





NOV 7 – JAN 31 | 5:30 – 10:30 P.M.

Millions of Lights | Wildlife Lantern Safari

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### **CRUISE ZOOLIGHTS**

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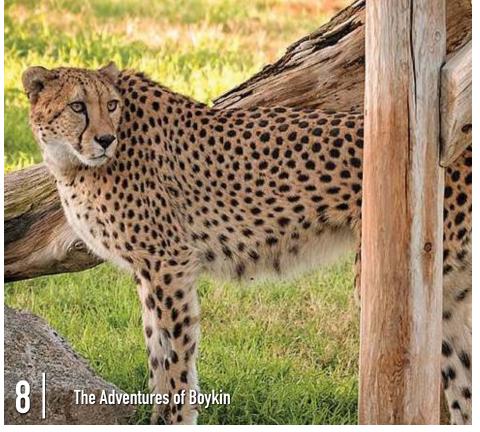
All proceeds benefit the non-profit Phoenix Zoo.



ZooLights tickets on sale October 1.

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### **WILD TIMES STAFF**

**Linda Hardwick** | Editor, Phoenix Zoo

Christine Boisen | Associate Editor, Phoenix Zoo

Corey Little | Graphic Designer, Phoenix Zoo

602.286.3800 | General Information

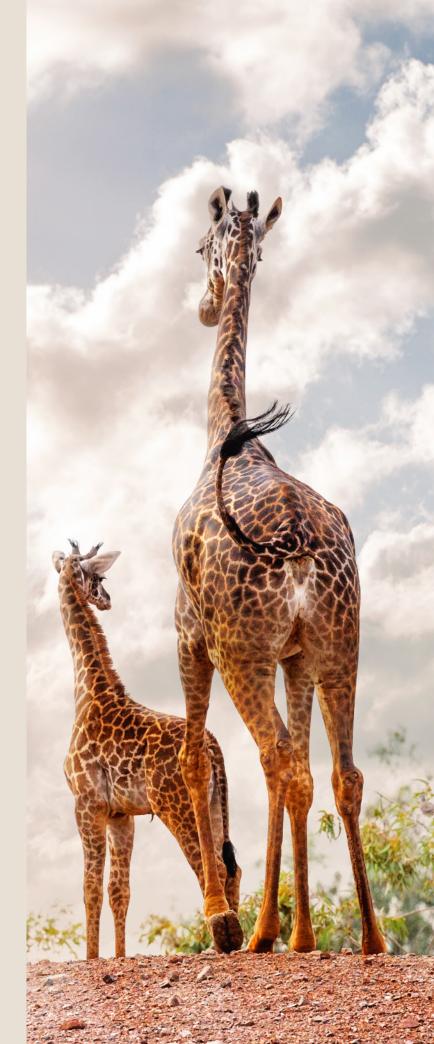
602.914.4333 | Call Center

**602.914.4328** Fax



phoenixzoo.org

455 N. Galvin Parkway | Phoenix, AZ 85008

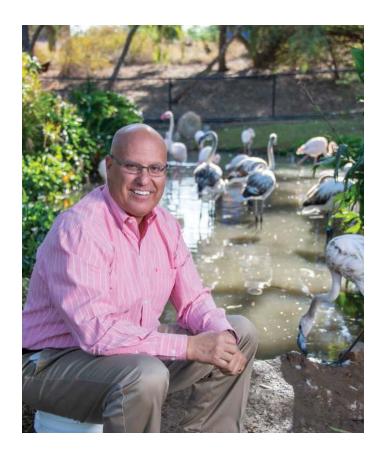


### Dear Zoo Friends,

As I write this, I am hopeful that Arizona's downward Covid-19 trend continues, and September is the month that our operations can once again open to foot traffic. We'll still look different because we will follow the recommendations of the Governor, the Mayor and the CDC, but we're cautiously optimistic we can welcome you all back to the Zoo in September. We will let you know once all plans have been set and confirmed.

