



Michael Durham/Oregon Zoo

Mei Mei's red panda cub, newly named Pabu, explores his habitat at the Oregon Zoo.

Oregon Zoo names red panda cub

The Observer

PORTLAND — The Oregon Zoo's red panda cub has a name.

When red panda Mei Mei gave birth to a fluffy baby this summer, according to a press release from the Oregon Zoo, keepers handed over naming honors to the Oregon Zoo Foundation, which raffled off a chance to help "dub the cub."

Miriam Bolding of Hillsboro won the raffle and last week met with zoo care staff via video conference. Together they decided on Pabu — a Tibetan name meaning "fluffball," according to online resources, and a popular name for red pandas at zoos around the country.

Bolding won the raffle Sept. 25 during the Oregon Zoo Foundation's Zoo Rendezvous event, which raised much needed funds to sup-

ONLINE

- To see video of Mei Mei and Pabu, visit <https://youtu.be/mgdFs2KyKwo>.

port the zoo's efforts in animal care, education and conservation.

"I have been looking for ways to support local organizations that I love who have been hit hard by the pandemic," Bolding said in the release. "I wanted to support the Oregon Zoo, so I purchased a membership and decided to buy raffle tickets to help."

Amy Cutting, who oversees the zoo's red panda area, said in the press release it was fun to kick around different names with Bolding.

"Pabu was the winner, and it really seems to fit the little guy," Cutting wrote in the release. "He's been

growing more and more adventurous lately — we're excited for visitors to see him as he spends more time outside."

Red pandas are considered an endangered species, with populations declining by about 50% in the past 20 years, according to the press release. While exact numbers are uncertain, some estimates indicate as few as 2,500 may be left in the wild. In addition to habitat loss and fragmentation, red pandas also face threats from poaching and the illegal wildlife trade.

"Fifty years ago, red pandas had healthy populations throughout the eastern Himalayas," Cutting said. "But they've been disappearing at alarming rates. Hopefully, we can start a new chapter in the conservation of a species that is sharply declining in the wild."

Oregon completes COVID-19 tests at long-term care facilities

Overall rate of COVID-19 infections in care facilities is 2.2%

The Observer

SALEM — Oregon has completed initial COVID-19 testing of staff and consenting residents in 683 long-term care facilities statewide.

The Oregon Department of Human Services announced the action in a press release Tuesday, Oct. 6. DHA and the Oregon Health Authority handled the testing, which achieves the first of two objectives of Gov. Kate Brown's testing plan.

Baseline testing found the overall rate of COVID-19 infections in nursing, assisted living and residential care facilities is 2.2% based on preliminary results, according to the press release. Facilities were required to complete administration of tests by Sept. 30

and follow up by submitting results. With baseline testing complete, the plan calls for facilities to test all staff at least once a month on an on-going basis.

Brown said in the release with this first phase of long-term care testing complete, "we are one step closer to finding a way to strike the balance between keeping our long-term care facilities free of COVID-19, and making sure residents are able to have the family time that is so critical to their well-being and health."

In addition to providing information about COVID-19 cases, the baseline testing requirement provided facilities with the opportunity to develop the capacity to quickly and regularly test residents and staff.

The state requires facilities to report any positive test result immediately to their local public health authority and the Oregon Department of Human Services, which conducts at least weekly onsite visits to facilities with COVID-19 cases and collaborates with the Oregon Health Authority to monitor the outbreak.

"To ensure individuals' privacy, the only publicly released information from the testing will be aggregate data," the press release stated.

Positive test results are in OHA's Weekly COVID-19 Report, if the facility has three or more cases or one or more deaths. In addition, facilities with cases are in ODHS lists published twice weekly.

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