

Oldest Gorilla Celebrates 57th Birthday

The Columbus Zoo's Colo is the first gorilla born in a zoo.

by Jennifer Wilson
Community contributor

Colo, the first gorilla born in a zoo and oldest gorilla on record, made news with her 57th birthday. The zoo celebrated in December with a party and live webcast.

Colo received wrapped presents filled with her favorite treats, which include clementines, tomatoes and berries. Her cake consisted of peanut butter, applesauce, shredded carrots and honey, along with some typical ingredients such as flour. The frosting was Greek yogurt dyed yellow with an edible screen printing of Colo's heart-shaped face. Treats, such as tomatoes, star fruit and macadamia nuts, were used to garnish the top.

Colo has resided at the Columbus Zoo since her landmark birth in 1956. Her name came from a national "Name the Baby Gorilla" contest. The name Colo, which is short for Columbus, Ohio, was chosen from more than 7,500 entries.

In the late 60s and early 70s, Colo gave birth to three children and now her family tree includes 16 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

One daughter, two grandchildren and one great grandchild reside at the Columbus Zoo. The others can be found in zoos across the country.



Photo courtesy of Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Birthday Queen

COLO CELEBRATES HER 57th birthday at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium with presents and cake. She is the first gorilla born in a zoo and the oldest gorilla on record.

Meet Emma

Chihuahua mix is very playful.

Emma is a friendly, female, adorable Chihuahua mix that is approximately 3 years old and 15 pounds.

She is a playful, energetic girl that would do best in a home that has a fenced-in yard and adults or older children.

Emma has her basic obedience skills down and we are working on how she greets new people. Once she has checked you out and has made sure that you are a friend, Emma becomes the true definition of a lap dog.

Emma likes to cuddle with friends but she also likes to be active. She would make a great jogging partner or can ride along with a bike. Emma also would make a great flyball or agility dog as she loves both activities and has speedy times. Check out the video we have of her playing ball on our website. Emma would love to have a home to call her own. For more information on Emma, contact Columbus Dog Connection at 614-471-9000 or at ColumbusDogConnection.com.

—Anne Riley

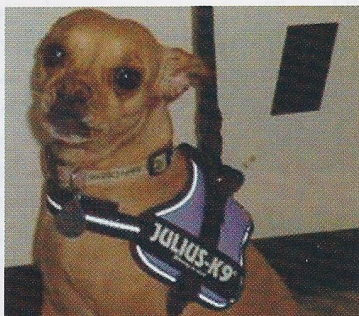


Photo courtesy of Kellie DiFrischia

Interested in Fostering?

Volunteer spotlight on Laura Blum.

Interested in Volunteering to Help Dogs? Columbus Dog Connection operates via a series of foster homes instead of having a shelter.

Laura Blum has become one of our most outstanding foster homes. We asked her to talk about the experience

"I recently became an empty nester with an aging dog approaching the end of his life. I wasn't ready to make another 15-year commitment to a dog, so fostering has allowed me to have dogs in my life and help homeless dogs find their forever homes. Columbus Dog Connection has supplied me with everything I need to care for the dogs: food, toys, medical care, and training assistance. They even board my foster if I need to travel on business. During our adoption process, I get to know the family where my foster is going to be placed. This helps ease any sadness associated with the dog leaving my home. I just placed my eighth dog since I started fostering in May.

For more information on fostering, contact Columbus Dog Connection at 614-471-9000 or at ColumbusDogConnection.com. —Kellie DiFrischia



Photo courtesy of Paw Print Pet Photography