Until then, however, we are excited to continue what has become one of the Valley's most popular socially distanced experiences: Cruise the Zoo! In this issue of Wild Times, you will read how a random idea was transformed into a muchneeded revenue stream for the Zoo – in record time! "Cruise the Zoo" is offered only three weekends in September – be sure you don't miss out on this amazing experience. Journey past rhinos, lions, giraffes, zebras, flamingos, baboons, cheetahs and countless other species as you enjoy the Zoo from the safety of your own vehicle, with your family, friends and loved ones. It truly is a unique and thrilling adventure, and you are helping the Zoo during this difficult time.

Because it's 2020, we are finding ways to do everything a little differently. This year, that includes ZooLights. ZooLights will start several weeks early this year and the big kick-off will be our new fundraising event, Wildlights for Wildlife on November 1. Because we are not able to host our traditional ZooFari fundraising event, we've switched gears, literally, and have exciting plans to host a drive-thru ZooLights experience, complete with food trucks, entertainment and other fun. We've never needed a fundraiser more than right now, so please sign up quickly, as spots are selling fast!



Our traditional ZooLights event will open to members on November 4 and the general public on November 7. It will be a combination of mostly walk-thru evenings with a few drive-thru opportunities. ZooLights will run through January 31 to provide a longer time to attend, as we'll need to manage capacity in the park.

Please stay safe and I can't wait to see you at the Zoo. Be sure to "Cruise" one last time!

Bert

Norberto J. (Bert) Castro

President/CEO, Arizona Center for Nature Conservation Phoenix Zoo/South Mountain Environmental Education Center





ne thing that most businesses have learned throughout this pandemic is there is no such thing as a "box" anymore. It has become critical for people to "think outside of the box" to keep their businesses, livelihoods, passions and families going during this tumultuous time.

This is true for the Phoenix Zoo as well. Once the Zoo closed its doors in mid-March, sure, the keepers and veterinary staff continued to be on grounds to care for our animals. Operations, Horticulture and Ranger staff are crucial to keeping the Zoo well maintained and secure. But what about a source of income? With more than 80 percent of our revenue coming from guests visiting the Zoo, what do we do now with a completely empty, quiet and barren Zoo – void of all guests?

It was Friday, May 1, and the Zoo's Core Team of Vice Presidents and the CEO loaded up in several vehicles, varying sizes and types, and set out on a journey. Could this really work? How will the animals react? Surely, we weren't going to allow just anyone to drive their car through the Zoo – would we? That would be crazy! It has never been done before at our Zoo. Or could we?

Notes were taken, stop watches set and monitored, different routes were attempted, varying speeds were tested. Maybe – just maybe – this could work. The idea and findings from the morning journey through the Zoo was shared with the Executive Team members by Friday afternoon and mulled over throughout the weekend.

Both teams met again on Monday, May 4 at 8 a.m. and enthusiastically agreed that it could be done! By 9 a.m., the first promotional video and photo shoot was underway with a staff member's family cruising through the Zoo – and Cruise the Zoo was on the fast track to be completed within days.



Dozens of staffers worked together to coordinate technology, messaging, an audio tour, email communications, social media posts, animal ambassadors along the trails, sales of plushes and photo ops, concessions, and countless other details such as the logistics of queuing and staffing. By Wednesday, May 6, Cruise the Zoo was available for sale! The first weekend sold out in less than 72 hours and the first car rolled through the Zoo on Friday, May 8 at 7 a.m.

That small thought of "what if" and "thinking outside of the box" came full circle and became a reality in seven short days. Cruise the Zoo has become one of the Valley's most popular and favorite activities to do during this unique and everchanging time. Since that first weekend of May, we have hosted nearly 18,000 vehicles, generating

nearly \$1 million in much needed revenue for the Zoo. Nowadays at the Zoo, there's never talk of "thinking outside of the box," because we will never be in the box again. We are constantly evolving, changing and growing. We've stumbled upon practices, ideas, virtual programs and offerings that will always be a staple moving forward.

While we can't wait to welcome you all back to explore the Zoo at your leisure, outside of your vehicle, we are grateful for your support of this huge undertaking and are excited to see you for our last month of Cruise the Zoo! Be sure to book your ticket for one of our upcoming weekends throughout September.

