



# Wild Times

November | December 2020

## DIGITAL

*'Tis the Season  
for Zoo Lights*

---

A Monumental Milestone  
**FOR FROG CONSERVATION**

phoenix**xzoo**  
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION



PHOENIX ZOO

# ZooLights

Presented by



## Together We All Shine

**NOW – JAN 31 | 5:30 – 10:30 P.M.**

Millions of Lights | Wildlife Lantern Safari  
Festive Food and Drink

*Now the Valley's  
favorite holiday  
tradition is bigger  
and brighter!*

### **CRUISE ZOOLIGHTS**

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*All proceeds benefit the  
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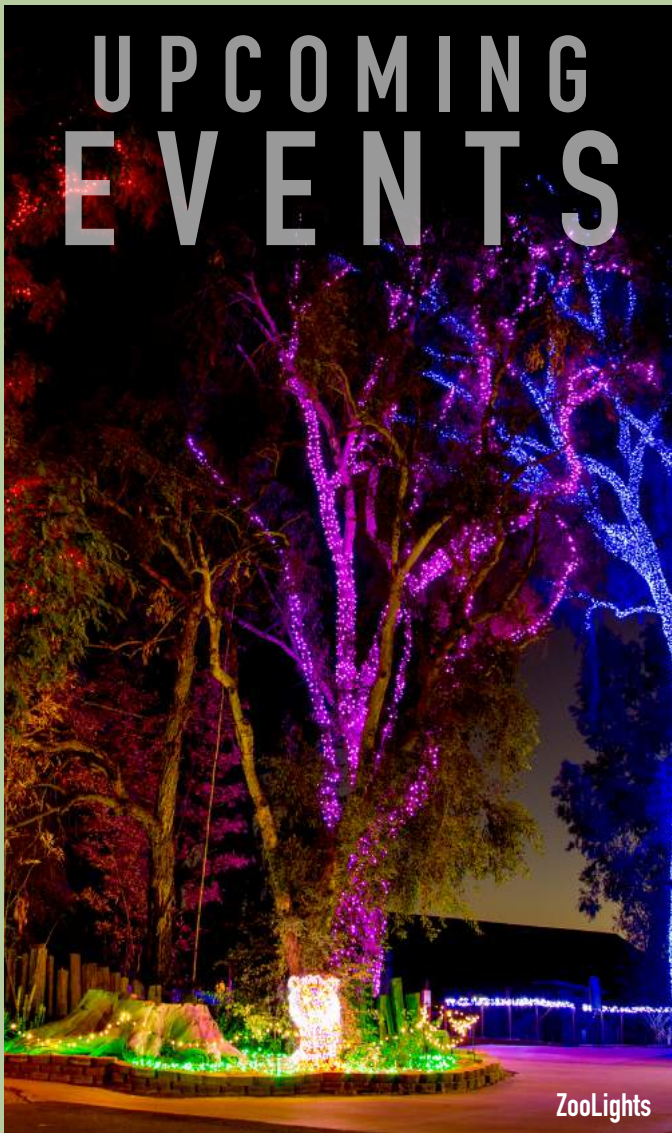
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The Holiday Station

**ZooLights tickets on sale Now!**



# UPCOMING EVENTS



ZooLights

## ZooLights

November 7 – January 31, 2021

## HOURS

### Now – January 31, 2021

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Daily) | 8 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

### ZooLights

#### November 4 - January 31

5:30 – 10:30 p.m. (Nightly)

### February 1– May 31, 2021

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Daily) | 8 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

**Please note:** Encounters, tours and experiences are not open until general public hours. Also, we do our best to have the majority of our animals in their habitats by opening time, but this cannot be guaranteed.

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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,

It is that wonderful time of the year again. The mornings are crisp and cool. The daytime temperatures are moderate and enjoyable, and the evenings are downright chilly! After a record-breaking year with 144 days above 100 degrees, it is such a relief to welcome fall and winter. This year's holiday season may have a more special meaning for us all, considering what a trying time this has been for our country and the world. We're glad to bring you the good news that the Valley's cherished holiday tradition, ZooLights, is back with millions of twinkling lights, hundreds of dazzling animal sculptures, and our wonderful Wildlife Lantern Safari, featuring 66 animals all aglow! We even have a very cool 1957 Diamond T/Van Pelt pumper fire truck on loan from our neighbors at the Hall of Flame Museum of Firefighting.

Our Zoo staff have been working hard, putting in a tremendous amount of time and effort to make this year's event the biggest and best it has ever been! Not only do we want to make this year's ZooLights memorable for you, we also want to make it safe for all who attend. In that spirit, we have some exciting changes to announce! We will continue to offer our traditional walk-thru, as well as a new opportunity to drive-thru, called Cruise ZooLights!

A walk-thru preview will be held for Zoo members on November 4 – November 6 from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. ZooLights will open to the public on November 7 and run through January 31, from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. each night. If that seems like it will begin a bit earlier and last a bit longer, that is because we have extended ZooLights from a traditional 54 to 86 nights. We believe that lengthening the number of nights will allow for smaller crowds and will provide a safer environment, as well as a better experience for all. We have also expanded the route within



the Zoo to provide more space and easier social distancing and will be limiting attendance. Within these 86 days, 27 will be a drive-thru-only Cruise ZooLights experience. We hope that this unique experience will provide an opportunity for those folks that may not be quite ready to mingle with the crowds, but still want to attend ZooLights. But really, it will also be a fun way to bring the whole family!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bert" with a stylized flourish underneath.

