



Rüppell's griffon vulture

JUNE

MONTHLY OVERVIEW REPORT / 2026

COLCHESTER
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Charity no. 1105621

THE ZOO



On 22nd June, female fennec fox, Pinky, gave birth to two kits.

The fennec fox habitat remains closed whilst the first-time parents settle down to rearing the young.

Fennec fox and kit

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

26 yellow lab cichlids joined the collection from Sealife Adventure in Southend. They are currently held off-show, undergoing quarantine.

INTERNAL TRANSFERS

The sulcata tortoises moved back to Walking Giants on 4th June following 2 weeks off-show whilst work was conducted on the pools.

DEVELOPMENT WORK

Work commenced on the outside Bears of the Rising Sun habitat this month, with adaptations to the climbing frame and platforms, and to the filtration of the roach pool.

A new perimeter fence is being constructed around Flamingo Lake this month, and is due to be completed in July.

Work continued throughout the month on the boiler system in the Kingdom of the Wild building.



Malayan sun bear

MORE NEWS

Welfare work focused on reviewing welfare audits and creating welfare action plans for pygmy marmosets, Goeldi's monkeys, reticulated giraffes, African elephants, slender-tailed meerkats and splitfin butterfly fish.

A number of quality of life assessments were reviewed this month for individuals of various species, including red panda, giant anteater, Oxford sandy and black pig, blue duiker, spotted hyena, gelada baboon, lion-tailed macaque, blue crane, Andean condor and Ruppell's griffon vulture.

Training was conducted for the Team Leader and Deputy Team Leader of the Primate team on how to complete the animal welfare audit toolkit, and a further meeting was conducted to set up a process to monitor welfare surrounding events.

Keepers from Tiger and Giraffe sections attended an ABWAK (Association of British and Irish Wild Animal Keepers) Training Workshop at Hertfordshire Zoo.

An internal team leader meeting centred on a drill in the event of an emergency in the sea lion pool.

The Zoological Director attended an online Elephant Welfare Group Meeting and the BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) AGM at Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) Edinburgh Zoo.

Internal meetings were held this month for Africa and Carnivore sections to discuss section developments and collection planning.



Lion-tailed macaque



Red panda



Blue crane



Goeldi's monkey

EDUCATION & VOLUNTEERS



60

ATTENDED VIRTUAL
OUTREACH SESSIONS

700

ATTENDED STEM
AND CAREER EVENTS

170

SCHOOLS VISITED
COLCHESTER ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY THIS MONTH

BRINGING

8,208

STUDENTS

147

SESSIONS WERE RUN
THIS MONTH



On 13th and 14th June,
a Carnivore vs Herbivore animal
weekend was run at CZS, helping
to educate visitors with activities
such as identifying carnivores vs.
herbivores from their teeth and
to learn about cat tongues with
examples from different species.

Stanway School Yr 8 came into the Zoo to run activities for visitors
outside the Bears of the Rising Sun and Kingdom of the Wild habitats.

This was a really good first trial, with lots of good visitor comments.
We will be working with them to improve and deliver again in 2027.

VOLUNTEERS
ENGAGED WITH

12,000

VISITORS THIS MONTH

UP TO

33

VOLUNTEERS
ATTENDED
PER DAY

516

VOLUNTEER
HOURS WERE
DONATED

Their visitor highlights this
month included education
about reptiles, penguins
and interaction with artefacts
such as a kudu horn
and elephant tooth props.

471

VISITORS PARTICIPATED WITH

409

EDUCATIONAL BOXES AT THE
EXPLORATORIUM

UMPHAFA NATURE RESERVE



CHEETAH NEWS

Male cheetah, Storm, was released from the boma on 1st June.

Since release, he has successfully been hunting and has settled well.

Cheetah, Storm

MORE ANIMAL NEWS

Chui, the first leopard removed from the Reserve, with her cub, to Babanango Reserve last year, has had a new cub and seems to be doing very well. All four leopards taken to Babanango are still on the Reserve there.

The female leopard relocated to Nambiti Game Reserve has travelled extensively, but has remained on the Reserve.



On 10th June, two male serval cats arrived from FreeMe Wildlife.

FreeMe Wildlife will be monitoring them to see where they go as both are fitted with collars.

Serval cat

INTERN ACTIVITIES

This month, 14 students from ARU Writtle joined for two weeks.



Intern telemetry training

RESERVE MAINTENANCE

The maintenance team concentrated on producing gabions to stop erosion and did some much-needed renovations on the ceiling in the intern accommodation lounge.

Other maintenance activities this month included perimeter burns, getting the boma ready for the servals, road repair, erosion control and completing the structure for the Reserve Managers' new garage - apart from the roof, the entire building is built from natural and recycled materials.

The Tractor-Loader-Backhoe (TLB) was fixed this month. With fuel prices coming down and a good mechanic to come and fix the fuel injector, the TLB has been out and about doing some much needed heavy work.



Gabion building

OTHER NEWS

The team received a fantastic donation from Jim Green - 15 pairs of ranger boots.

THANK YOU!



CONSERVATION & RESEARCH



African elephant

CONSERVATION NEWS

The Zoological Director attended an online BIAZA Conservation Committee meeting for which she is co-chair.

RESEARCH NEWS

Two studies commenced this month;

A pilot study on behalf of a field-based team in Botswana – analysis of mineral levels in the plants that elephants consume.

A study to determine 'what is the "place" of volunteering' as a contribution towards a PhD in Philanthropic Studies.