# Happy Cruisin!





# KEEPER KORNER

# The Adventures of BOYKIN

ver wonder exactly how much of the habitat the animals actually use?

Cats love to climb but although cheetahs are members of the feline family, cheetahs do not have the adaptations that would make them very good tree climbers. Their semi-retractable claws are dull and more useful as extra traction when running, giving them their famous speed. They are also lacking the upper body strength that allows leopards and jaguars to climb straight up a tree trunk, even while dragging a hefty carcass!

So on a typical day, our three male cheetahs, Boykin, Demarco, and Dirk, can usually be seen sleeping at the top of the hill in their habitat, preferring to rest for most of the day as is customary for cheetahs in the wild. It is in the early mornings or late afternoons that our cheetahs will begin to explore; smelling and scent marking on logs and trees. They also enjoy scoping out their surroundings from the low vantage point of their 'termite mounds' (the small hills in the habitat that were constructed for this purpose) and even getting a bit playful with each other.

What they do NOT normally do, is climb their trees... at least until now! Boykin, identifiable by the most white on the tip of his tail, has lately taken these moments of exploration to new heights. We are not sure what has inspired this unusual cheetah behavior. Is it his adventurous spirit? Maybe he thinks he is a leopard? Whatever the reason, it has given him a new way to exercise and explore his surroundings, which is purr-fectly fine by us.

So if you get the opportunity to visit the Zoo in the early morning hours, we hope you are lucky enough to see Boykin in his tree. And if you are concerned as to how he got up there and how on Earth he will get down, don't call the fire department just yet. With minimal effort, Boykin will gracefully jump down, as if it was the most natural thing in the world.



# Gear up for a night of fun, while supporting the non-profit Phoenix Zoo!





Sunday, November 1, 2020 5 – 10:30 p.m.

Local Food Trucks | Animal Encounters | Entertainment
And a Drive-Thru Exclusive Preview of ZooLights!

Reservations are limited. For more information, or to reserve your spot visit phoenixzoo.org/wildlights.

# WINFORWILDLIFE AUCTION & RAFFLE

Help support the Phoenix Zoo! You could be a winner!

### **AUCTION**

Bidding begins on October 26
The Win for Wildlife Auction has something for everyone!









For more information and to see auction packages, click here



# **COMING SOON!**

# WIN FOR WILDLIFE RAFFLE

Tickets on sale September 21.

Stay tuned for details!

# YOUR PASSION. OUR MISSION.

There are many fun ways that you can support the Phoenix Zoo!

### Make a donation

If you are able to give, please consider a direct gift to the Phoenix Zoo. Every gift makes a difference and we are very grateful for your support. With the new COVID-19 CARES Act stimulus bill, you might be able to give even more! Many donors can now claim up to a \$600 deduction per couple (\$300 per individual) for charitable giving, without having to itemize, or 100% of adjusted gross income, if you do itemize. Consult your tax advisor to learn more about taking full advantage of these changes, or **let us help you find one!** 

## Become a Member or Renew Your Membership

We LOVE our members! Due to the Zoo's temporary closure, we are extending membership expiration dates on all current memberships by the amount of time we are closed to the public. Purchase a membership today; it helps the Zoo and you'll get a full year of benefits!

### **Upgrade Your Membership**

Already a member but want to support the Zoo even more? Consider upgrading your membership to the next level. Not only will you receive additional benefits, you are helping ensure the Zoo's daily operations and animal care.



# There's NO Zoo Without You.











### Commemorate the love you have for your pets

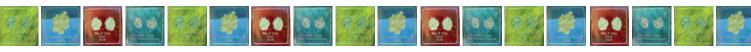
Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to add your pet's pawprint and name to the Etched in Glass Donor wall.

Purchase yours today before they are gone! Tiles are \$500 each.

Proceeds will benefit The Pride Campaign's new African Lion and Spotted Hyena Habitat.

For more information or to purchase, please call 602.286.3800 x7342.