**Norberto J. (Bert) Castro**

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



# Together We All Shine

Bigger, better and brighter...

## ZooLights Returns!

One of the hardest things about 2020 is the unsettling roller coaster of change and uncertainty. We yearn for a return to normalcy and brighter times. Fortunately, the Phoenix Zoo knows a little something about traditions and making things merry and bright.

ZooLights, presented by SRP, has become one of the Valley's most cherished holiday traditions. For 29 years, the Zoo has gift-wrapped itself in millions of lights; presenting guests with an array of dazzling sculptures, festive entertainment, food and activities that could make Ebenezer Scrooge smile. This year, not only does ZooLights return, but we're proud to announce it's bigger, better and brighter than ever!

### What's New?

There is A LOT that has changed for ZooLights 2020 with one of the biggest additions being our new drive-thru experience, Cruise ZooLights.

Building from the success of our recent Cruise the Zoo, for the first time ever guests will be able to drive their vehicles through the park and experience ZooLights in a completely new way.

To enhance the experience, the event footprint has expanded, now including the Outer Tropics Trail where you will find the Forest of Uco has magically turned into Polar Paradise, the Zoo's version of Santa's Village.

When guests enter the park, they tune into a pre-determined radio station playing festive tunes from our Cruise ZooLights soundtrack.

PHOENIX ZOO  
**zoolights**

Presented by







Favorites such as hot cocoa and kettle corn will be available for pre-purchase and if you are worried you will miss Santa Claus, fear not! Between November 27 and December 23, St. Nick will be available for photo ops right beside our Stop, Shop and Support Cruise Gift Shop as you exit the park.

Our drive-thru experience is on select nights only, closed to foot traffic, and will provide a great opportunity for guests who cannot, or may not want to, walk the park. Available online for pre-purchase only, Cruise ZooLights promises to be wildly popular, so buy your tickets **TODAY!**

### **Here We Glow!**

Back by popular demand, Wildlife Lantern Safari returns to the Africa Trail, featuring nearly 70 new animal sculptures all aglow. From mammoths and peacocks to polar bears and snow leopards, these beautiful works of art are viewable not only on walk and drive-thru evenings, but during daytime hours too. They are included with Zoo admission and definitely not to be missed!

### **Keeping You Safe**

For so many people in the Valley, ZooLights has become a special part of their holiday memories. Strolling the beautifully decorated grounds, enjoying the phenomenal Music-in-Motion Light Show on the lake, it is a tradition we are very proud to continue in 2020 as part of our walk-thru evenings. Yet there will be some definite changes here as well.

The expanded trails of Cruise ZooLights will also be a part of our walk-thru nights, where you will find even more unique armature designs and stunning light displays. "It's been challenging to increase the workload of the ZooLights team," says Justin Davis, ZooLights Supervisor, "but it also allows a wider area for social distancing, which is what's important right now."

To successfully and safely present ZooLights 2020, many other features have been considered and





## WALK-THRU NIGHT REMINDERS

### Avoid the Crowds

- Arrive an hour or two after the gates open at 5:30 p.m.
- Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays are the least busy nights
- Tickets **MUST** be purchased in advance.

### What to Wear

- Don't forget your face covering.
- It can get pretty chilly at night so bring gloves and warm layers.
- The Zoo can be very dark. Consider having kids wear glow necklaces or flashing shoes. (Flashlights or laser pointers are not permitted)
- ZooLights is rain or shine so check the forecast before you visit.\*

*\*Some activities or special exhibits may not be available.*

implemented. Beyond expanding our footprint, we have extended the run of the event, increasing from 54 to 86 nights, in the hopes that our attendees will spread out over more evenings.

Camel rides, concessions, retail shops and onsite rentals, will be available as usual though with increased social distancing and sanitizing protocols in place.

Face coverings will be required during ZooLights anytime social distancing cannot be maintained, upon entry, in any line and in designated face

covering areas. Please remember to stay six feet from other flocks and herds and wash your paws often! We ask that you consider the welfare of others and keep your mask on as you approach or are approached by Zoo guests or staff. You can find all of the ways the Zoo is working to maintain a safe environment **here**.

Whether you cruise, walk, or do both, we welcome you to another spectacular season of ZooLights, where good times are shared, and memories are made.

