

March | April 2021

Wild Times

DIGITAL

Putting an End
to Poaching

How to Draw
A LION

BIG CAT
Photo Gallery

phoenixzoo
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

SPECIAL
COLLECTOR'S
ISSUE



Delivering water and power®

A group of wild sheep or goats with large, curved horns are standing on a rocky, sunlit hillside. The scene is backlit by the sun, creating a hazy, golden glow. A bird of prey is visible in flight in the upper left sky.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, TOGETHER.

Water resiliency. Wildlife protection. Forest health. Conservation of precious resources is an important part of environmental stewardship and awareness. At SRP, we're proud to support organizations like the Phoenix Zoo that share our commitment to protect the environment for generations to come.

srpcares.com



Stingray Bay

THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO VISIT DURING SPRING BREAK THAN THE PHOENIX ZOO!

Earth Day
April 22 - Virtual Event

Día del Niño
April 30 - Virtual Event

HOURS

February 1 – May 31, 2021
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Daily) | 8 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

June 1 – August 31, 2021
7 a.m. – Noon (Daily) | 6 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.

features



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BIG CATS

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S ISSUE

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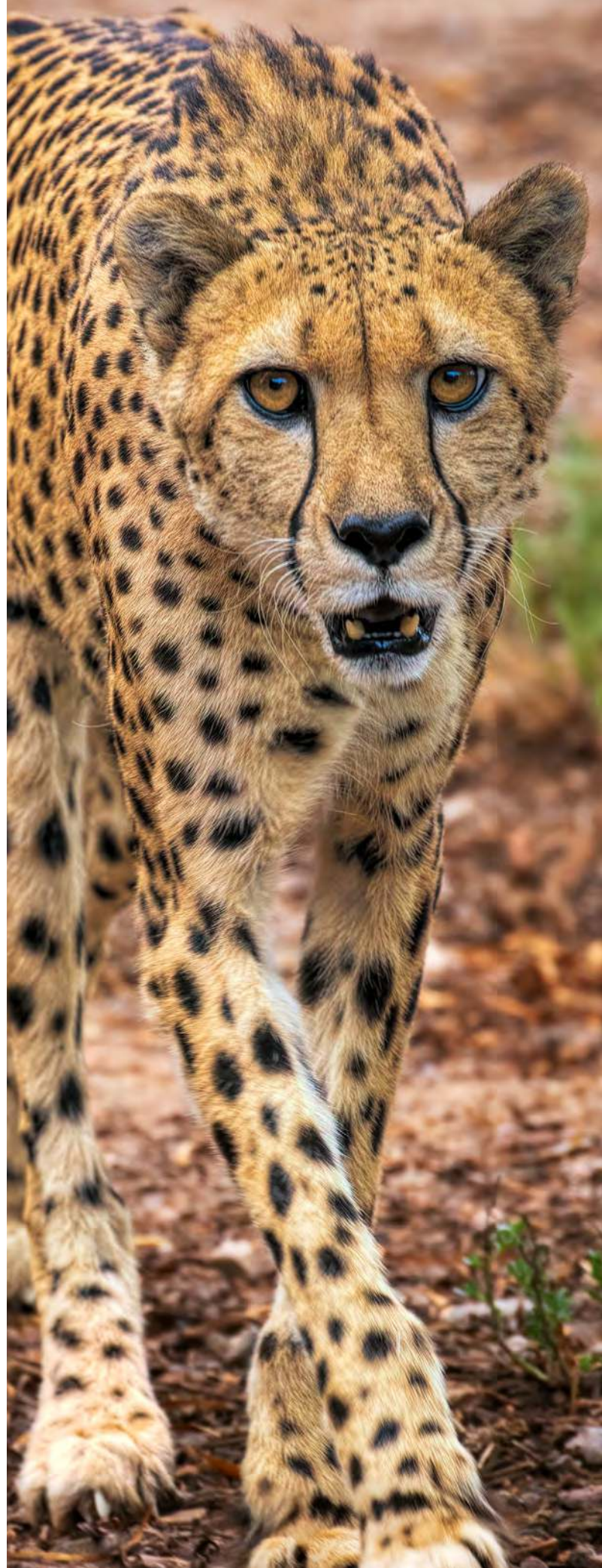
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phoenixzoo.org

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Dear Zoo Friends,

This edition of Wild Times is all about big cats and the issues surrounding them both in the wild and in human care. Big cats face enormous pressure in the wild, as their habitats are being destroyed at an alarming rate. They are often the victims of poaching for products, such as their bones and fur, as well as the pet trade.

Animals in human care, however, also sometimes face adversity. Not all zoos, aquariums and sanctuaries operate at the same high standards for animal health and welfare as those accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS). It is important for people planning a first visit to a zoo, aquarium or sanctuary with which they are unfamiliar to research each facility and determine whether they are accredited by either the AZA or the GFAS.

There has been no better example of the terrible conditions big cats living at unaccredited facilities can face than the Netflix series, "Tiger King." If you haven't seen it, I'm not sure I'd recommend it, but it's a horrifying look at the issues facing animals kept by unscrupulous private owners who profit from them. The cast of characters in "Tiger King" repeatedly bred big cats – often creating hybrids and terribly inbred animals – to produce a constant supply of babies for the cub petting industry. The animals are pulled from their mothers at birth and then, for a few short weeks, passed from paying customer to paying customer for hours at a time. As soon as they get too large to be cute and cuddly, which doesn't take very long, they are replaced by younger cubs. Once their cub petting career is done, these animals become breeders or are shuffled around to different owners, often ending up in sanctuaries or with private owners that are ill-suited to manage the health and safety of these large carnivores.



There has never been a better argument for a federal law regulating the big cat industry than "Tiger King." The Big Cat Public Safety Act would prevent private ownership of big cats and restrict direct contact between the public and big cats at USDA-regulated institutions that exhibit animals to the public. This bill has bipartisan support and, in light of "Tiger King," would provide a method of regulating big cat ownership in the U.S., as well as making the breeding of cats for the cub petting industry illegal in our country. This bill passed the House in December of 2020, but unfortunately never moved on to the Senate in the 116th legislative session. In January 2021, the bill now known as H.R. 263, was reintroduced to the House in the 117th legislative session by its original sponsors. I am hopeful the momentum it had in 2020 will propel it forward in the current legislative session. I respectfully encourage you to reach out to your legislators with your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Norberto (Bert) J. Castro

President / CEO

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo

It's a Party for the Planet™



THURSDAY | APRIL 22
6 p.m.

Presented by 

Online animal encounters,
earth-friendly activities
and so much more!

VIRTUAL CELEBRATIONS!
Watch on phoenixzoo.org

FRIDAY | APRIL 30
6 p.m.



Presented by 

A Virtual Celebration of Children, Animals and Hispanic Culture

All the sights and sounds...
from the comfort of your own home!



How to Stop a Jaguar Poacher, *Hopefully*

By Ruth Allard

It's illegal to hunt jaguars in Costa Rica. Unfortunately, poaching is still a major threat both to jaguar and their prey. These big cats thrive in complex and often remote habitats, and it takes lots of time, people and equipment to patrol the large parks and preserves where populations remain. Security teams' presence may be a deterrent to poaching activity, but they rarely catch hunters in the act. More often, the signs can only be heard in the distance at night as hunting dogs bay and gunshots crack.