# Raising ARIZONA Kids your partner on the parenting path

An essential resource for parents committed to raising conscientious, confident, caring kids who will grow up to change the world.



raisingarizonakids.com/newsietter

























veryone knows about Zoom nowadays. It has become the go-to app for online connections in the age of social distancing. Whether allowing friends and family stay in touch, businesses to hold virtual meetings or students to continue learning from home, Zooming is definitely booming.

It's a trend that doesn't appear to be going away but it may be bound to become repetitive, and even dull. experiencing Zoom gloom.

Imagine hosting a meeting or get together and all of a sudden, one of your favorite Zoo animals pops up on the screen! Folks can now reserve a 15-minute appearance from one of our select animals to delight attendees of their online gatherings. A Zoo staff member will join the conversation to answer questions and share interesting facts about your special guest, making the experience not just a fun novelty but also a great opportunity to engage and educate.

### **Choice of Guest**

So how do you choose which one of our amazing animals you would like to invite? Here's a quick list to help make your selection.

**SLOTH:** One of the chillest guests you will ever encounter on a Zoom call! Fernando, the Linne's two-toed sloth, lives life in the slow lane but always brings excitement to the party.

**AARDVARK:** Though her species name may translate to 'earth pig', our aardvark is a true "Lady", and will class up any Zoom call.

RHINOCEROS: Our two Southern white rhinos, handsome Howard and lovely LouLou, will crash your meeting with fascinating facts about what it's like being one the of the world's largest mammals.

**OWL:** Ever wonder why owls are called 'wise'? Find out that and more when you invite one to your next virtual meetup.

MYSTERY GUEST: Can't decide? Let us choose for you from either a flamingo, porcupine, chameleon or tortoise. Learn all about them from one of their keepers while they steal the show, err, meeting!

### How do I reserve?

It's simple. Days and times vary per animal so check out their schedules and reserve here! Not only is it a great way to energize your Zoom meeting but also a wonderful way to support the Phoenix Zoo!

YOUR PASSION. OUR MISSION.

# HELPING THE PHOENIX ZOO YOUR WAY.

uring the Zoo's closure our amazing keeper and veterinary staff are hard at work ensuring our animals get the care they need – but with the lack of gate admission and earned revenue, it's become increasingly difficult for us to do so. It's comforting to us to have the support of our amazing Zoo community. Many of you (especially kids!) have asked how they can help raise money for the Zoo, so we wanted to share a few fundraising tips.

### Fundraising Ideas

### Set yourself a target

A target helps to keep you focused on your progress. This is usually a target of how much money you want to raise, but it can also be the number of people each week you ask to donate, or even the number of items you might be selling for your fundraiser. Keep focused and keep going – you are making progress towards your target, and your ultimate goal of helping the Zoo. Be ambitious and realistic - a great target is \$250.

### Get the word out

Don't be shy – spread the word on social media, tell your family, mention it to friends in your class and school. The more people who know about your fundraiser, the more people who are likely to donate. Share your goal and what you intend to achieve. That way your supporters can celebrate in your success and feel proud to be a part of it.

### Tell your story

You know best why you want to help the Phoenix Zoo. Whether you have a favorite animal, want to prevent extinction, have read a story about it, or it's simply a special place for you and your family, tell people why you feel so passionately about the Zoo. Your passion will shine through – and you will be surprised how they will be inspired to donate after you share your story!

### Follow Up

Many people need a few reminders before they commit. Be persistent, but polite! Post reminders on social media during your fundraiser. Remind them of your goal and timeframe.

### Say Thank You!

A handwritten note goes a long way so send one to your supporters. A personal call (or even a text depending on the relationship) is very impactful. Share the results. If you have pictures from your fundraiser, share them or post those and make sure to tag your supporters.

### Celebrate your success!

Share your success. If you raised funds with social media, post across all your social media channels. Make sure to share the final amount. Your success may inspire others!