## Because together we all shine.

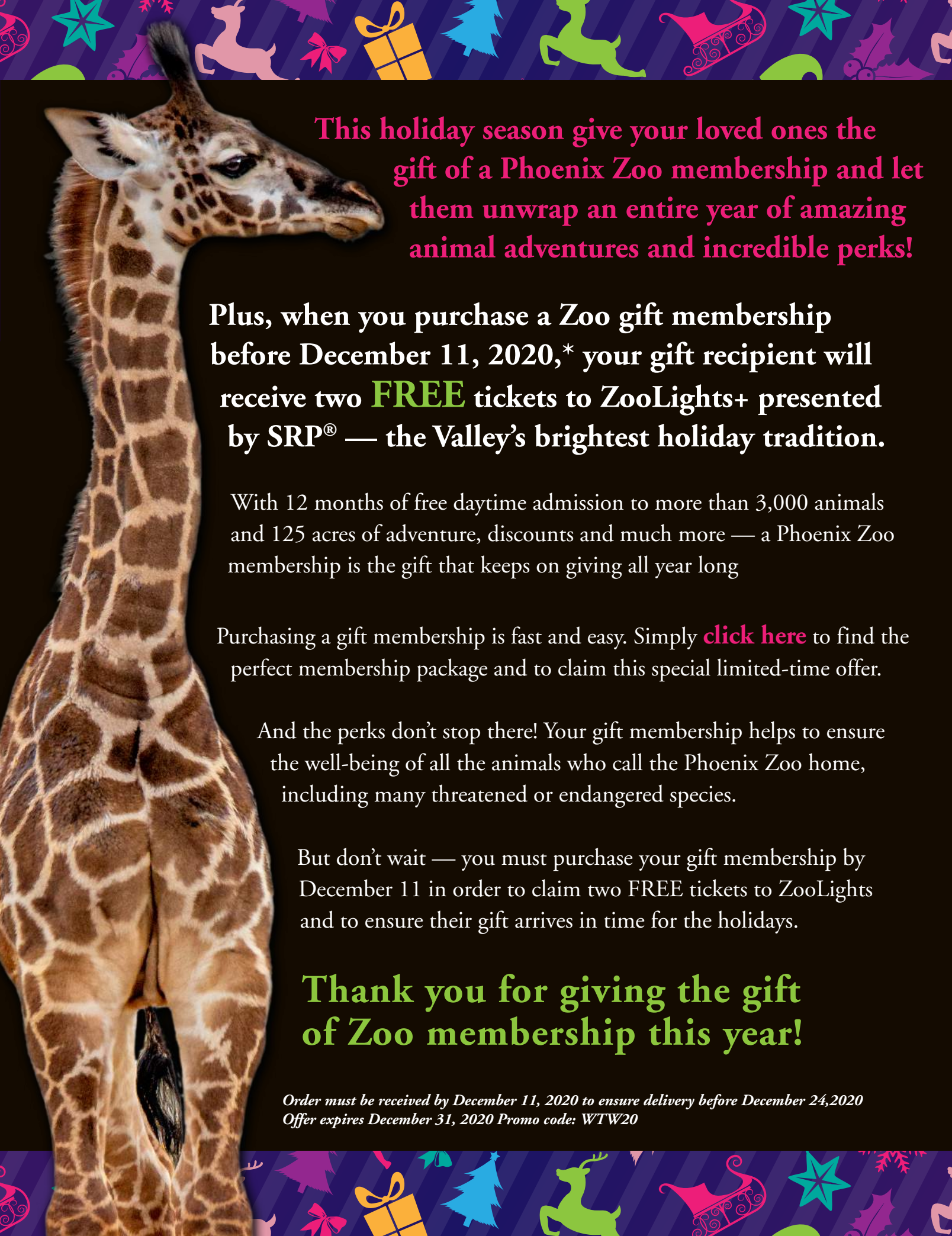


ZooLights 2020 runs  
**November 7 through January 31**  
from 5:30 – 10:30 p.m.

**November 4 – 6 Member Preview!**

For tickets  
and more information,  
**click here.**





**This holiday season give your loved ones the gift of a Phoenix Zoo membership and let them unwrap an entire year of amazing animal adventures and incredible perks!**

**Plus, when you purchase a Zoo gift membership before December 11, 2020,\* your gift recipient will receive two **FREE** tickets to ZooLights+ presented by SRP® — the Valley's brightest holiday tradition.**

With 12 months of free daytime admission to more than 3,000 animals and 125 acres of adventure, discounts and much more — a Phoenix Zoo membership is the gift that keeps on giving all year long

Purchasing a gift membership is fast and easy. Simply **click here** to find the perfect membership package and to claim this special limited-time offer.

And the perks don't stop there! Your gift membership helps to ensure the well-being of all the animals who call the Phoenix Zoo home, including many threatened or endangered species.

But don't wait — you must purchase your gift membership by December 11 in order to claim two FREE tickets to ZooLights and to ensure their gift arrives in time for the holidays.

**Thank you for giving the gift of Zoo membership this year!**

*Order must be received by December 11, 2020 to ensure delivery before December 24, 2020  
Offer expires December 31, 2020 Promo code: WTW20*





**"T**he greater flamingos at the Phoenix Zoo have a little something for everyone: a glamorous diva, a dashing leading man, same-sex couples, underdogs, hard workers, dirty double crossers and a whole group of teenagers that do everything like they're arriving at a Beyoncé show."

There is a LOT of drama unfolding at the Phoenix Zoo, just ask Carrie Flood, our Community Learning Manager.

Since spring 2018, she has been observing the enlightening, funny and often bizarre behavior of our greater flamingos. This past spring, she decided to start a humor blog called Hot Pink, capturing this wild flamingling as if it was a soap opera. "Reality

TV couldn't come up with better storylines than the ones happening in plain sight in a quiet corner of the zoo every single day," says Flood.

Yet amongst the stories of mudslinging, jealous rivalries, clandestine romances and raucous showdowns, you will find a wealth of information about this fascinating species. Why do they stand on one leg and put their heads upside down under water? How old do they get? Do they mate for life? Hot Pink has the answers.

