

Bess

Bess was born at the Phoenix Zoo on March 26, 1979; she is the oldest orangutan at the zoo. She lives with Michael. Bess is very smart! Her keepers taught her to get an object from the enclosure and



bring it to them to trade for a reward. She has the patience and intelligence to solve any puzzle, especially when food is involved, and she is better at problem-solving than the others. She will make tools to figure out how to get the treats. Bess also loves to play with water, especially on those hot summer days. Look for Bess under misters, a wet palm frond or even a wet blanket when temperatures rise. Keepers will sometimes put food in a pool or tub of water and Bess will be the first one in and the last one out.

She can often be found on the top tiers of the towers; she has a great view of the elephant and rhinoceros from there! She also enjoys people-watching at the windows. Bess is shy and sensitive, but she does enjoy interacting with her keepers.

Michael



Michael was born at the Los Angeles Zoo on March 27, 1987. He arrived at the Phoenix Zoo in late 2000. He lives with Bess. Since he is a male orangutan, Michael is almost twice as large as Bess. With his big fingers, Michael often will use sticks or other tools to get food from the enrichment. He does not have the same amount of patience as the other orangutans, so with enrichment items, Michael will get as much food as he can in a short period of time and move on to the next item. His favorite enrichment involves food, especially honey. He is playful and will even spit water on keepers for attention or when he's annoyed. When not interacting with food, Michael will spend his day watching zoo guests and taking a nap.

Rayma



Rayma was born April 5, 2005, at the Topeka Zoo. She came to the Phoenix Zoo in 2019. She lives with Wgasa. Rayma enjoys climbing. When keepers place puzzle feeders or any food enrichment up high on ropes or the exhibit towers, Rayma will go check it out right away. She will balance, hang, and sit in weird positions on the ropes as she gets honey off the enrichment. She is a ball of energy with a very fun personality. Often, when Rayma is looking at guests or working on enrichment closer to the ground, she brings something to sit on. A box, or even a

toy, is the perfect chair for her. She likes having Wgasa with her. You might see her grabbing his hand to make sure he follows her! Rayma is sweet and gentle. She loves oranges and playing with bubble bath. She will drag large tubs around the enclosure, setting them up so she can sit on them and reach leaves and branches.

Wgasa



The newest orangutan at our zoo, Wgasa was born March 2, 2006, at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska. He came to the Phoenix Zoo in May, 2022. He lives with Rayma, and likes to stay close to her. He loves ice treats and grapes. He makes epic pillows by taking sheets and wrapping them around other bedding. He is somewhat shy. He enjoys watching visitors, and is especially interested in his keepers' bare knees and wacky socks. He can be seen laying under tubs while eating, and sitting in front of the air conditioner with a blanket or box over him to stay cool.