RING-TAILED TWINS UPDATE

The ring-tailed lemur twins are growing up quickly and learning all about life in the forest. Although we have not confirmed the sex of the twins, they do finally have names! The twins are part of the “beer family” of ring-tailed lemurs and were named after two craft breweries in the US: Rogue and Allagash. One twin is very adventurous and is very comfortable exploring away from mom, while the other twin is a little less brave. The infant with the more bold personality is named Rogue and our shy infant Allagash.

The twins are currently being trained by our animal care staff to stand on a scale in order to obtain weight information. As you see in this picture, Rogue immediately jumped on the scale and obtained his food reward. He weighs a whopping 0.82 kg! (Adult ring-tailed lemurs typically weigh between 2.2 and 2.7 kg.)
Allagash was more reluctant and waited for mom to get on the scale too. Training lemurs like Rogue and Allagash to sit on a scale is an important part of our animal management program at LCF. Obtaining weights helps to ensure that our animals are within healthy weight limits, which can improve reproductive success and prevent and detect diseases.

**WELCOME INTERNS!**

Four talented interns arrived at the reserve. Lindsay, Macy, and Joe are working in Animal Husbandry. Rachel is LCF’s Research Intern.

Lindsay Krapfl, Animal Husbandry Intern: Lindsay recently completed her Bachelor's degree at the University of Connecticut with a major in Animal Science and a minor in Environmental Science. Her research interests include primate conservation and the impact of human activities on wildlife populations. She is excited to contribute to the animal husbandry program at LCF and learn more about the lemurs' care and management.

Rachel Mattes, Research Intern: Rachel is an undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut, majoring in Biology with a focus on Molecular Biology and Genetics. Her research interests include the conservation of endangered species and the role of biodiversity in ecosystem functioning. She is eager to work with the research team at LCF and contribute to the conservation efforts for the lemurs.

Macy Madden, Animal Husbandry Intern: Macy is an undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut, majoring in Animal Science. She has a strong interest in animal behavior and ethology. Macy is looking forward to learning more about the lemurs' behavior and social structure at LCF.

Joe Van Sistine, Animal Husbandry Intern: Joe is an undergraduate student at the University of Connecticut, majoring in Animal Science. His research interests include wildlife management and the impact of human activities on wildlife populations. Joe is excited to work with the animal husbandry team at LCF and contribute to the care and management of the lemurs.
Rachel Mattes, Research Intern: Rachel is from Columbia Station, Ohio. Rachel earned her BA in Zoology and Psychology from Ohio Wesleyan University. She completed an externship in wildlife rehabilitation at The Wildlife Center of Virginia. "I'm very excited for an opportunity to work with exotic endangered animals and to get some experience in the field of conservation. I love that some of the animals are able to live free range, and especially that they have been trained to receive their food in the forest. I think it's really great that even if they have to live in captivity, the lemurs have an opportunity to live an almost natural lifestyle." 

Macy Madden, Animal Husbandry Intern: Macy's hometown is Clinton, NY. She attended Canisius College and an internship at Rosamund Gifford Zoo as a Small Mammals Intern. Macy returned to the zoo as a Small Mammal Keeper last summer. "How does Macy view her internship at LCF? "It is an amazing opportunity to apply the research techniques I have learned throughout my coursework at college and to work only with lemurs. I have the ability to work with several species of lemurs and can interact with a majority of them closely. This internship has offered a wide variety of opportunities and everyone is very supportive."

Joe Van Sistine, Animal Husbandry Intern: After earning a Bachelor's degree in General Biology from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Joe started his career working at the NEW Zoo in Green Bay, the zoo he grew up going to. Working as an education intern, he not only got to work with the program animals, but was also able to work closely with the zookeepers in animal care. Joe sees LCF as a great step forward to becoming a zookeeper, and he absolutely loves being here. His favorite lemur to work with is Bimbini, who is one of the male mongoose lemurs. Although the job can be very demanding, Joe always looks forward to working each day.

AN ARTICLE FROM NBC NEWS:
When human babies are 3 months old, they pay attention to lemur calls as well as human voices.

Infants respond to the voices of their doting parents - but it's not just human voices that hold them spellbound. In what may be a hallmark of our ancestry, human brains begin life hard-wired to hear the calls of non-human primates, an ability that fades away after just a few months.

Past studies with infants have shown that deep cognitive wheels are set turning as they listen to human speech. Now, researchers have found that sounds from the blue-eyed Madagascar lemur engage their attention, too, in ways that artificial sounds don't.

"The link is sufficiently broad to include the calls of this adorable lemur," Sandra Waxman, professor of cognitive psychology at Northwestern University and a co-author of the new study, told NBC News.
Felicia Spector joins the LCF team as our Animal Care Technician

Felicia is from Plainview, Long Island, and completed her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in New York. She graduated with a BS in Biology from Union College in Schenectady, NY and completed a Master’s in Conservation Biology from Columbia University.

Before joining the LCF team on 21 August Felicia finished internships at the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison, Texas and one at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in Silver Spring, Maryland. During these internships she gained experience as a Vet-tech at the exotic animal sanctuary in Texas and Conservation Education experience with the AZA in Maryland.

Here are her own words about the Animal Care Technician position with LCF: "I liked that LCF not only works towards the betterment of their in-situ populations, but also collaborates with groups in Madagascar on conservation research and efforts for the few populations left in the wild. I was hoping to find a job that involved direct animal care, while also allowing me to be a part of a conservation organization that had a presence in the region of which their species are endemic, and the Animal Care Technician position with LCF provides just that."
Contact Info:
LCF Executive Director & CEO
Lee Nesler
941-322-8494