



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

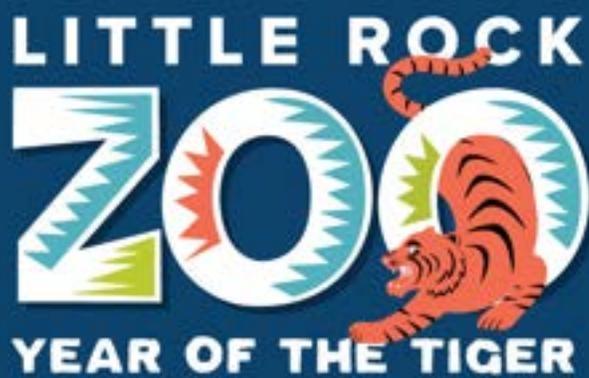


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DIRECTORS STATEMENT



As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, I am delighted to share the journey of the Little Rock Zoo with our community. In 2022, we achieved significant milestones that underscore our unwavering dedication to excellence in animal care, conservation, and community engagement.

One of our proudest achievements was the successful passing of our Association of Zoo's & Aquariums (AZA) inspection. This accreditation reaffirms our commitment to upholding the highest standards of animal welfare and management. As Arkansas's only accredited zoo, we hold ourselves to a rigorous standard, ensuring that our animals receive the best possible care and that our visitors have enriching experiences.

2022 marked the Year of the Tiger, and we seized the opportunity to raise awareness through promotional events and social media campaigns. The arrival of a male tiger and the subsequent birth of three female cubs, in accordance with Species Survival Plan (SSP) recommendations, was a momentous occasion that not only brought joy to our visitors but also contributed to the conservation efforts for this magnificent species.

Building upon the success of the previous year, we continued to delight our community with the GloWILD lantern event. This beloved tradition has quickly become a central Arkansas staple, bringing families together to celebrate the magic of the season amidst enchanting displays of light and art.

Looking ahead, the Little Rock Zoo remains steadfast in our commitment to wildlife conservation. We are proud to take part in a new conservation partnership with several science-based institutions dedicated to the preservation of the eastern collared lizard, a species of vital importance to our region's ecosystem. Additionally, we are renewing our commitment to global conservation efforts, partnering with projects around the world to protect wildlife and their habitats.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our community. Your continued patronage and enthusiasm inspire us to push the boundaries of excellence and innovation in all that we do. As we embark on another year filled with promise and opportunity, we invite you to join us in our mission to nurture a deeper appreciation for the natural world and to safeguard its wonders for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Susan Altrui
Director, Little Rock Zoo



ANIMAL UPDATES

Photo by Little Rock Zoo Staff Member



In 2022, the Little Rock Zoo continued to excel in providing top-tier animal care and husbandry. Our dedication to maintaining the highest standards was affirmed by our successful passing of the AZA inspection, reinforcing our status as Arkansas's only accredited zoo. This prestigious accreditation highlights our unwavering commitment to animal welfare and management, ensuring that our animals receive exceptional care and that our visitors enjoy enriching and educational experiences.

One of the year's most notable achievements was our participation in the Year of the Tiger campaign. We welcomed a male tiger to our Zoo, resulting in the successful breeding and birth of three female cubs, all mother-reared. This rare and significant event, guided by SSP recommendations, represents a major step forward in the conservation of this majestic species.

We also had to say goodbye to some of our beloved residents. Sekani, one of our gorillas, and her three-year-old son, Bukavu, moved to the Fort Worth Zoo. This move was part of a strategic plan to help Bukavu bond with another young male as he prepares to join a bachelor group in the coming years.

In addition to these changes, the Little Rock Zoo remained active in the SSP community by hosting the Orangutan SSP meeting and workshop. This event allowed us to contribute to the broader conversation on species conservation and management, emphasizing our ongoing commitment to these critical programs.

Through these efforts, the Little Rock Zoo continues to set a high standard in animal care, conservation, and education, ensuring a bright future for both our animal residents and our community.



Photo by Karen Caster

NOTABLE BIRTHS

Three female Malayan tiger cubs were born in August of 2022. Their names are Kae, Sundari, & Zoya.



Photos by Paul Caster



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

In 2022, the Little Rock Zoo made significant strides in conservation, solidifying our role as a leader in wildlife preservation and research. Here are some key highlights from the past year:

COLLARED LIZARD PROJECT:

We entered into a partnership with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC); The Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Central Arkansas, and the University of Arkansas Fayetteville to support the conservation of eastern collared lizards. As part of this initiative, over 60 offspring hatched in 2022. Currently, 50 of these young lizards are overwintering in our Reptile Brumation Shed and are scheduled for release into the wild in 2023. This project is crucial for bolstering the wild population and maintaining the ecological balance in their native habitats.