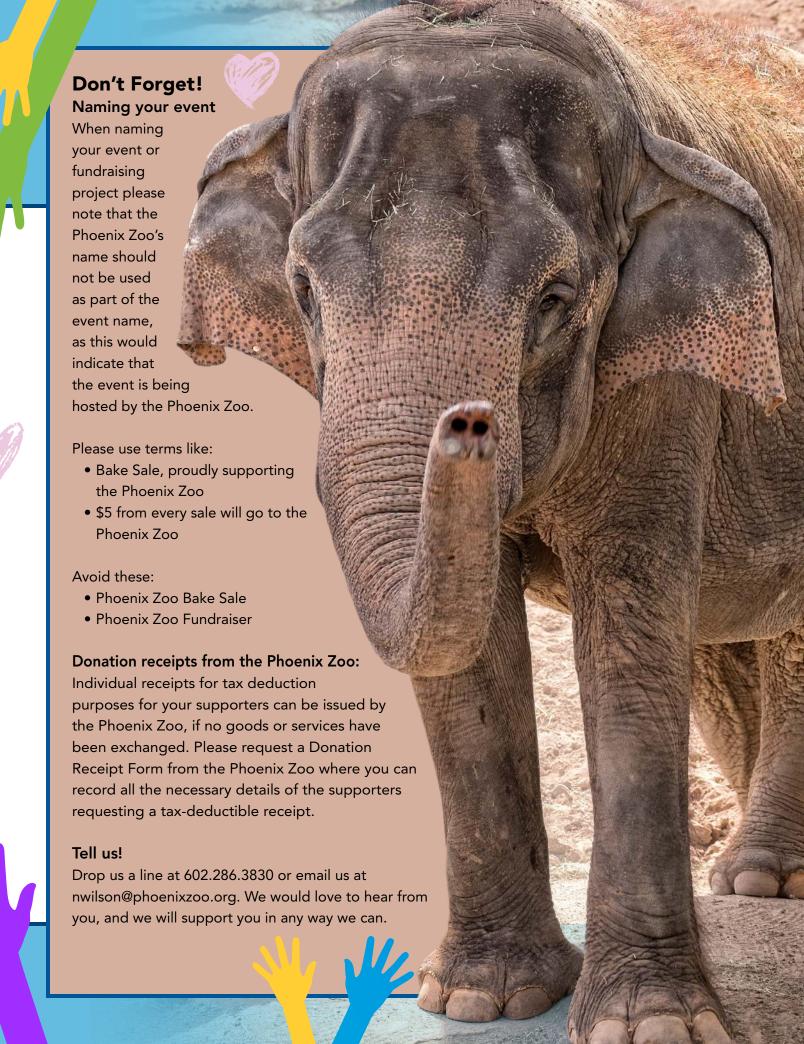
Most importantly, HAVE FUN!











# FACEBOOK FUNDRAISING

elebrating a birthday, anniversary or just want to help raise some money for the Phoenix Zoo?

Creating a Facebook fundraiser is a powerful way to share your support of the Zoo with your social network.

It's easy and can make a big impact!

### How to get started:

- 1. Log in to Facebook
- 2. Select "Fundraisers" from the left side menu (bottom right if you are using the Facebook mobile app)
- Click the "Raise Money" button
- 4. Select "Nonprofit"
- 5. Type in and select "Phoenix Zoo"
- 6. Set your goal a great target to reach for is \$250!
- Select an end date for your fundraiser we suggest
   no more than a two-week

- 8. Create a title for your fundraiser. Make it something fun and unique to you!
- 9. Add your personal story: why are you choosing to create a fundraiser for the Zoo, what the Zoo means to you, or why you feel others should join you.
- 10. Share an image to personalize your fundraiser. You can utilize an image you have taken yourself at the Zoo or choose from one below.
- 11. Post it to your page, add a link to your fundraiser, and share it with your friends!











# **PROGRAMS**









# Get online and get ed-Zoo-cated... The Phoenix Zoo has a program for everyone!

# KIDS AND FAMILIES

### Camp ZooToYou

3 – 4 hours per theme3 themes available per week

Bring the magic of summer camp to your home any time with Camp Zoo To You!

Weekly on-demand sessions featuring animal encounters, behind-the-scenes tours, scientific investigations, crafts and learning activities.