So, give those Real Housewives a pass for a while, things are heating up at the Zoo and you are not going to want to miss it when the feathers fly. Check it out [here!](#)



# Wild Birthdays



## Calling All Party Animals!

Let the Phoenix Zoo host your child's next birthday party and enjoy a fun, stress-free day celebrating. It's sure to be a wildly good time!



602.914.4333

## Picnics at the Zoo!

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we'll bring the wild.**

With unrivaled venues and activities to choose from, the Phoenix Zoo is the Valley's most unique picnic location.

- Scenic venues for groups of all sizes
- Animal encounters
- Variety of catering options
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# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

## Phoenix Zoo and Wildlife Agency Partners Celebrate 25 Years Conserving Arizona Frogs

2020 marks the 25th anniversary of collaboration between the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation (ACNC)/Phoenix Zoo (Zoo), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and United States Forest Service (USFS) to save the threatened Chiricahua leopard frog (*Rana chiricahuensis*) in Arizona. Since the program began, over 26,000 tadpoles and frogs raised at the Zoo have been released to the wild.

In 1995, the Phoenix Zoo launched its leopard frog recovery program with just a few small tanks in the curator's office. Today, the Zoo runs the program from the Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation Native Species Conservation Center, with dedicated indoor and outdoor space for leopard frog propagation. In late September, staff from AZGFD and the Zoo collaborated on this year's final release, bringing our total to over 600 zoo-reared tadpoles and frogs released to the wild in Arizona in 2020 alone.

None of this work would be possible without strong, positive relationships with wildlife agency partners. AZGFD Ranid Frogs Project Coordinator Audrey Owens noted, "The Phoenix Zoo has been at the forefront of the Chiricahua leopard frog reintroduction program since it began raising frogs 25 years ago, when the species had declined from nearly 80% of its range. Thanks to the Zoo's efforts, we have more stability in frog populations in southeastern Arizona. Today, the Zoo's expanded captive rearing program contributes to our recovery work in high elevation populations in the northern part of their range, where disease threatens populations of our wild frogs."

Christina Akins, District Wildlife Biologist on the Tonto National Forest stated: "Our partnership with the Zoo, AZGFD and USFWS has allowed Forest Service biologists to participate in recovery efforts and re-establish frog populations on National Forest lands across Arizona."

For the Zoo, the leopard frog program is one of many examples of our commitment to supporting healthy wildlife in their native habitats. "We are proud to be entrusted with the care of this threatened species and honored to have contributed to the success of this recovery effort. Our job is to provide healthy, robust egg masses, tadpoles and frogs to reintroduce frogs across their native range in Arizona. We love being part of this collaboration and celebrate this milestone moment," said ACNC/Phoenix Zoo President and CEO Bert Castro.

Chiricahua leopard frogs are an aquatic species found only in Arizona, western New Mexico and northern Mexico. They have declined due to loss of habitat, disease, and competition from and predation by non-native species. Establishing new populations and augmenting existing populations is a key component of the recovery strategy for the frog. Each year, biologists recommend where help from the Zoo is most needed to augment frog populations in the wild. Chiricahua leopard frog partners use a mix of approaches, releasing frogs at different life stages (egg masses, tadpoles, froglets and frogs) in hopes of maximizing the long-term success of the release efforts. As few as ten percent of all frog eggs laid in the wild are thought to survive







to adulthood. The Zoo helps by “head-starting” wild egg masses and raising egg masses laid by adult frogs living at the Zoo’s Johnson Conservation Center, which provides a protected environment for the eggs until they reach the less vulnerable tadpole or young frog stage. Zoo staff continually work to improve their results, adjusting management and care protocols to maximize the number of healthy egg masses, tadpoles and frogs available for release.

“We appreciate the hard work that all of our partners are doing to ensure the Chiricahua leopard frog continues to be part of Arizona’s incredibly diverse wildlife,” said Cat Crawford, USFWS biologist. “Recovery of the frog will only happen through long-term collaborative efforts of partners as exemplified by the Phoenix Zoo over the past 25 years.” This anniversary is possible thanks to the trust and appreciation shared by the Zoo and its state and federal partners, developed through years working together on a common goal, as well as the contributions of dozens of past and present

Zoo staff and volunteers who’ve been part of the program since it began. “Ultimately, we’d like to be put out of the leopard frog head-starting business, because that would mean we’ve achieved our goal of having self-sustaining populations of Chiricahua leopard frogs throughout their range. But as long as we’re needed, we are committed to being a part of this important recovery effort,” said Castro.

Thank you for helping us save leopard frogs and other Arizona native species! Interested in making a special gift to support these efforts?

Check out our **Wish List!**



We have released **410** tadpoles and **208** frogs so far this year!

*Rana chiricahuensis* - Chiricahua leopard frog  
Threatened in Arizona since 2002.  
25,000+ individuals reared for release





DISCOVER



NATURE



"I wanted to say thank you so much! This was a great event and it looked like everyone had an awesome time."

– Phoenix Zoo Live Online program sponsor who purchased an online program as a thank you for their company's staff

"I want zoo class every day of the week because they are so much fun!"

– Family ZooVenture program participant

"Thank you for engaging (my daughter) in learning and providing her a connection to one of her favorite places.... We seriously appreciate the content you are creating and can't wait for more."