Canva Stock Image

BLACK RHINO CONSERVATION:

We collaborated with specialists from across the country, including the reproductive team from Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo led by Dr. Monica Stoops, to collect and bank black rhino semen. This successful effort is a critical step in the genetic management and conservation of this endangered species, ensuring we have the resources to support future breeding programs.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES:

"Gorillas on the Line" Cell Phone Recycling Program: Now in its second year at the Zoo this program encourages visitors to recycle old cell phones. By reducing the demand for coltan, a mineral mined in gorilla habitats, we help protect these endangered primates and their environments. In 2022, we were able to collect and recycle 200 devices!

SAFE (SAVING ANIMALS FROM EXTINCTION) PROGRAM:



The Little Rock Zoo is proud to be a founding member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' SAFE program. This initiative leverages resources across zoos to coordinate and enhance conservation efforts and educational outreach dedicated to saving endangered species. Our participation in SAFE underscores our commitment to collaborative conservation efforts and the protection of wildlife.

Through these projects and partnerships, the Little Rock Zoo continues to make a meaningful impact on wildlife conservation, demonstrating our commitment to preserving the natural world for future generations.

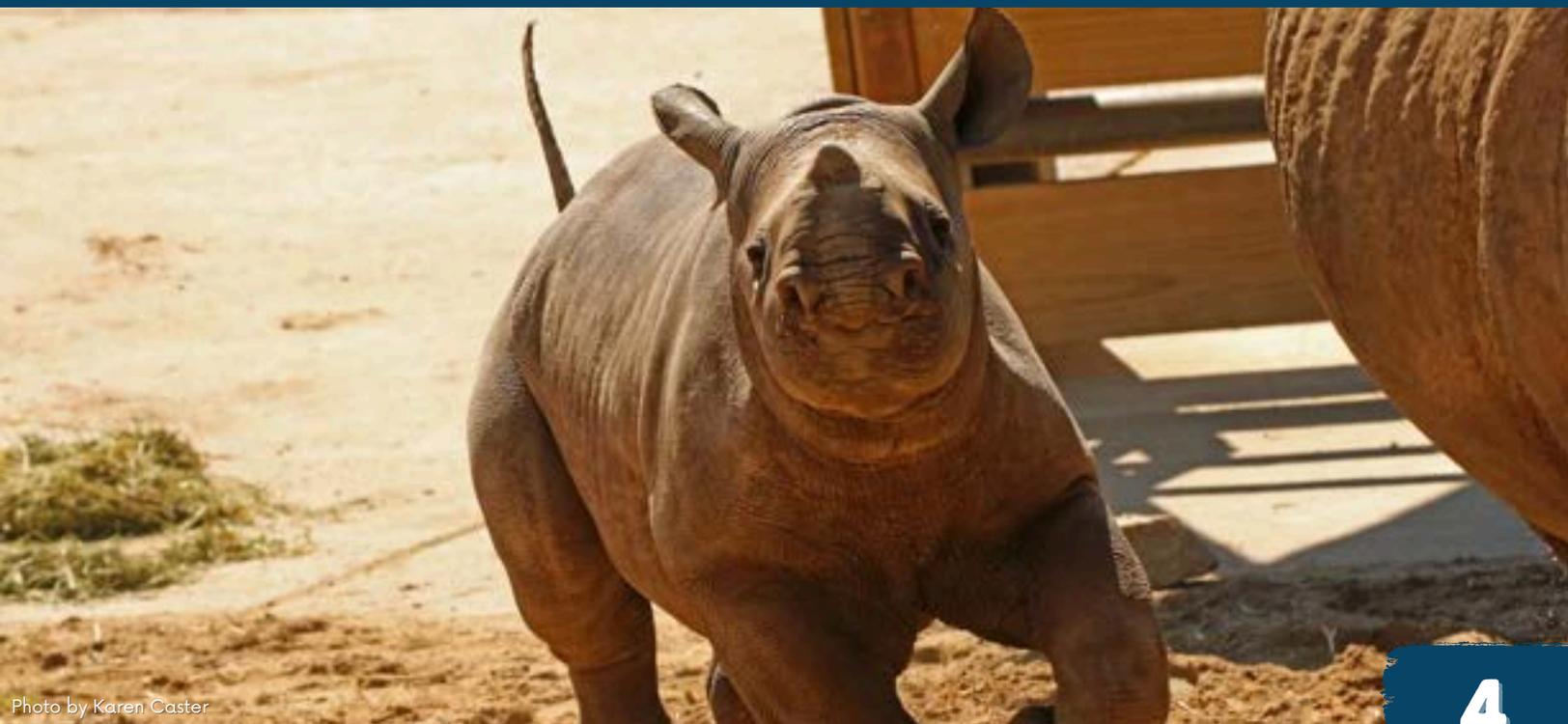


Photo by Karen Caster

FACILITY UPDATES

In 2022, the Little Rock Zoo undertook numerous facility improvements to enhance the visitor experience and ensure the highest standards of animal care and safety. These updates reflect our ongoing commitment to maintaining a world-class zoo for our community.

Key accomplishments for the year include:

- **Boardwalk Replacement and Sealing:** We completed the replacement of the wooden boardwalk near the Cheetah and Veldt exhibits and sealed all wooden walkways and handrails to ensure safety and durability.
- **Veldt Drainage Project:** This essential project, aimed at improving drainage in the Veldt area, began in 2022 and is scheduled for completion in early 2023.
- **Membership Office Renovation:** We initiated a significant renovation of our membership facilities in 2022, which will be completed in early 2023, enhancing the experience for our valued members.