Now - October 1

### Family ZooVenture

45 min. sessions

Connect with a Zoo educator while learning about our fascinating animals. Different themes available each week.

Every Thursday & Saturday 9 a.m.

# GROUPS Phoenix Zoo Live Online

45 - 60 min. sessions

Groups of all kinds will enjoy engaging live with a Zoo educator through a variety of pre-recorded videos and interactive quizzes plus live animal presentations, discussions and demonstrations.

### SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

Based on Arizona State Science Standards

### **Distance Learning**

45 - 60 min. sessions

Perfect for classrooms or homeschool groups. Students will be engaged with live discussions and demonstrations, pre-recorded videos, interactive quizzes, Q&A time and live animal presentations.

### **Project Orangutan**

60 min. per week for 9 weeks

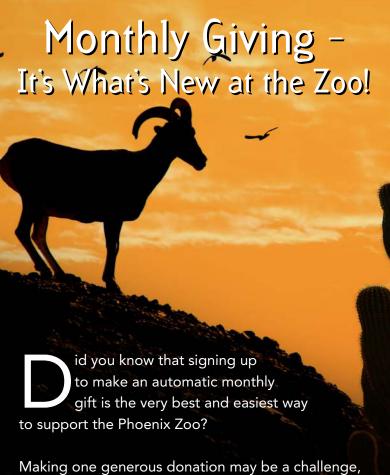
Focusing on the critically endangered Bornean orangutan, this is a fun, project-based virtual program that uses STEM content to promote hands-on, authentic problem solving.

### **Virtual Field Trips**

45 - 60 minutes

Meet and learn about some of our fascinating animals with pre-recorded videos, activities and a live Q&A with a Zoo educator.

Discounts available for multiple SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS program bookings



Making one generous donation may be a challenge, but breaking that gift into smaller, monthly donations just might be the key to becoming the philanthropist you have always wanted to be!

Monthly donations of any size really add up and make an extraordinary impact on the lives of the animals who are counting on the Phoenix Zoo for their health, happiness and future. You can help ensure their future by signing up today to be a monthly giving donor.

To thank our new monthly giving donors, a Phoenix Zoo gift bag with a special surprise inside will be given to the first ten friends who sign up for monthly giving before October 31, 2020.

It's easy, just click here - Make Me a Monthly Donor

The Phoenix Zoo's future is looking brighter because of our special monthly giving donors. Won't you join them?

Thank you!



# Take your support

Help ensure a bright future for endangered species, educate audiences about the importance of conservation and play an essential role in the future of the Zoo.



# of the Phoenix Zoo to the next level!

### **Supporting Memberships**

- Starting at \$500
- Includes Base level benefits
- Special access to select Zoo venues, guest admissions, on-grounds donor recognition and more!\*

### **Guardian Conservation Society**

- Starting at \$1,500
- Includes Base and Supporting level benefits
- Special access to guest experiences, guest admissions, exclusive Society events, an annual behind-the-scenes tour and more!\*

### Upgrade your support today!

For more information contact Shannon Kinsman at 602.914.4346.

\*Benefits vary depending on level of membership selected. Visit phoenixzoo.org/membership to learn more.



# Saving the Black-footed Ferret

n the last issue of Wild Times, we shared happy news that two litters of endangered blackfooted ferrets were born at the Zoo this season. We're pleased to report that all five kits and their moms are doing well. The first litter just had their 90-day exams, which included a second round of vaccinations, and the second litter got their first vaccinations at their recent 60-day exam. These exams are like the "well visits" some of our younger readers may have, to make sure they're on a healthy track. Zoo vets check on the ferret kits and give them vaccines to protect them from diseases including canine distemper, plague and rabies.

The first litter from this season was born to mom Lazuli and dad Al Dente. Since they too are part of the "Pasta" lineage (some ferret breeding facilities like to follow themes when naming), these three kits were named Tortellini, Rotini and Ziti. With the second litter, born to Mandolin and Luzius, we opted to make the naming a group effort. Zoo staff

and volunteers submitted suggestions (102 total!) for consideration by the Conservation and Science Department staff who care for the ferrets daily. The C&S team narrowed the list to a handful of favorites. We then sent that list out for a final vote by staff and volunteers. The winning names were Aurora and Sedona.

