



Wild Times

September | October 2021

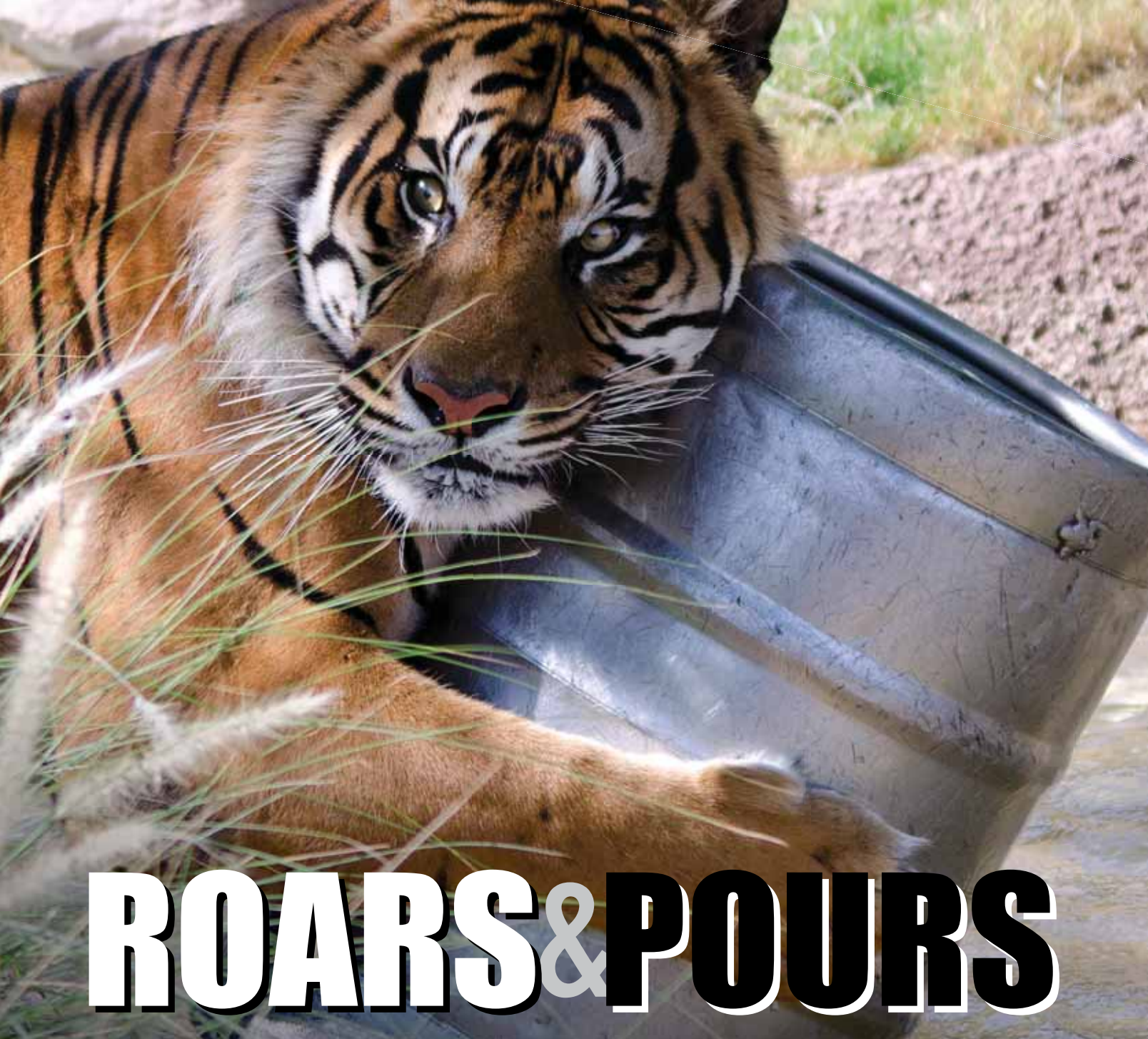
DIGITAL

MEET JOANNE

SUCCESSFUL
Black-footed Ferret
Breeding Season

GLOWING
STRONG

phoenix  zoo
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION



ROARS & POURS

HAPPY HOUR SERIES

November 18 featuring



Guests can sip and stroll along select Zoo trails.

21 & Older Only | 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. | \$10 tickets at phoenixzoo.org

NOW HIRING



The non-profit Phoenix Zoo is on the lookout for passionate individuals who are dedicated to the Zoo's mission: to inspire and motivate people to care for the natural world.

We're hiring for a number of exciting full-time, part-time and seasonal positions.

APPLY TODAY!

Art on the Wild Side

September 10, 2021 – January 31, 2022

During regular Zoo hours

Wildlights for Wildlife

November 7

Roars & Pours

November 18

ZooLights

November 24 — January 15

HOURS

Now – October 31, 2021

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

November 1 — January 17, 2022

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Daily) | 8 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

ZooLights: November 24 — January 15, 2022

5:30 – 10:30 p.m. (Nightly)