- **Pathway Lighting:** New lighting along the main pathway was installed to improve visibility and safety at night, with the project expected to be finalized in 2023.
- **EV Chargers:** Four new electric vehicle chargers were installed in the front parking area, supporting our commitment to sustainability and providing a convenient service for our visitors.
- **Collaborations with WD&D and PMI Engineering:** We collaborated on several projects, including the Great Apes Department (GAD) HVAC system, which will be completed in 2023, and a storm water management project set to finish in 2023.
- **New Exhibits and Upgrades:** The new collared lizard exhibit and off-exhibit holdings were completed, alongside a new reptile brumation shed and various reptile exhibit upgrade, enhancing both visitor engagement and animal care.



Photo by Little Rock Zoo Staff Member

These facility updates are part of our ongoing efforts to improve the infrastructure and functionality of the Little Rock Zoo, ensuring a safe, enjoyable, and educational environment for all who visit. We look forward to continuing these improvements into the new year and beyond.

VETERINARY UPDATES

In 2022, the Little Rock Zoo's veterinary team achieved several significant milestones, underscoring our dedication to providing exceptional care for our animals and contributing to broader veterinary knowledge and practices.

- **Veterinary Internship Program:** This year, we launched a Veterinary Internship Program, aimed at training the next generation of veterinary professionals. This program not only enhances the educational landscape for aspiring veterinarians but also brings fresh perspectives and additional expertise to our team.
- **Rhino Immobilization and Specialist Collaboration:** We successfully planned and executed a rhino immobilization, a complex procedure that required meticulous preparation and coordination. Through this process, we established valuable relationships with specialists, enhancing our capacity to manage and care for our rhino population.
- **Diet Modifications for Great Apes:** Recognizing the importance of nutrition in animal health, we made significant modifications to the diets of our great apes. These changes are designed to create healthier, more balanced diets, improving the overall well-being of these intelligent and social animals.