Each year in late summer, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Black-footed Ferret Species Survival Plan® program makes recommendations for transfers and releases of animals in the managed population (at the six breeding facilities, and/ or to the handful of facilities that house ferrets on exhibit). Since our breeding program began, over 100 kits born at the Phoenix Zoo have been released to the wild in Arizona. At this year's meeting, the planners determined that all of our kits will stay in the breeding program in managed care. We're awaiting news regarding which of our adult ferrets will be introduced to the wild this year,

and which ferrets will move to other facilities to increase the genetic and demographic diversity of the breeding population.

Annual transfers are conducted in the fall. This year we are grateful to have flight support from the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to facilitate these moves. In some years, we've driven "our" ferrets all the way to the National Blackfooted Ferret Conservation Center in Colorado for transfer, returning to Phoenix with animals recommended for breeding here at our Johnson Conservation Center. Transporting the ferrets by AGFD airplane is easier on both the animals and the biologists, as it greatly reduces the time spent in transit. As AGFD Small Nongame Mammal Biologist Holly Hicks notes, "Ferret recovery is a huge task that requires tools and expertise from so many partners. We are happy to be able to provide support to the Phoenix Zoo just as they have helped us with ferret emergencies when they arise. We look forward to continuing this partnership in conservation."

While we're always a little sad to say goodbye to any Phoenix Zoo ferrets slated for transfer, we enjoy watching the kits grow and are proud contributors to the collaborative effort to recover this iconic species in the wild.



Wondering how you can help? It takes a LOT of supplies to keep things at the Zoo's Black-footed Ferret Breeding Center running smoothly. We go through lots of gloves, masks, cleaning solutions, as well as food and behavioral enrichment items, vitamins and medications. Some of these items are available through our **Wish List** 

We can always put direct financial donations to good use to help the ferrets as well.

Click here and specify that you'd like your donation to go to support the Conservation

Center in general or the ferret breeding program in particular. Thank you for all you do to help us continue this great work!



# LET'S CELEBRATE!

### September 4

National Wildlife Day

### September 5

National Hummingbird Day

International Vulture Awareness Day

### September 12

National Iguana Awareness Day

### September 22

World Rhino Day

### September 26

International Rabbit Day

### October 2

World Farm Animals Day

### October 20

International Sloth Day

### October 21

Reptile Awareness Day



here are two species of African rhinos, the white and the black, and each is distinct in its own way. The white rhino is square-lipped with a long face allowing it to graze on low grasses, while the black rhino has a pointed lip, used to pick fruit from branches and remove leaves from twigs.

The status of the African rhinoceros is dependent on the region from which they come. The Western black and Northern white rhinos have recently become extinct in the wild, yet the Southern white rhino, thought once to be extinct, has benefitted from conservation efforts in protected sanctuaries and is now classified as near threatened.

The Phoenix Zoo is home to two beautiful Southern white rhinos, a female named LouLou and a male named Howard. Both rhinos were born in early 1997 with LouLou joining us from the San Diego Zoo Safari Park and Howard coming from the Brevard Zoo to be a companion for LouLou. Despite being the same age, their personalities could not be more different. Howard is a sweet, shy boy while LouLou is often called 'Princess', and is headstrong with a mind of her own.

### **Did You** Know?!

- The term 'white' rhino is from the Afrikaan word "weit" meaning wide and refers to the shape of their mouth, not to the color of their hide.
- Rhinos can sustain a high step trot of 18 mph for up to 2 miles, and they even have the ability to gallop at a speedy 30 mph!
- They love to wallow in mud baths that help cool them down, minimize risk of sunburn and deter biting insects.
- The Southern white rhino is the largest of the African species weighing in at a hefty 5,000 lbs. and is among the largest terrestrial mammals, second only to the mighty elephant!





# ADOPT ME!

Share the care and adopt a favorite animal for yourself or a loved one.