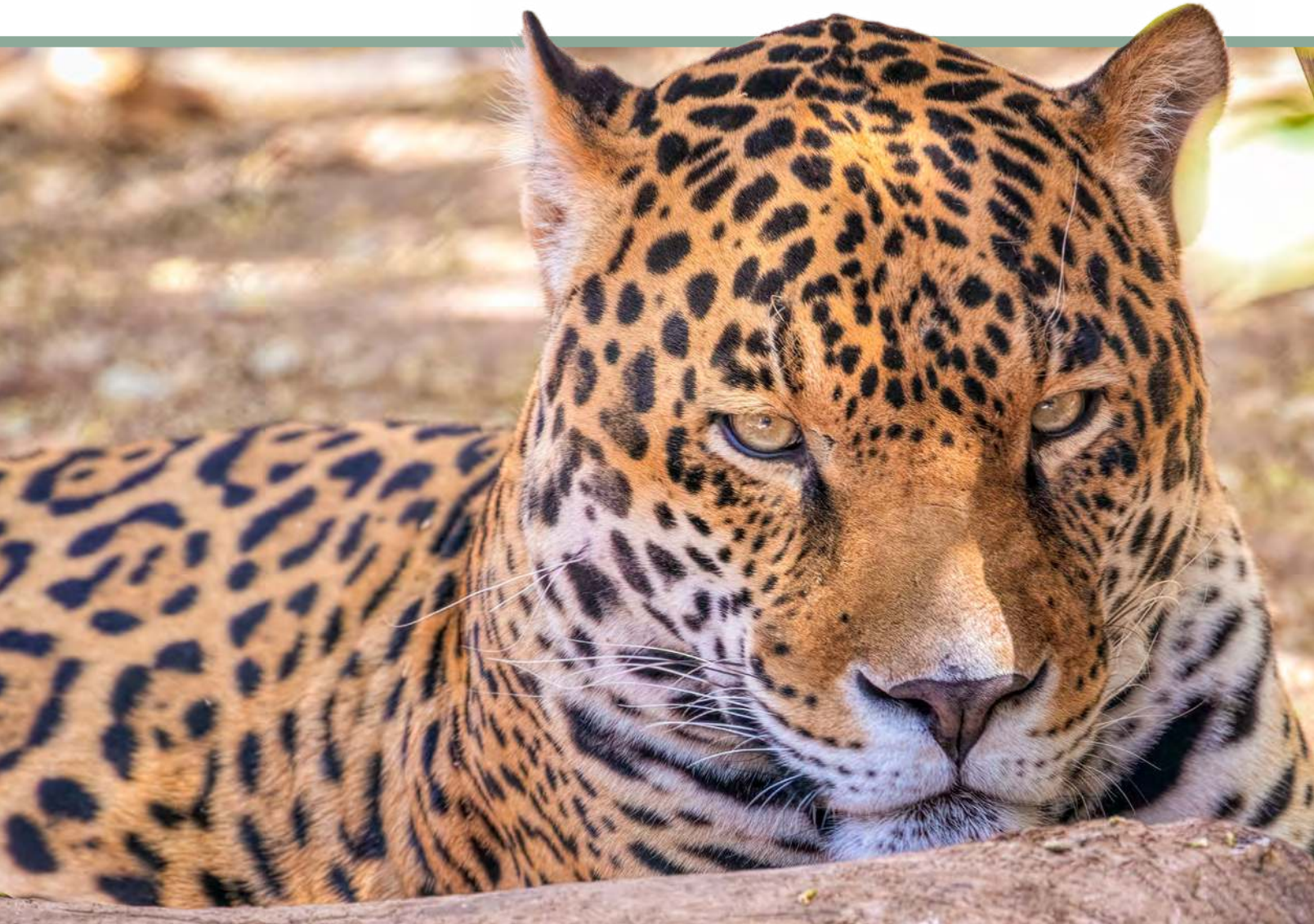


Phoenix Zoo Field Conservation Research Director Dr. Jan Schipper has been working on wildlife conservation projects in Costa Rica for over 20 years. Much of his effort focuses on jaguar populations and how to

best protect them. "We started studying jaguar to understand their ecology and what limits their ability to move across large landscapes" says Schipper, "but the more we learned about jaguar the more we realized we needed to better understand people, specifically local communities living in the same habitats that big cats need." Jan is fueled by natural curiosity, but also by a drive to use scientific data to inform habitat management and protection decisions. His goal is to prevent extinctions, not just of jaguars, but of all the animals and plants that make up the ecosystems where he works.

Over the years, Jan has developed a reputation for being a "camera-trapper," now sought-after as a collaborator on conservation projects using this technology. However, he is not content to stick with one set of tools. "Camera-traps were a major innovation 20 years ago, and it was really amazing to have been part of their development as a research tool. We are now doing something similar with sound, not only using it to detect threats but also lots of different types of animals."

Enter Dr. Garth Paine, co-founder of the Acoustic Ecology Lab and associate professor at Arizona State University. As Paine wrote in May 2019 in *The Conversation*, "As an acoustic ecologist, I monitor the sound of our environment and how it changes." Jan and Garth met on a project looking at how road noise and construction near the McDowell Sonoran Preserve was impacting wildlife, combining photographic data gathered by





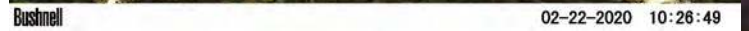
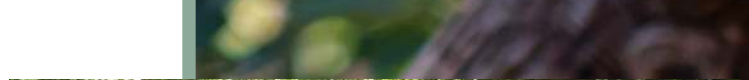
Jan's camera-traps with sound recordings collected using Garth's equipment.