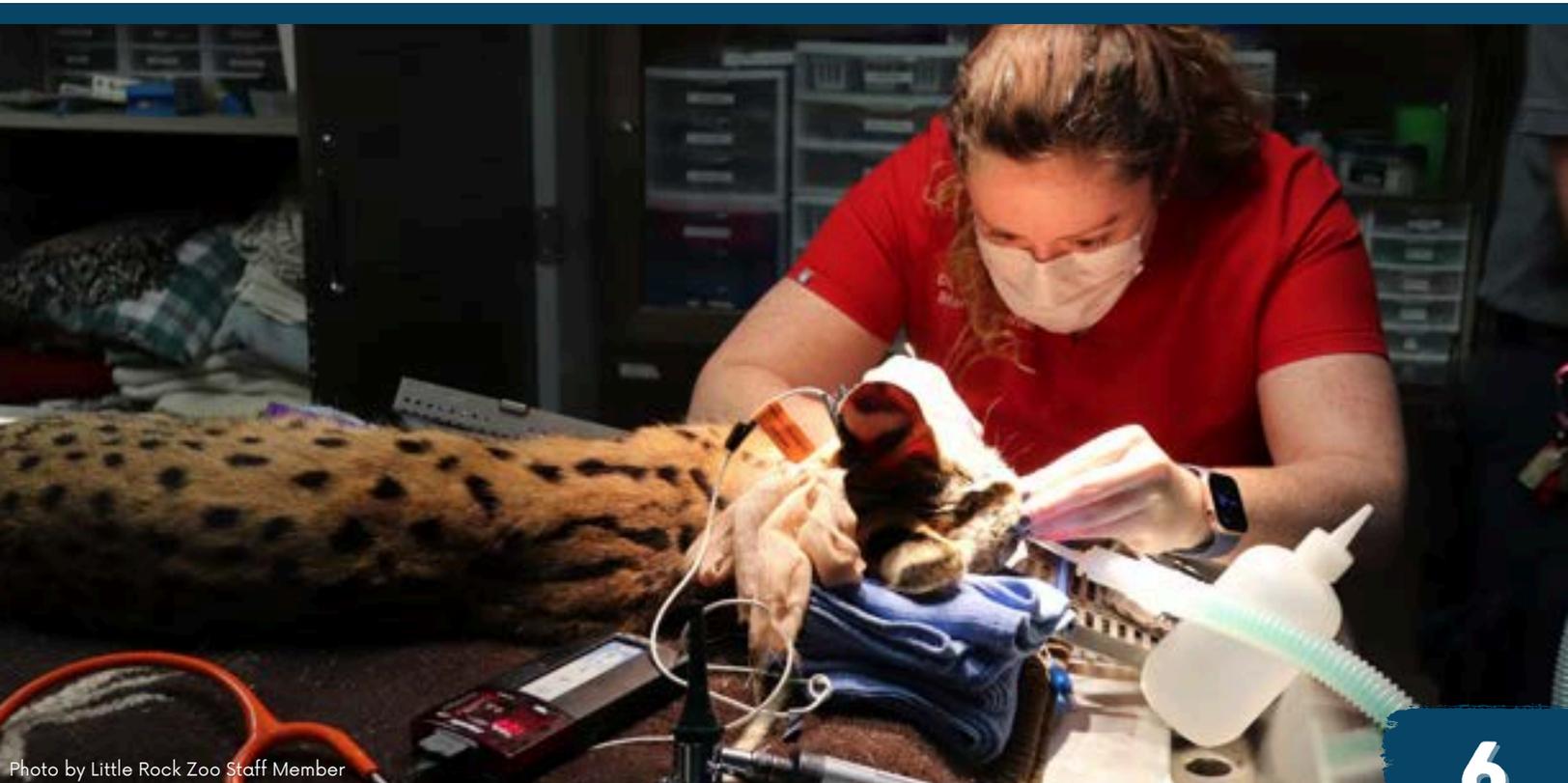


Photo by Little Rock Zoo Staff Member

EDUCATION UPDATES

In 2022, the Little Rock Zoo's Conservation Education team underwent a significant transformation, reorganizing and refocusing to enhance our mission and better connect with the community. A key highlight was the launch of new early childhood programs, including Pop-Up Play sessions and Story Times, with 10 pilot events held between September and December. These initiatives engaged young audiences and their families, fostering a love for science and exploration.

Additionally, the team delivered nearly 15,000 guest engagement experiences in just four months through roving interpretation, front gate interactions, and awareness days, creating a more dynamic and enriching experience for Zoo visitors.

13,681 Onsite Guest Interactions

11 Offsite Programs interacting with **871** individuals

*Please note that this data reflects the period from September to December 2022 only.



Photo by Little Rock Zoo Staff Member

2022 REVENUE

The financial health of the Little Rock Zoo remained robust throughout 2022, reflecting the unwavering commitment and generosity of our community, members, and valued partners. This steadfast support enabled us to continue our mission of animal conservation, education, and providing memorable experiences for all our visitors. We are deeply grateful for this ongoing support, which plays a crucial role in advancing our vision and ensuring the Zoo remains a cornerstone of the Little Rock community.

Concessions \$356,178

Education \$23,022

Gift Shop \$500,368

Membership \$554,138

Misc Revenue \$36,588

Special Events \$43,735

Admissions \$1,625,686

Amusement Rides/Tokens \$189,466

Rentals \$60,286

Total Revenue Earned: \$3,389,467

Total Operations (Expenses): \$7,645,490

Transfer In: \$4,256,023



Photo by Karen Caster