– Family ZooVenture program participant

# RE-LEARNING H

## Innovations in Educati



As anyone involved in online learning can attest, it has been a tough year for educators and for learners. "Adapt and adjust" has been a rallying cry for everyone trying to make their way through the pandemic. Typically, the Phoenix Zoo reaches thousands of students and families through on-grounds and community programming. Summers are traditionally full of Camp Zoo kids in brightly colored t-shirts singing songs about llamas and building zoo exhibits out of clay and cardboard. Spring and fall nights are bustling with school groups hiking the Zoo and conducting scientific inquiries during Night Camps. The Zoo's Outreach vans can be seen on Arizona's highways bringing animals to classrooms, libraries, hotels and more, sparking curiosity and wonder.

With COVID-19 cases rising in our state, we suspended in-person educational programming in March. Remaining committed to our mission to provide experiences that inspire people and

motivate them to care for the natural world, the Zoo's Education team rallied. The team looked at our existing offerings and worked tirelessly to adapt them to virtual and digital formats to ensure we would still be able to reach the communities that rely on us for fun and engaging programs. Virtual Camp Zoo to You, Family ZooVenture and Project Orangutan were born, and our already-virtual distance learning programs were spotlighted as additional ways to help us connect with families seeking something to look forward to during isolation at home.

Converting programs to a digital environment is not simple or straightforward. Education staff are rising to the challenge as they learn how to adapt their presentation styles and techniques to an online environment, mastering Zoom facilitation while holding lizards and chickens and managing Q&A sessions with second graders, as just an example. The team has brought enthusiasm, creativity





"We (a Valley-based family resource center) loved the program.... We love the animals and am sure our families will as well. We do miss seeing them in person and getting to touch but are so happy to have this virtual way to connect."

– Distance Learning program participant

# HOW TO TEACH on at the Phoenix Zoo



and resilience to these tasks, working together to troubleshoot technical issues, "classroom management" strategies, and rescuing each other when things don't go quite as planned.

This teamwork extends well beyond the Education Department. Our virtual programs rely on folks from throughout the Zoo working together to deliver great experiences. Living Collections staff are co-stars in many of our programs, talking to attendees about the animals they care for through Zoom, FaceTime, Teams, GoToMeetings and countless other platforms. Our Communications and IT teams provide equipment and tips to help get our messages across and occasionally keep our technology from overheating in the Arizona sun. Our Call Center have learned quickly how to describe the new camps and classes to guests, helping us generate interest and giving insights as we plan future programs. Marketing staff have assisted in promoting these new programs so folks

know we're still providing high-quality learning experiences for a wide range of audiences looking for great science content. We don't have room here to name every area in the Zoo that has contributed to the success of our virtual programs, but we're grateful to everyone for their essential support.

We look forward to welcoming guests to in-person programs again in the future and are exploring ways to do so as safely as possible. In the meantime, thank you to all the kids and families who've adapted along with us. Thank you for ZOOMing with us, asking hard questions, dancing in your living rooms, making pinecone bird feeders to hang outside and for staying connected.

**Click here** or call  
602.286.3800 x5050 to  
book a program today!







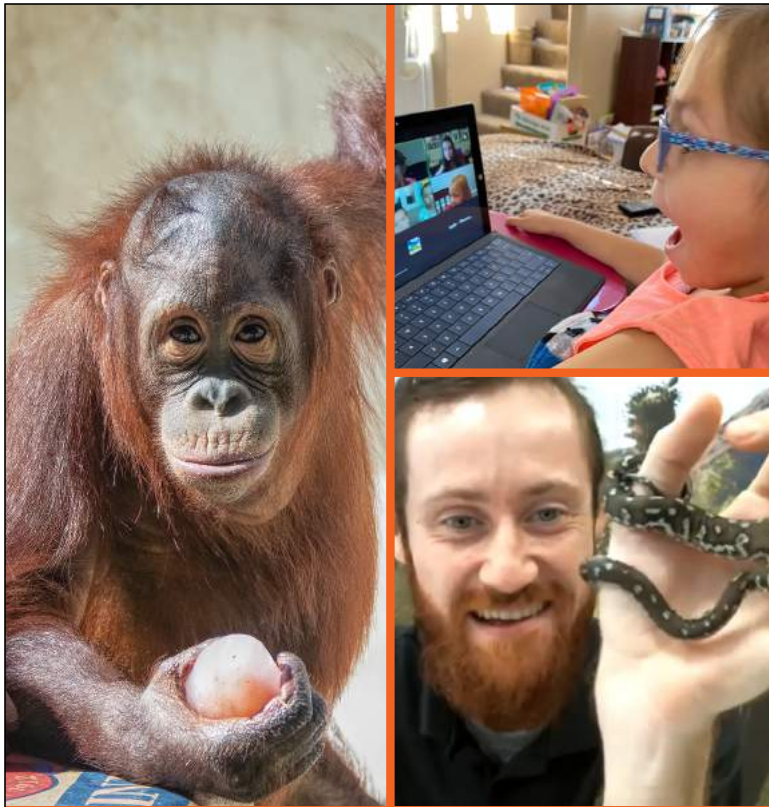
Bobcat  
(Photo by William Driver)





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# STAYING GREEN

## DURING COVID-19

**W**ith so many challenges facing people during the pandemic, it is easy to lose sight of the toll that it is taking on the planet.