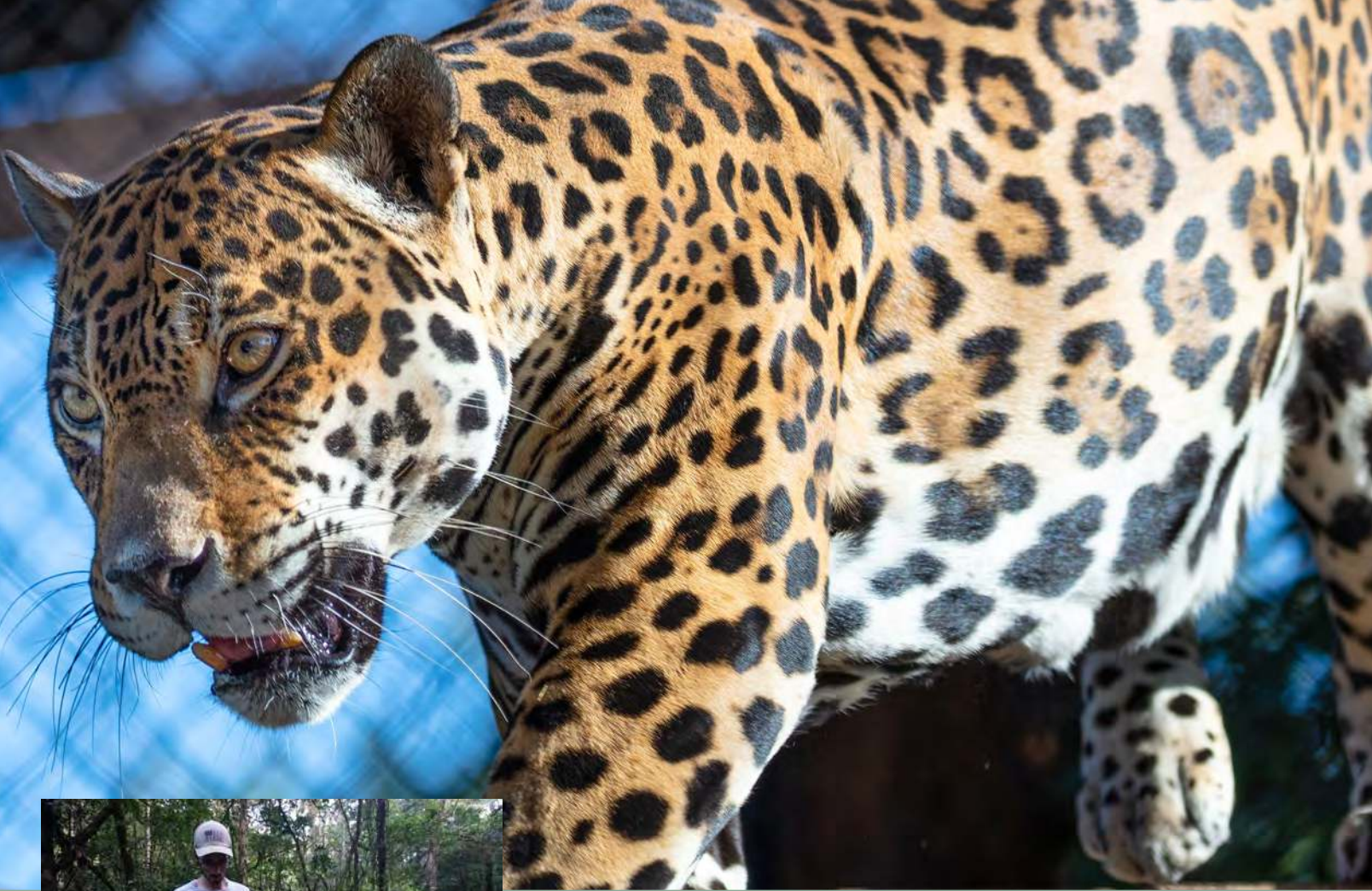
Over time, they began exploring other ways to use technology to address conservation challenges.

When Jan described how hard it is to stop illegal jaguar hunting in Costa Rica, the gunshot detection project was born. "If we could pinpoint where the hunters are in real time, we might be able to catch them in the act," says Jan. Garth began imagining an array of microphones in the forest, programmed to send an alert when a gunshot sound was detected in the reserve. Jan described the challenge: "The equipment would need to be waterproof yet breathable so it wouldn't overheat, solar-powered and monkey/bug/bird-proof to survive in the rainforest – no problem!" Soon, the scientists set out to see whether this idea might actually work.

There is something unique about the sound of a gunshot, which is why you can hear it for such a great distance. Recording the sound and distinguishing it from background noise was the first test taken on by one of Garth's graduate students. To be an effective anti-poaching tool, the equipment must then identify where the sound came from. This meant taking some old wildlife tracking techniques, called telemetry, and reinventing them with very new technology. Basically, the team would need to hang a bunch of small self-contained "computers" in the trees a few kilometers apart to create a network, and then teach them to communicate with each other and on to a base station.

Traditionally, rangers have to patrol huge areas in harsh terrain, hoping to deter poachers by their presence and diligence. Given the size of many protected areas, the likelihood of happening upon a hunter and catching them in the act is very low. With a gunshot detection system, rangers would get an alert in real time saying "gunshot detected





HERE” and head out to hopefully apprehend

the hunting party. Even if the poaching event can't be stopped in time, knowing the location where the gunshot was detected may help security teams get important information to appropriate authorities for enforcement of wildlife laws.

This is not the only system of its kind in use today. A commercially developed gunshot detection system is currently employed at Kruger National Park in South Africa to protect rhinos there. According to the IUCN Red List, over 1000 mammal species worldwide are at risk of extinction due to hunting pressure, meaning that there is considerable need for affordable ways to reduce poaching globally. As Garth notes, “One of the things that excites me particularly about the gunshot recognition approach I have developed is that it is very cheap to deploy

and is easily expandable. That means that we can deploy them in remote environments. The relatively cheap cost compared to commercial systems also means we can share the technology via open source with non-governmental and nonprofit wildlife preservation teams across the globe. The support from the Zoo and from Jan have been instrumental in making this a possibility.”

Saving species from extinction is difficult work that requires creative approaches to address the root issues facing wildlife. This project reflects the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation's mission to advance the stewardship and conservation of animals and their habitats and demonstrates our commitment to using our team's skills and talents in collaboration with others to protect wildlife around the world. We may not be able to stop every poacher, but we're eager to put this technology to work on behalf of jaguars and the people who work tirelessly to save them. After that, who knows what's next?



**BECOMING A PHOENIX ZOO MEMBER
OPENS A WORLD OF WONDER**

ALL YEAR LONG!

In fact, membership pays for itself in as little as **two** visits!

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- **Free Daytime Admission**
Member entry is one hour earlier than general admission.
- **Exclusive invitations to exhibit premieres & events**
- **Discounts on Encounters and Experiences**
Safari Cruiser, Stingray Bay and more.
- **Discounts on stroller and wheelchair rentals**
- **Reciprocal Admission**
Free or discounted admission to more than 150 other zoos and aquariums.
- **Discounts on WILD Birthdays, programs & camps**
- **100% Tax Deductible**
As a nonprofit Zoo, a portion of your membership is tax-deductible!

SUPPORT THE PHOENIX ZOO AND BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

To sign up or for more information, **click here**.

Spring ^{into} Action for EARTH DAY

On April 22, the world will once again unite and Party for the Planet® in honor of Earth Day. According to EARTHDAY.ORG, this is the largest secular civic event in the world with more than 1 billion people involved in activities dedicated to raising awareness and advocating for environmental protections around the globe.

As a proud member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the Phoenix Zoo will align ourselves with their Party for the Planet®: Spring into Action campaign and host a must-see virtual event, presented by SRP. Focusing on the main themes of Clean, Create and Connect, the event will include fun activities, conservation creature features and simple tips for staying green so every day can be Earth Day.

Here at the Zoo, we are always looking for new environmentally friendly initiatives to aid in our mission of caring for the natural world. Here are a few of our latest endeavors.

CLEAN the air...

Going green takes some practice, but once you've started, it can be much like riding a bicycle... literally! Cycling is widely known as a great way to reduce your carbon footprint, but it can also improve fitness, relieve stress and save you money.

Initiated in early 2020, "Bike to the Zoo" is the brainchild of Interpretive Content Manager Matt Strangways, who sees cycling to the Zoo through beautiful Papago Park as a perfect way to enjoy and interact with nature.



Though many trails and paths connect the Zoo to surrounding neighborhoods, Matt admits that the idea of biking can be intimidating.

"I felt that we could encourage guests to take advantage of this opportunity by removing some of the barriers," says Matt.

