



Dear Friend of the Zoo,

How many zoo professionals does it take to load a camel into a truck? No, this is not the beginning of a joke. This was a real-life medical adventure for Pueblo Zoo and our Bactrian camel, Presley. Imagine... it's a beautiful fall day and the zoo is hosting 400+ senior citizens when suddenly several of our guests breathlessly report that our camel is bleeding from the mouth. Indeed, something was not right with Presley. Our animal care and veterinarian team jumped into action. Thanks to donors like you, the zoo had purchased portable, digital imaging equipment that was made for just this type of situation. Our Veterinarian was able to get images, diagnosed a fractured lower jaw and sent the images digitally to our skilled and generous partners at the world-class Colorado State University Veterinarian Teaching Hospital (CSU VTH) in Ft. Collins. The veterinarians at CSU recommended a surgical correction. We are not sure exactly how the injury happened. He may have been kicked by our female camel or he might just have tripped and fallen – he's a little clumsy that way.

The surgical specialists at the CSU VTH would be able to perform surgery on his jaw if only we could get him there. Well, that is easier said than done. Ever tried to move an 8 foot, 1800 pound, 2 humped animal? Undaunted, our entire team threw themselves into the challenge. Our animal care team works diligently on training year-round with our animals in order to build trust and enable the animals to participate in their own healthcare. Presley, admittedly, was not halter trained but he did have some skills and trust. It took 3 days of keepers and maintenance staff working with him to finally get him loaded into the custom trailer and transport him to Ft. Collins.

The surgery went well. Much to the relief of his keepers, after a very long day, he returned safely to Pueblo late at night. While his appetite came back and he was trying out his new jaw, the saga was not quite over. Keepers started to notice that he was not putting weight on his back leg. After much speculation and different diagnosis approaches, it was determined that Presley needed to head back up north. This time, he loaded like a champ and was on his way to Ft. Collins again where their team of specialists put him under general anesthesia and found that he had a broken toe, with a severe infection. The toe had to be amputated, and there were a few nervous days of observation in which it was unsure if the infection would spread.

At the writing of this letter, Presley seems to be on the road to a successful recovery. He has created buzz all around the CSU campus and has charmed all he meets. His stay was extended just a little longer so that the wire in his jaw could be removed, and we can ensure that the toe is truly on its way to recovery.

Collaboration in times like these makes all the difference in the world to a successful outcome. CSU worked diligently with us to find solutions – even consulting with a camel specialist in Dubai! Cheyenne Mountain Zoo offered their support in sending staff members who are animal behavior specialists to help us brainstorm the best way to get him into the trailer. And you! Your gifts make it possible for our keepers to provide intensive observation and care. Your support enabled us to make the trip (twice!) to Fort Collins and to secure a three week “hospital room” and the care he needs.



Unexpected medical emergencies can get very expensive. But sometimes, there is no choice. We must do what needs to be done to take care of our animals when they are in need. It is an investment both in our animals and those we represent in the wild. Without your involvement, none of this would be possible! You are part of a global conservation effort, helping educate and empower visitors of all ages to take actions small and large for our natural world.

Thanks to your investment, we can give our animals the care they need, keep them fed and their environments clean, craft rewarding enrichment activities and engage our community in building a better world.

Will you give today to care for Presley and all the animals who call the Pueblo Zoo home? Your contribution will help with the care that Presley received and the future care of other animals – expected or unexpected. We need your continued investment for what many call the “jewel of Pueblo” so Presley can continue to inspire visitors like you.

I have enclosed a donation form and envelope, or you may make a secure donation online at [pueblozoo.org/presley](http://pueblozoo.org/presley). Please consider becoming a monthly donor. Many of our supporters find this allows them to give a bit more during the year and maximize their impact.

Thank you again for being part of Pueblo Zoo!



With gratitude,

*Abigail J. Krause*

Abigail Krause, Executive Director

**P.S. Together, we need to raise \$35,000 for animal care before the end of 2022!**