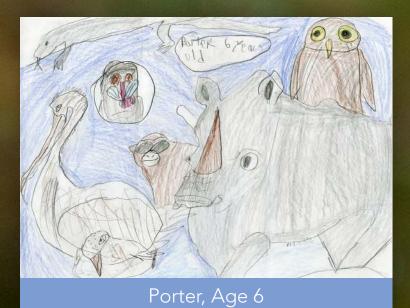
Amazing adoption packages start at \$25 with plush options starting at \$75.

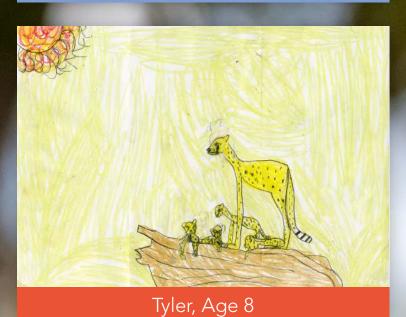
Support the Phoenix Zoo and become a Wildlife Champion today!

For a complete list
of packages,
click here
or call Ursula Hamblin
at 602.286.3800 x7434.











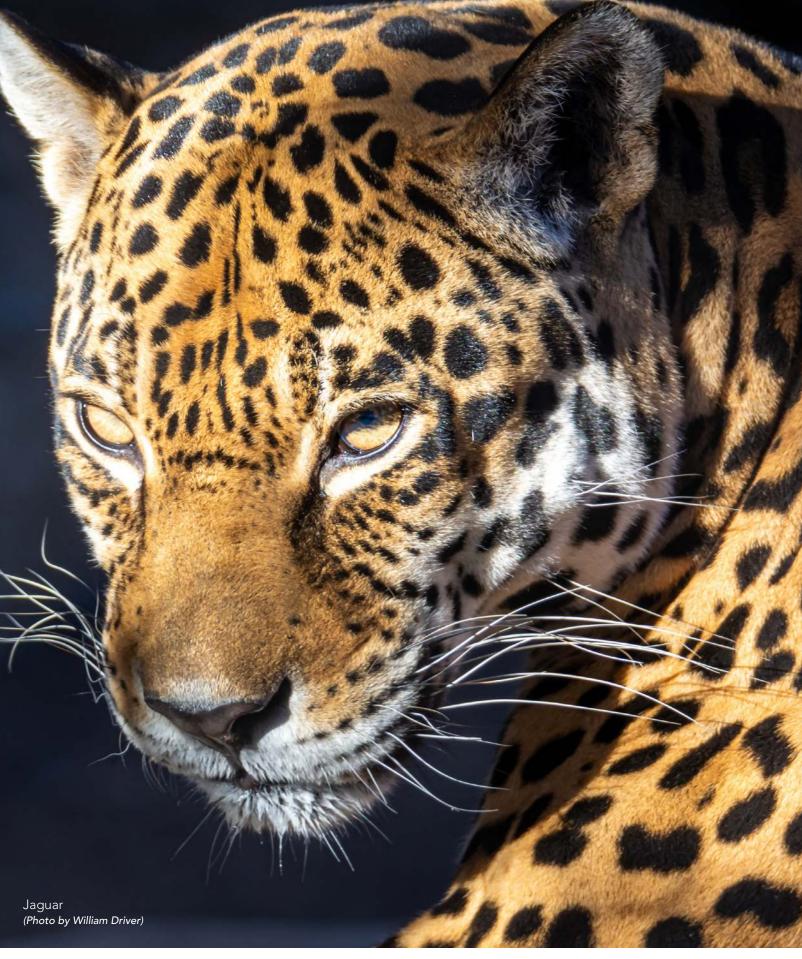
Share your animal drawings with us. Parents - please write your child's name legibly along with their age.

Send to: WT – Wild Child Attn: Linda Hardwick 455 N. Galvin Pkwy. Phoenix, AZ 85008





Haylie, Age 10



Arizona Center for Nature Conservation advances the stewardship and conservation of animals and their habitats while providing experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world.