Working with city representatives from Tempe, Scottsdale and Phoenix, as well as Valley Metro, SRP and the Maricopa Association of Governments, Matt and volunteer Maureen DeCindis developed an online map detailing all existing bike routes to the Zoo. Further plans are underway for bike-friendly events and a higher visibility in the cycling community. So dust off that bike and head to the Zoo! For more information about bike routes, rack locations and more, [click here](#).

CREATE green spaces...

For many guests, coming to the Zoo is as much about visiting the animals as enjoying our beautiful grounds. Led by our Horticulture Curator, Scott Frische, our hardworking Horticulture team have the monumental task of maintaining the Zoo's lush landscapes and desert backdrops.

Yet there is much more to our flora than meets the eye. Beyond simple aesthetics, plants are carefully selected to serve a multitude of purposes. Many are planted in ever-evolving, comprehensive "browse gardens" that are harvested and used by our animals for behavioral enrichment. Native plants are a particular focus for the Horticulture team as their adaptability to our harsh climate makes them ideal for reducing water usage. They also provide necessary habitats and nourishment for native wildlife and support a wide assortment of pollinators.

Ultimately, we hope our picturesque Zoo grounds are not just appreciated but emulated.

"Having a holistic approach to landscape design through planning and knowing the needs and

characteristics of your landscape elements will help you create a landscape that is connected and functional," says Frische.

So for anyone eager to turn their yard, balcony, school or work landscape into a beautiful green space, consider how to make it multi-functional, as well. It can be fun, easy and our wildlife will thank you.

CONNECT with animals...

Building connections with nature is one of the primary goals of the education programs we offer at the Zoo. Even our virtual programs are built around this idea. We provide opportunities to meet our animals, hear their individual stories and learn how to care for them through everyday actions.

Project Orangutan is a great example of a virtual program that builds a strong connection to orangutans. Either in a classroom led by a formal teacher or as part of our Zoo Crew program led by Zoo educators, Project Orangutan allows learners to get to know our orangutan family in a deeper way through interviews with keepers, video footage of their behaviors and detailed exploration of their natural history. The best part is using the understanding gained in the program to design a custom behavioral enrichment item fit for these incredibly intelligent creatures.

By building the stronger connection, we hope that our participants will have empathy for orangutans and keep them in mind when making choices that could impact their habitat.





A wedding like no other..



Whether dreaming of a quaint ceremony or lavish affair, the Phoenix Zoo provides exotic charm and stunning scenic views. Offering more than 15 unique venues and wild touches only found at the Zoo — your forever starts here.

phoenixzoo
ARIZONA CENTER FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

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Picnics at the Zoo!

You bring the guests... we'll bring the wild.

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

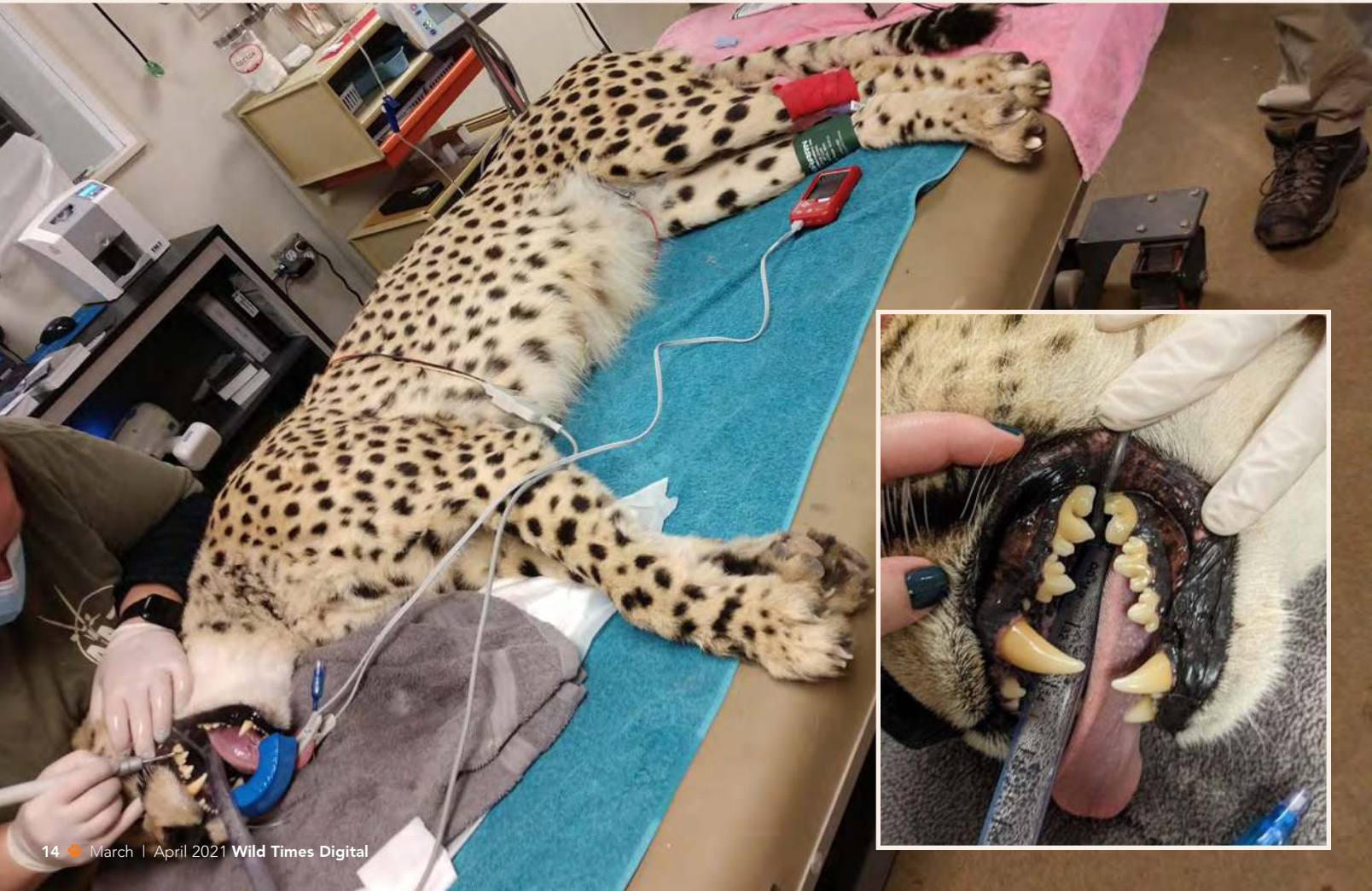
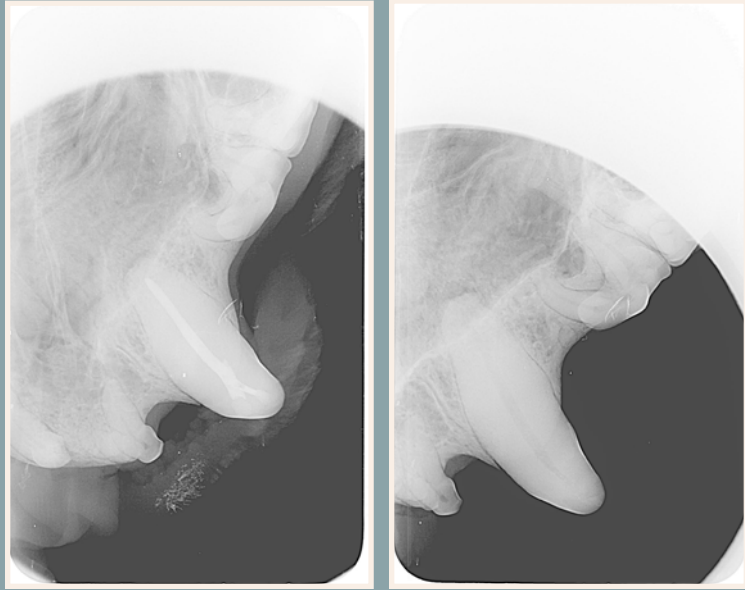
- Scenic venues for groups of all sizes
- Animal encounters
- Variety of catering options
- Free parking

