennel plants and monitor feeding signs of the Fisher's Estuarine Moth.

# RESEARCH



This month, our Research Coordinator returned from maternity leave on a three day per week contract. For the final week of July, she focused on updating elephant research and welfare monitoring, looked at improving quality and strengthening rationale of apprenticeship research projects and generic welfare monitoring data collection methods.

Three STEM point research placements commenced this month looking at visitor effects on grey wolves, Humboldt penguins and smooth-coated otters.

Two new university student studies commenced this month.

- The impact of contraception on intergroup relationships in captive Gelada Baboons at Colchester Zoo.
- Validating a Personality Assessment in Captive Elephant Zoo Populations.