Thankfully, less car and air travel means lower CO2 emissions, yet the increased number of people working from and staying at home has had a profound impact on the volume of waste created. The Environmental Protection Agency urges that “recycling is more essential than ever right now” yet the U.S. recycling industry itself has been affected by shutdowns and health concerns. If we are truly trying to reduce waste, we must go beyond simply knowing ‘what’ materials go in the blue bin to controlling the amount of waste we are producing.

So how can we stay green during Covid-19? This is not a new topic but much like how we have trained our brains to social distance and wear masks, we can keep some simple ‘green’ solutions top of mind.

### Think Before You Buy

‘Single use’ items build up in the environment, especially those that are non-biodegradable or slow to break down. For those thinking disposable surgical masks are made of paper, guess again. They are actually polypropylene, which is part of the thermoplastic family and take centuries to decompose. The synthetic polymers of nitrile gloves tend to break down a little quicker, but it still takes decades. Though sometimes single use gloves are a necessity (e.g. when dealing with medical waste),



consider using rubber gloves for household chores and cleaning. Switching to reusable masks and gloves will not only cut down on landfill waste but also help keep dangerous plastics and toxins out of our streams, lakes and oceans. Here are a few other small considerations that could make a big difference over time.

### Getting takeout food

Decline straws, plastic cutlery and small condiment packets when going curbside or picking up food to go. Avoid Styrofoam and even better, frequent (and thank!) places that use compostable or recyclable containers.

### Eating at home more

Reducing waste can start at the grocery store. Buy bulk food and beverages to cut down on single serve packaging. Recycle items such as cardboard, glass and plastic, rinsing them clean of food waste if possible. Excess contamination can ruin an entire load of recyclables. If you’re unsure what’s recyclable, check your city/town website, or check out sites like [earth911.com](http://earth911.com).

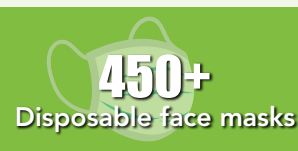
### Purchasing online

Online shopping has naturally skyrocketed, meaning packaging waste is at an all-time high.

According to National Geographic, “91 percent of plastic ends up in landfills and/or in the environment,” with the majority of that being packaging waste. Look for items with compostable or biodegradable packaging and try to consolidate your purchasing into fewer shipments. Sellers will often ship multiple items in the same box and fewer deliveries means less trucks needing fuel and

## BIODEGRADABLE BREAK DOWN

It takes this many years  
for the following items to decompose\*:





emitting CO2.

### Know Before You Throw

Single-use masks and gloves are NOT recyclable and must be thrown in the trash after use. Placing non-recyclable items in recycling bins is a huge concern; not only leading to possible mass contamination of the recycled goods, but to potential health risks during the pandemic.

Here are a few more products to look out for:

- Disposable wipes/ towelettes: Wipes cannot be recycled or flushed. They clog pipes and can cause sewage backups and overflows. Since these can only be disposed of in the trash, try using soap and water with washable, reusable cloths. There are numerous online options with great DIY tips and tricks such as **this one**.
- Harsh chemicals and cleaning solvents: For many, keeping things at home and at work clean isn't enough during a health crisis. Disinfecting, rather than just cleaning, narrows green options, but the EPA has a few **suggestions**, the front-runner being good old fashioned rubbing alcohol. Always remember, if you do need to get rid of toxic solvents and harsh chemicals, there is only one safe solution. Drop them off at a designated **Public Works site** rather than dumping them down the drain or putting containers in the trash or recycling bins. Disposing of these items incorrectly is unsafe for your family and others in your community.

Staying green during the pandemic is a challenge for many reasons, yet the more people choose more sustainable options, the better off we will all be. These choices support healthy human communities and healthy wildlife habitats. With a little forethought, information and planning, we can maintain our own well-being while still focusing on the health of the planet.



\*Statistics provided by ourworldindata.org

# GO HOG WILD, AS WE BUILD A NEW AFRICA TRAIL

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THE PRIDE CAMPAIGN



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
THE AFRICA TRAIL EXPANSION,  
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# Who's In

By: Corey Barr  
**Senior Keeper, Elephants**

If you have ever been lucky enough to know an elephant, you know how complex and intelligent they can be. If you have never known one, fear not, because I'm here to shed some light on our two lovely ladies!

Sheena is our 'baby' at 48 years young and is taller and hairier than Indu. She has been at the Zoo since 2000 and came to us from Ringling Bros. Although known to be very submissive and shy, it is also true that she can be sneaky, sassy and extremely observant. Sheena really enjoys new enrichment toys

and the challenges that they pose, gracefully taking her time to figure out how it works. Inevitably, this clever gal will find an even more efficient way to use the toy, often ways that we didn't think of.

On the other hand, Indu is not so graceful. She is coming in hot at 54 years old and has been with us since 1998. Recognizable by her pink ears and trunk, she differs greatly from Sheena in her approach to new toys, preferring brute force to simply figuring it out. If she has not found the answer within a minute or two, she will throw, bang, hit, kick or stomp on whatever is outsmarting her! Her intelligence is not to be dismissed however as she is by far our most



Can you name these elephants?  
Answer below.

# at Girl?

perceptive elephant and picks up on every little thing. She will check our locks after being shifted inside and can spot something out of place from the moment we open a door.

Despite their differences, these two precious pachyderms are always fun to watch, so next time you visit the Phoenix Zoo, make sure to say hi to Indu and Sheena!