Book Today!
602.914.4301



Feline Fine

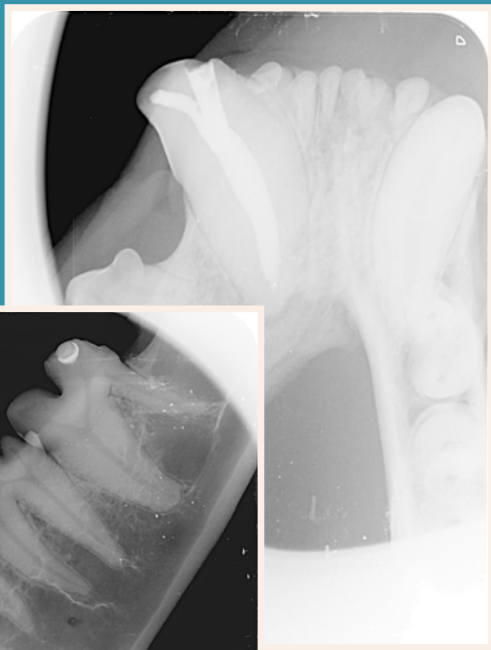
Mystic, a mountain lion, had an incisor removed due to degrading of the tooth. Root canals were also performed in a canine tooth and carnassial tooth.





A Reason to Smile

Boykin, one of our cheetah brothers, had a root canal of a broken canine tooth. Additionally, Boykin underwent a procedure to reduce the crown of one of his lower premolar teeth due to trauma it was inflicting upon his soft palate.



Explore the Phoenix Zoo with these amazing online programs!

- PROJECT ORANGUTAN**
- VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS**
- PHOENIX ZOO LIVE ONLINE**
- CAMP ZOOTOYOU**
- DISTANCE LEARNING**

Register Today!

For more information, [click here](#) or call 602.914.4333.

SPRING PROGRAMS (Ages Pre-K – Grade 6)

Make the Zoo a part of your child's learning experiences this spring! Each age-appropriate program features live animals, games and activities, and loads of fun. Join us virtually, in-person, or both!

Virtual programs are hosted on Zoom in a password-protected room.

For in-person programs, all participants and facilitators will be required to wear masks. Programs will be held almost exclusively outdoors with social distancing. Programs may be canceled based on the amount of community spread of COVID-19 at the time.

[Click here](#) for all program information and registration.

Creature Chronicles

Ages 3 – 5

Virtual: \$10 per household

In-person: \$5 per child/caregiver pair | **\$10** per household

Join us virtually or in-person for a fun-filled story time. Each Creature Chronicle includes an interactive reading, a game or activity and a live visit from one of the Zoo's ambassador animals.

March – Steve the Dung Beetle

April – Imara's Tiara

May – Three Little Javelina

Grades 1 – 3

Virtual Programs

\$10 per household

These 45-minute programs include interactive discussions, games, videos and live animals.

March – Predator or Prey

What makes a predator a predator? How do prey animals survive? How do adaptations such as camouflage help animals? Using a range of biofacts we will discover clues to what an animal eats and how they survive. We will meet some live ambassador animals from both predator and prey groups and learn why both are necessary for a healthy habitat!

April – Animal Kingdom

From fur to feathers, scales to exoskeletons, discover the amazing characteristics of the animal world. Identify and learn about the similarities and differences that help us categorize animals into distinct scientific groups.

May – It Happened Here: Zoo Stories

Animals at the Phoenix Zoo can get up to some funny, silly things! Join us as we share our favorite crazy stories about things that happen here at the Zoo.

In-person Programs

General: \$29 per child | **Member: \$20** per child

These 90-minute programs get learners out exploring the Zoo as they learn about the topic and meet Zoo animals.

March – Brilliant Bugs!

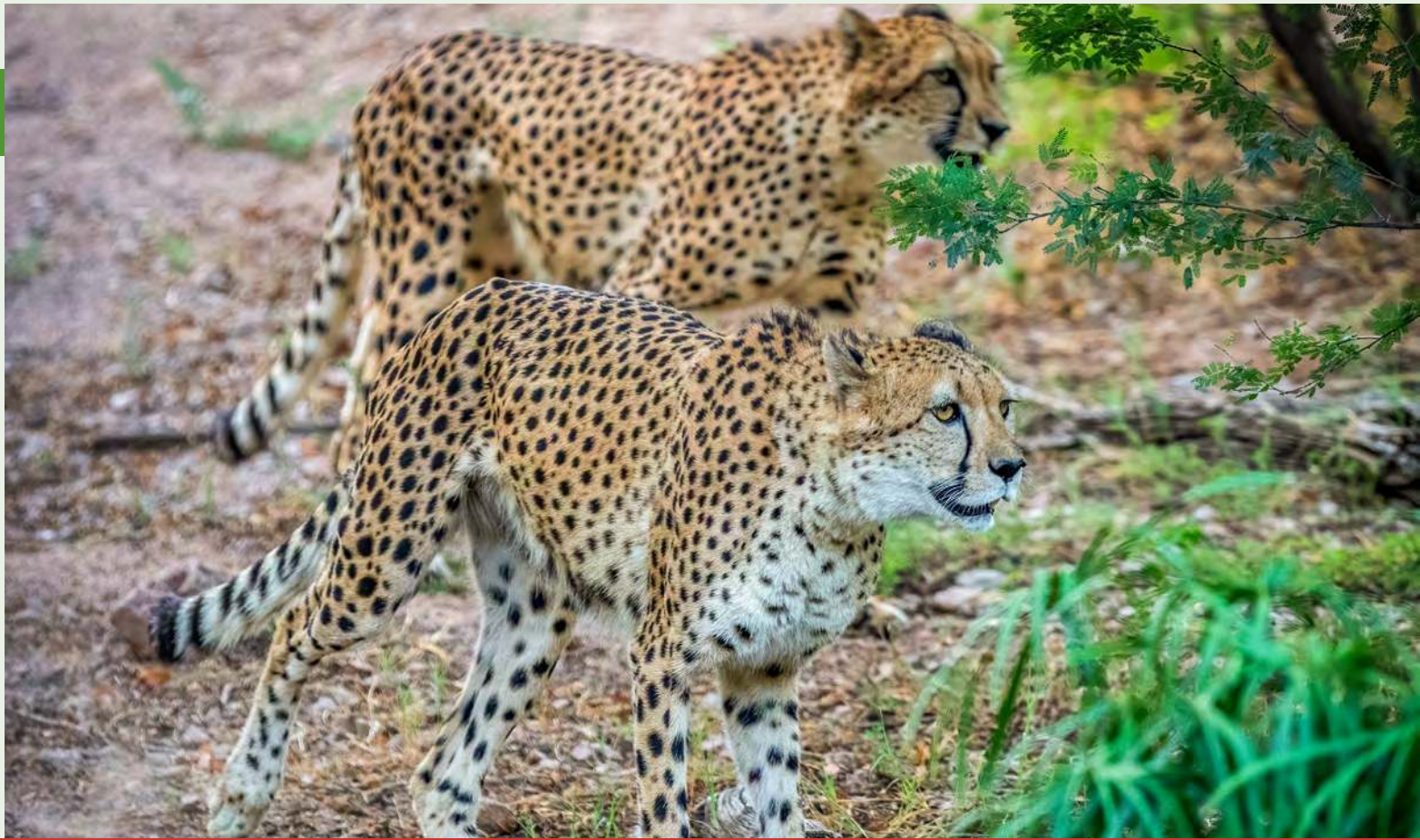
Get ready to be amazed by these tiny animals and how important they are to our environment! Join us in-person at the Phoenix Zoo as we see bugs in action and explore the Zoo with a bug scavenger hunt.

April – Modern-Day Dinosaurs

Even though dinosaurs lived a long time ago, we can still see the impact they had on the world around us. Join us in-person as we find modern-day dinosaurs at the Zoo and discuss our favorite dinos!

May – Desert Detective

Have you ever wondered what animals do all day? What animals are sharing our outdoor space that we might never see? There are clues all around us if you know what to look for. Join us as we discover the clues left for us by the animals at the Zoo!



Grades 4 – 6

Virtual Programs

\$10 per household

These 60-minute programs include interactive discussions, games, videos and live animals.

March – Aquatic Ecosystems

We might live in a desert, but there are aquatic animals all around us! Join us as we meet some of the aquatic animals that call Arizona home while we learn about aquatic ecosystems.

April – Conservation Around the World

Come travel around the world with us! We are going on an adventure to learn about animals from all over the world and how conservationists are working to protect them.

May – Wonderfully Weird

In the animal kingdom, nothing is quite as it seems. We will play a Fact or Fiction game in the pursuit of the truth as well as meet some wonderfully weird animals!

In-person Programs

General: \$29 per child | Member: \$20 per child

Nature Navigators

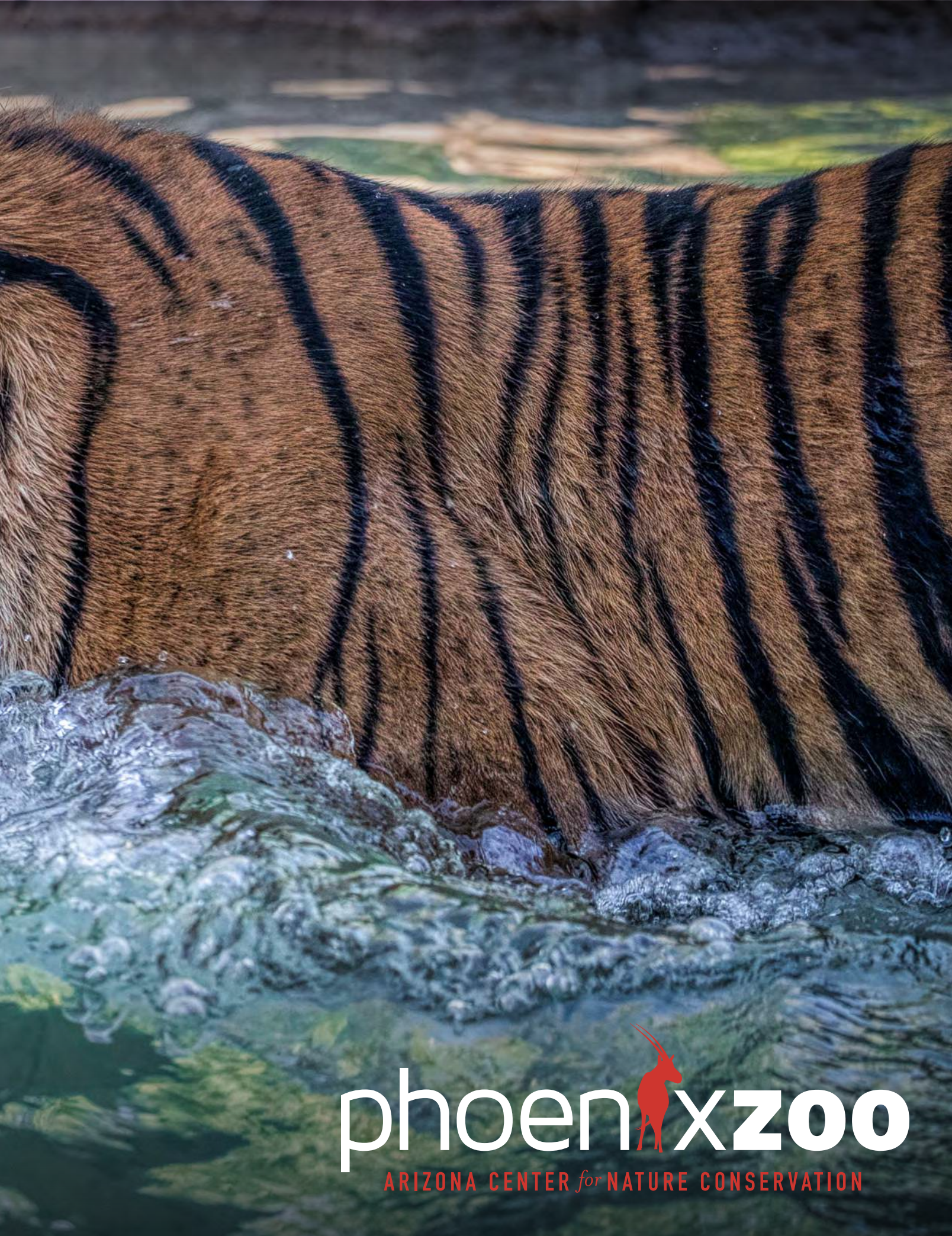
Have you ever wondered how field biologists and conservationists help endangered animals in the wild? How do they find and monitor these elusive animals? Join us in-person at the Zoo as we navigate the trails using the same tools they use and learn how YOU can help endangered animals in the wild!

March – Arizona Trail

April – Children’s Trail



Photo by David Wagner



phoenixzoo

ARIZONA CENTER *for* NATURE CONSERVATION



BIG CATS



ENCOUNTERS & EXPERIENCES

Enhance your day at the Phoenix Zoo with a variety of fun experiences to make your visit even more memorable!

Camel Rides

Saddle up for a ride on one of the most amazing animals in the world and even get your picture taken!

Endangered Species Carousel

Take a spin on the Endangered Species Carousel! Each animal is unique and beautifully handcrafted for an authentic, distinctive look.

Stingray Bay

Our 15,000-gallon interactive pool offers you the chance to come hand to fin with our cownose stingrays and even feed them fish and shrimp.