Left Elephant: Indu; Right Elephant: Sheena



*In  
Memory*

Skye  
matriarch of the  
hamadryas baboon troop

1983 – 2020

*"She earned the respect and love  
of all of her keepers and will  
be greatly missed by everyone."*







## Commemorate the love you have for your pets

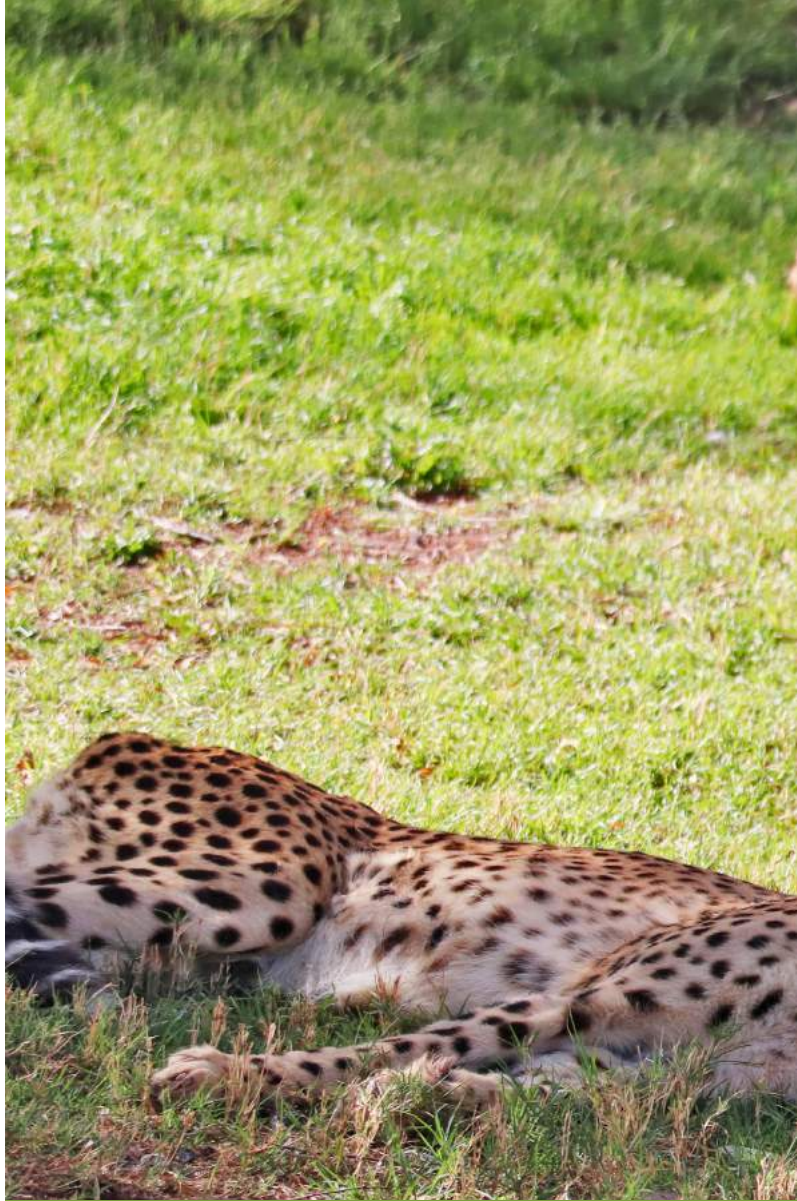
Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to add your pet's pawprint and name to the Etched in Glass Donor wall.

**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, email [phoenixzooprints@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixzooprints@gmail.com)  
or call 602.286.3800 x7342.



## 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!\*

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## 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](https://phoenixzoo.org/membership) to learn more.*



# Care, Support and Donate

Charitable donations are an excellent way to support the education and conservation efforts of the Zoo. Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. Make your year-end contribution today, by calling 602.914.4362.

## Gift a Donation

Have a "hard to shop for" person on your list? Consider a gift to honor them! This holiday season help someone create a lasting connection to wildlife and empower them to take positive action for animals. (And it's tax-deductible too!)

[Give a Gift Today](#)



## Adopt an Animal

You can give a gift that makes a difference to the big cat lover in your life this holiday season! When you sponsor a cat like a lion, tiger, or cheetah, you'll be making an impact on real animals all around the globe. You can also choose between other animals such as giraffes, elephants, orangutans and more!

[Adopt an Animal](#)



## Fry's Community Rewards

The Zoo is proud to be part of the Fry's Community Rewards program and now you can help support the Zoo every time you shop at Fry's Food Stores. Find out how you can link your **Fry's V.I.P Card** today!



## AmazonSmile

Did you know your purchases on Amazon can help the Zoo? The **AmazonSmile** program, through Amazon.com, donates 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Phoenix Zoo when you select our charitable organization (Arizona Center for Nature Conservation). Connecting your account is easy- in just a few minutes, you'll be on your way to helping the Zoo, while enjoying your Amazon purchases!

## Tribute Gifts

The Phoenix Zoo offers many ways to pay tribute to your loved one including plaques, benches, tiles and other opportunities. We will inform the recipient of your gift and how it helps the Zoo accomplish its mission of wildlife and habitat conservation.