ZOO TOURS

Safari Cruiser Presented By VALLEY TOYOTA DEALERS

Hop aboard for a fun, narrated, 25-minute tour meandering past a large portion of the Zoo's animals, encounters and experiences.

Discovery Tours

A Discovery Tour is a 75-minute guided tour through the Zoo in one of our eco-shuttles. You'll be able to hop on and off the cart for closer viewing and for photo opportunities throughout the tour.

Backstage Adventures

If you're looking for a truly unique experience, join us for a Backstage Adventure and get an insider's glimpse of some of our animal habitats such as flamingo, elephant and Stingray Bay.

Premium Adventures

Looking for the ultimate Zoo tour? Try a Premium Adventure – a fully customized experience for you and your special guests.

* Discovery Tours, Backstage and Premium Adventures are limited to same party groups only and all tour participants are required to wear a face covering during the tour.



Phoenix Zoo members receive a discount!

LET'S CELEBRATE!

March 3
World Wildlife Day

March 14
Save a Spider Day

March 20
World Frog Day

March 26
Kori Bustard Day

April 2
National Ferret Day

April 8
Zoo Lovers Day

April 16
Save the Elephant Day

April 17
Bat Appreciation Day

April 22
Earth Day

April 24
World Vet Day

April 27
Crow and Raven Day

Happy National Ferret Day!

Nocturnal by nature, ferrets are part of the weasel family. The name "ferret" is derived from the Latin word *furittus*, meaning "little thief" as their curiosity and lean bodies make it easy for them to sneak into burrows for late night rodent snacks.

The Phoenix Zoo has a close tie to the species in the form of our black-footed ferret conservation program. Once thought to be extinct, this masked bandit is still one of North America's most endangered animals. Since our breeding program began, over 100 kits born at the Phoenix Zoo have been released to the wild in Arizona. Through the concerted efforts of many state and federal agencies, zoos, Native American tribes, conservation organizations and private landowners, black-footed ferrets are "back from the brink" and thankfully have a second chance for survival.

More ferret facts:

- There are only three species of ferret: the European polecat, the Siberian polecat, and the black-footed ferret.
- Black-footed ferrets are solitary animals, with the exception of breeding season and females caring for their kits (babies).
- A group of ferrets is called a business.
- A ferret's normal heart rate is a very rapid 200 to 250 beats per minute.

Help us celebrate National Ferret Day!

Consider a **Wishlist purchase** to benefit our Conservation Center's black-footed ferret program.

FEATURED CREATURE **FERRET**



Want 'some-bunny' to love this Easter?



ADOPT ME!

Share the care with this limited-edition
Wildlife Champions package.

You can adopt a bunny with all of the
cuteness and none of the maintenance!



This package includes:

- Plush bunny with Easter-themed bow
- Personalized certificate of sponsorship
- Bunny photo and fact sheet
- Re-usable tote bag

**Become a
Wildlife Champion today!**

[**click for information**](#)

CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES



Though known for our animals, there is another species that flock to the Zoo - humans, or rather, consumers.

The non-profit Phoenix Zoo welcomes nearly 1.4 million guests each year, making it one of the most visited attractions in the state of Arizona.

We can help position your brand through a menu of opportunities that offer exciting and unique avenues for your:

- Brand awareness | Audience engagement**
- Product promotion | Cause marketing**
- Community involvement goals | Employee benefits**

Corporate opportunities include:

- Sponsorship
- Matching Gifts
- Corporate Events
- Membership
- Ticket Discounts
- Zoom Animals

The Phoenix Zoo welcomes all forms of corporate support and recognizes that budgets as well as marketing and philanthropic objectives vary. As a result, we look forward to working with you on customizing an opportunity that meets your organization's needs.

Find out what the Phoenix Zoo can do for you. For more information, [click here](#).

"Our law firm's financial contributions to the Zoo have significantly raised our community profile, benefited our employees and provided much needed financial support to a great organization which receives no government funding for operations."

Richard B. Burnham
Gammage & Burnham

"To celebrate the season of giving and recognize our Arizona-based team members for all their incredible work, Rocket Mortgage and Rocket Companies offered them annual memberships to the Phoenix Zoo as part of their holiday gift selection. In the wake of the pandemic, it is more important than ever to invest in the organizations and communities where we live, work and play. It was our absolute pleasure to support the Phoenix Zoo."

Rocket Mortgage

"Thanks to you and the rest of the Phoenix Zoo staff, who helped facilitate the Zoom session with Fernando! The video conference made our annual employee retreat especially memorable. The DC Ranch Community Council staff has been sharing screen grab images of our animal encounter. We look forward to the opportunity of meeting Fernando and some of his animal friends along with you and your colleagues in person someday soon."

Mike Gertzman
DC Ranch Community Council



AFRICA TRAIL – PREDATOR PASSAGE

We are excited to embark on the remaining key element of The Pride Campaign, designing an expanded Africa Trail. The expression “last but not least” clearly conveys how we feel about this portion of the Campaign.

Upon completion, the \$7.3 million, six-acre expansion of the Africa Trail will be the Zoo’s largest Capital project to date. Guests will enjoy the new, one-acre African lion and spotted hyena habitat, as well as habitats for meerkats, warthogs and the endangered Amur leopards.

The architectural design of the new Africa Trail is in motion. Construction is anticipated to begin in August and the expansion completed by the fall of 2022.

We invite you to Join the Journey, by making a gift and helping the Zoo during the final phase of fundraising for The Pride Campaign. Naming opportunities begin at \$1,000.

For further questions, please contact Lorraine Frias, Vice President of Development at 602.914.4322 or lfrias@phoenixzoo.org.

GO HOG WILD, AS
WE BUILD A NEW
AFRICA TRAIL

JOIN THE
JOURNEY
THE PRIDE CAMPAIGN




**THE PRIDE
CAMPAIGN**
JOIN THE JOURNEY - SHARE OUR PRIDE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
THE AFRICA TRAIL EXPANSION,
CLICK HERE

NEW STIMULUS BILL EXTENDED YOUR CHARITABLE TAX BREAKS!

ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE?

CARES Act Tax Incentives

Extended — With A Small Boost

A couple of key provisions of the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act were extended into 2021 (and, in one case, increased). Here's what the new stimulus package means for you.

TAX INCENTIVES WHEN YOU GIVE TO CHARITY

1. An expansion of the universal charitable deduction for cash gifts

The universal charitable deduction has not only been extended but given a well-deserved upgrade. The new deduction is \$300 for single filers and \$600 for married couples filing jointly. This is available to taxpayers who take the standard deduction. This tax incentive is available for cash gifts to qualified charities (but not to supporting organizations or donor advised funds).

2. An extension of the cap on deductions for cash contributions

Contributions to public charities are generally limited to a percentage of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income (AGI). The CARES Act lifted the cap on annual contributions for those who itemize, increasing it from 60% to 100% of AGI for 2020 (and now for 2021). Any excess contributions available can be carried over to the next five years. (For corporations, the law raised the annual limit from 10% to 25% of taxable income.



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.

Click [here](mailto:Liz.Toth@phoenixzoo.org) to email Liz Toth Liz.Toth@phoenixzoo.org or call 602.286.3881 to learn more.





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.*



Show our animals your commitment to their future
Become a Monthly Donor!

Please sign up for a steady and reliable automatic gift by **clicking here**.