[View all Tribute Gifts](#)



## Shopping

### **Clothing, Novelties and More**

Desert Marketplace is the spot for one-of-a-kind souvenirs to remember your visit to the Phoenix Zoo. You'll find clothing for kids and adults, hats, jewelry, artwork, toys, books, stuffed animals and so much more! Desert Marketplace is open during normal Zoo business hours.

**For more information call 602.286.3800 x7556.**



## Give an Animal a Gift

Many Zoo departments have a Wish List of items that they need to better meet the needs of our animals and guests. You can donate items directly from our **Wish List** or you can contact the Development department at 602.286.3800 x 7345 or [nwilson@phoenixzoo.org](mailto:nwilson@phoenixzoo.org) to make a monetary donation for us to make the purchases.





## **We LOVE Our Members!**

Becoming a Phoenix Zoo member opens a world of wonder all year long! Not only do you enjoy all the member benefits, you also give the Zoo a brighter future. We have membership packages to fit any lifestyle. Become a member of the Zoo online, by calling 602.912.4333 or by visiting our membership booth at the Zoo.

**Join Today**

## **Upgrade Your Membership**

Why not treat yourself to an enhanced experience at the Phoenix Zoo? Upgrade your membership to a **Supporting or Guardian level** and not only will you enjoy added benefits but you will help support animal conservation, education and a secure financial future for the Zoo.



## **Tax Changes That Could Help You and the Phoenix Zoo**



**D**uring these challenging times, we wanted to share some good news with you.

This year, a new law was passed to help you, businesses and non-profits facing economic hardship during the pandemic.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (also known as the CARES Act), is helping taxpayers give more to charities. It allows individuals (or families) who do not itemize deductions to deduct up to \$300 of contributions made to qualified charities, like the Phoenix Zoo, as an above-the-line deduction.

Imagine if all our Phoenix Zoo members and friends gave \$300? Such support would have a tremendous impact on our animals and their keepers' ability to care for them.

### **But there is more good news!**

The new law temporarily suspends required minimum distributions (RMDs) from all retirement accounts for 2020. This probably comes as a relief to many of you who would have had to withdraw a greater percentage

of your retirement accounts. Many of our donors use their RMD to make a gift from their IRA. If you normally take RMDs, perhaps you would consider donating the amount that you would have paid in taxes to the Phoenix Zoo.

Lastly, for those who itemize their deductions, the CARES Act increases the deductibility limit for cash contributions to charities from 60% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) to 100% for the 2020 calendar year. The RMD waiver and AGI increase are temporary for 2020 only and expire at midnight on December 31.

We are so grateful for gifts from friends like you, which feed our animals and keep them safe. Please, **click here** if you would like to Donate to the Phoenix Zoo today. Thank you!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Liz Toth, Gift Planning Manager at [ltoth@phoenixzoo.org](mailto:ltoth@phoenixzoo.org) or by calling 602.286.3881

*The information provided here is not offered as legal or tax advice. Please consult your financial advisor, accountant, or attorney, or if you need assistance let us help you find one.*

# LET'S CELEBRATE!

**November 7**

Bison Day

**December 4**

International Cheetah Day

**December 14**

Monkey Day

**November 10**

American Frog Day

**December 13**

National Day of the Horse

**December 27**

Visit the Zoo Day

## HAPPY NATIONAL DAY OF THE HORSE!

**M**ajestic and powerful, horses are an iconic symbol of freedom and deeply intertwined with the history of humankind. Archeological evidence suggests the species "equus caballus" were domesticated around 3,500 BC and were bred for numerous purposes such as warfare, farming, construction, hunting, and transportation, to name only a few!

The Phoenix Zoo has its own special history with these fascinating quadrupeds. Currently we have 17 horses that call our Thunderbirds Charities Equine Facility home. They range in age from twelve (our playful Wild Copper Penny) to thirty-three (our sun loving pony, Napoleon) and include breeds such as Percheron Draft, American Paint, Arabian, Appaloosa and Haflinger pony.

### FUN FACTS

- Depending on size, an adult horse will eat between 12 to 20 pounds of hay per day. The Zoo's horses also enjoy a variety of favorite snacks that range from apples and carrots to bananas, parsley and even peppermints.
- A horse's eyes are on the side of their head, allowing them to see nearly 360 degrees around, a biological necessity for prey animals.
- Strangely, all horses have 'frogs' - the soft underside behind the keratin hoof that aids in traction and circulation.
- Measurement of a horse is in 'hands', which is approximately 4 inches long (the average width of a man's hand). This is done from the ground to the top of the withers (the highest point of the back). Our tallest horse is Colonel (nicknamed Giant) at an impressive 18.3 hands though the world record goes to Sampson, a shire gelding in the U.K., who stood 21.2½ hands tall and weighed 3,359 lbs.!

Horse Hands also happens to be the name of our popular equine caregiving and horseback riding program developed to help kids and adults foster a deeper appreciation of horses. After a recent hiatus, upper level classes resumed on October 13 and we're hoping to return to our full schedule in January 2021. For more information, visit our **Horse Hands site**.





# FEATURED CREATURE **HORSE**



## **ADOPT ME!**

Share the care and adopt  
a favorite animal for  
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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.









Hayden, Age 6

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



Nethera, Age 5



Kayla, Age 8



Addison, Age 7



Quinn, Age 11





*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.*

ACCREDITED BY THE  
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