From local educational programs for our school children to global conservation initiatives, your monthly gift will make a difference.

- \$20 a month supports the care and feeding of our two new maned wolves, Jessie and Thiago.
- \$50 a month gives children a chance to participate in our distance-learning programs.
- \$100 a month will go a long way to support our black-footed ferret breeding and release program.

**Help support the Phoenix Zoo!
Become a Monthly Donor today.**

For more information, please call our Development Team at 602.286.3830 or email TeamDevelopment@phoenixzoo.org.

ARTISTRY in NATURE

The famous sculptor Antoni Gaudi once said, "Nothing is art if it does not come from nature."

Indeed, stroll around the Phoenix Zoo and you will see a mind-spinning array of colors, textures and forms that show artistry in nature. Yet our natural canvas is also complemented by an abundance of actual artwork that further enhances your Zoo experience. Subtly integrated into the surroundings, these works come from an array of talented artists who have found inspiration in the natural world.

One of our exhibits is a rotating collection of artworks known as Art on the Wild Side. Located in the Savanna Gallery, this ongoing series features the work of regional artists who share their unique vision of wildlife and conservation via photography, paint and mixed media. Art on the Wild Side is the brainchild of professional artists, Dyana Hesson and April Howland, who also spurred the creation of our Phoenix Zoo Arts Committee. Comprised of both staff and volunteers, this dedicated group oversees the selection and curation of all artwork, focusing on nature and conservation themes. Not only does this give local artists a wonderful opportunity to

James Sudal





The Phoenix Zoo Arts Committee:

Bronwen Barnett

Jean C. Bingham

Janice Castro

Dyana Hesson

Linda Hardwick

April Howland

Daryl Perlman

Dave Seibert



display and sell their work but provides additional revenue with a percentage of sales going back to the non-profit Zoo.

The Arts Committee has also taken on the task of cataloging all art on Zoo grounds. Beyond just documenting names and artists, the catalog includes the history of these

works, some in rich detail. As noted by committee member Janice Castro, "Many of these pieces have great stories, but the stories have become separated and forgotten. In our inventory, we're including them in a permanent record, so they are never forgotten again."

Ultimately, this artwork reinforces the Zoo's mission to inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world. As Arts Committee member Jean Bingham points out, "Viewing our animals is

one way to inspire them. Art is another. Beautiful images of animals and their habitats – we hope they inspire people to care about these natural spaces and the creatures who inhabit them."

Let's take a look at a few of our prized works and the artists who found inspiration in nature.

Plants always fascinated James Sudal, yet it was when he settled in Arizona that this love truly blossomed. Picking up ceramics as a hobby seemed a natural fit, creating vases and pots for the beautiful succulents and flowers that he enjoyed. His talent eventually led him to pursue a career as an artist, creating unique Sonoran Desert inspired murals, tiles, pottery, furniture and lighting. The Zoo is very fortunate to be home to one of Sudal's stunning pieces, a 7-foot ceramic agave that graces the wall of the outdoor sitting area at Savanna Grill.

Originally created as the centerpiece of a San Francisco garden show, Sudal's "Amazing Agave" has been displayed at both Desert Botanical Garden and Arcadia Farms before he generously donated it to the Zoo. He played a large part in the location and installation of his artwork and loves that it has found the perfect home amongst the flora and fauna

of the Zoo. "It makes me very, very happy that over a million people a year get to see it and hopefully feel the inspiration I feel for these plants," Sudal says. We thank this award-winning artist for his beautiful gift that will be enjoyed by our guests for years to come.

The Africa Trail offers so much to see – lions, giraffes and rhinos to name a few. It is also home to some beautiful artwork similarly rooted in African culture. Located near our zebra habitat, nestled amongst the trees, are two large carved stone sculptures by Zimbabwean artist Gedion Nyanhongo. Internationally acclaimed, Nyanhongo creates one-of-a-kind pieces that are in the tradition of Shona art and reflect the values of his people. "My sculptures focus on the things that collectively make up the bigger picture – life, love and the sensations that define us all," says Nyanhongo. Generously donated by Ron and Susan Telesko, one of the works entitled "First Born," is a large springstone piece depicting a couple and their infant in a warm familial embrace. It is a touching reflection of the Zoo's connection to families; memories formed and shaped much like the stone that Nyanhongo lovingly carves. His other work, a life-size zebra sculpture, also sits nearby and is another example of this artist's mastery of stone carving.

At the heart of the Phoenix Zoo are its animals and many have touched people in profound ways. When our beloved lowland gorilla Hazel died in 1991, there was an outpouring of love from across Arizona. One of those who felt her loss was a sculptor named Vincent Maggiore whose family had a deep connection to the Zoo. "Hazel felt like one of our family," recalls Maggiore. Tragically, Vincent lost his father around the same time and knew that a bronze memorial to Hazel would also be a fitting tribute to his father and the memories his family shared. Collaborating with Phoenix Zoo photographer Dick George, Maggiore commenced a labor of love to accurately depict a life-size Hazel in bronze. Funding

for the work was provided by Nancy Maytag Love whose departed husband, Robert, was the Phoenix Zoo's founder. Ultimately, the work was unveiled in November 1993 to applause and celebration; Hazel had come home for good. It has since been inventoried by the Smithsonian Arts Museum and now sits in our main plaza, a touching reminder of how art and nature can seamlessly blend.





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 or call 602.286.3800 x7342.



What's In Store

Phoenix Zoo members receive a 10% discount on regular priced merchandise.



With spring in the air, the new selection of tees and tanks include colorful, fun styles that are ideal for our favorite months! They are not only the perfect fit, but they feature some of our much-loved animals... like our beautiful Sumatran tiger! Stop by the Desert Marketplace Gift Shop to see these and other new items as you exit the Zoo.





The Desert Marketplace Gift Shop, operated by Event Network, is committed to sustainability in honor of the Phoenix Zoo's mission. Items in the store are made with reusable materials, environmentally-friendly ink is used for signs and product packaging is made of 90 percent post-consumer recycled materials.

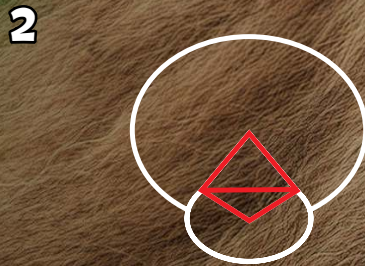
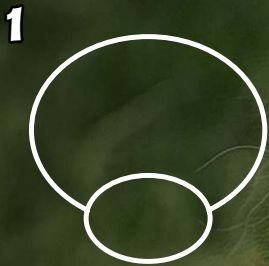
Known for its flowing mane and powerful roar, the majestic male African lion is considered the King of the Beasts.

At the Phoenix Zoo, we have Boboo, a guest favorite whose vocalizing can be heard across the Zoo at sunset.

Can you draw the King of the Beasts?

Follow these 4 easy steps using simple shapes to create your very own picture of a lion's face.

Don't forget to name him...
and maybe even give him a crown!



Proud of your lion drawing – share it with us!

Scan or take a photo and send to cboisen@phoenixzoo.org. Artwork will be selected at random. Please include name and age.

For more fun animal crafts and activities, [click here](#) for our Ed-Zoo-cational activities page.





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