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



4

Meet Joanne

8

The Many Ways to Support the Zoo

12

Sand Cat 101

20

Another Milestone

24

In Memory of Daniel

get closer

16

Animal Awareness Days

26

Programs

22

What's in Store

30

Wild Child

**ARIZONA CENTER FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Stephen Fisher | Chair

Phil Petersen | Past Board Chair

Heidi Berger | Vice Chair, Finance and Treasurer

Yvonne A. Betts | Vice Chair, Board Development

Kris Yamano | Vice Chair, Financial Development

John Hoopes | Vice Chair, Outcomes

Larry Fink | Secretary

Cynthia Aguilar

Michael Johnson

Brian Baehr

Craig Krumwiede

Marty Barrett

Dawn Meidinger

Jean C. Bingham

John C. Norling

Michael Blaire

Stephen M. Ochoa

Richard B. Burnham

Harry Papp
Trustee Emeritus

Theresa Chacopulos

Karen Peters

Michelle Clarke

Susie Sherman

JoEllen Doornbos
Trustee Emeritus

Amber Vestal

Julie Gable

Gabrielle Vitale

David Haworth

Maja Wessels
Trustee Emeritus

Linda Hayes

WILD TIMES STAFF

Ben York | 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,

Everyone's visit to the Phoenix Zoo is different. You may have a favorite animal to visit, like Joanne, our newest female Sumatran tiger who you can read about in this issue of "Wild Times." Or there may be a part of the Zoo that is a must-see for you on every visit, like Harmony Farm or the Forest of Uco. But there's a building you might walk past without realizing its importance. It's a part of the Zoo that makes me very proud and, while you may not be able to visit the animals living there, they represent our commitment to wildlife conservation in the state of Arizona. The animals living in the Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Native Species Conservation Center are part of our cooperative efforts with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Arizona Game and Fish Department to learn about our threatened and endangered native species and help increase their numbers in the wild.

The Phoenix Zoo has released over 26,000 leopard frogs back to the wild in Arizona from our on-site head start program. We have maintained a breeding population of Huachuca springsnails since 2018, learning about their life history and reproductive seasons and making possible the first-ever translocations of springsnails raised



in managed care to the wild. We're using this knowledge to raise threatened San Bernardino springsnails, the newest species in our care at the Zoo's Johnson Conservation Center. Springsnails play an important role in the environment by controlling the growth of algae and recycling essential nutrients, which helps maintain water quality to the benefit of all the animals in their ecosystem. For over 10 years now we've provided both desert pupfish and Gila topminnows for release into Arizona's waterways. In 2021, we had our most successful breeding season in the last 20 years for the black-footed ferret. The black-footed ferret is considered one of the most endangered mammals in North America. Before they were driven to extinction in the wild, the last 18 black-footed ferrets were captured in the mid-1980s by the USFWS to become the founder group in managed care. Those original 18 animals have now led to a population that has produced thousands of ferrets that have been released into 29 sites throughout North America (including Mexico), Canada and, of course, Arizona. This year, our breeding group of ferrets produced more offspring than that entire founder group. That is a statistic that makes me very proud and grateful for



everyone's support that makes these conservation success stories possible.

So whatever your favorite Zoo experience looks like, the Phoenix Zoo is open and ready to welcome you. While Arizona's COVID-19 numbers continue to fluctuate, please know that we are still taking precautions to make your visit as safe as possible. Our park sits on 125 beautiful acres and the fall is the perfect time to plan your outdoor adventure at the Zoo.

Sincerely,

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

Norberto (Bert) J. Castro

President / CEO

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo







MEET JOANNE

By **Katerina Frye**
Interpretive Content Intern

Described as a “classy lady” by her keeper, Carl, Joanne is the Phoenix Zoo’s newest tiger. She comes to us from the San Diego Safari Park where she spent the first 10 years of her life. There she birthed two litters of cubs, making her a promising mate for the Zoo’s handsome Jai.

Jai and Joanne are Sumatran tigers, which are the smallest and darkest subspecies of tiger. Only about 500 of these beauties remain in their native Sumatra, an Indonesian island about 155 miles from Singapore. There they face poaching, shrinking habitats and loss of prey. To compensate, the tigers sometimes stalk villagers’ livestock – resulting in conflicts with humans.

In 2012, Dr. Tara Harris, the Zoo’s Director of Conservation and Science, founded the Tiger Conservation Campaign (TCC) to combat the decline of Sumatran tigers and other tiger subspecies. The Zoo has co-hosted the TCC since 2018, when Dr. Harris arrived in Phoenix. Even before Dr. Harris’s tenure, the Zoo actively supported tiger conservation in Sumatra through the TCC. Both the Zoo and TCC support the Wildlife Conservation Society’s (WCS) work to curb human-tiger conflict, poaching, habitat loss and the trafficking of tiger parts.

In two important tiger areas of Sumatra, the TCC funds work to help villagers respond to and deter tigers using nonlethal methods. Working alongside villagers, "Tiger Response Units" build "tiger-proof" enclosures in which to house cattle, goats and other livestock. They also deter tigers with air cannons, scaring them back into the forest. "Thanks to this important work, there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of tigers killed from human-tiger conflicts," said Dr. Harris.

It is estimated that at least 40 Sumatran tigers are poached per year, according to TRAFFIC, the global wildlife trade monitoring network. "Right now, there is an arms race between poachers and the people going after them," said Dr. Harris. TCC-supported anti-poaching patrols search the forest to locate and remove illegal snares that entrap tigers and other wildlife. These patrols also look for and respond to illegal encroachment of protected tiger habitat – areas near park edges where people clear the native forest and sell the timber or plant cash crops.

Sumatran tigers in human care are managed in North America through a Species Survival Plan® (SSP), part of a network of cooperative efforts overseen by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The goal of each SSP is to ensure the sustainability of populations of animals held in zoos and aquariums by making breeding and transfer recommendations that maximize the populations' genetic and demographic diversity long-term. Jai is the most genetically valuable Sumatran tiger in the SSP, so we are doing everything we can to help ensure that his valuable genes are passed onto the next generation. "He is also the most beautiful tiger I have ever seen," said Dr. Harris. Attempts to breed Jai with four other tigresses have yielded no cubs, and Joanne may be his last hope at siring offspring.

According to keeper Carl, her reaction to Jai is "promising." "She studies him very closely," Stone said, "and doesn't want to move locations, she wants to be closer to him." The feeling is mutual for Jai. He responds to the tigress with soft, friendly vocalizations that the keepers "haven't heard in years."

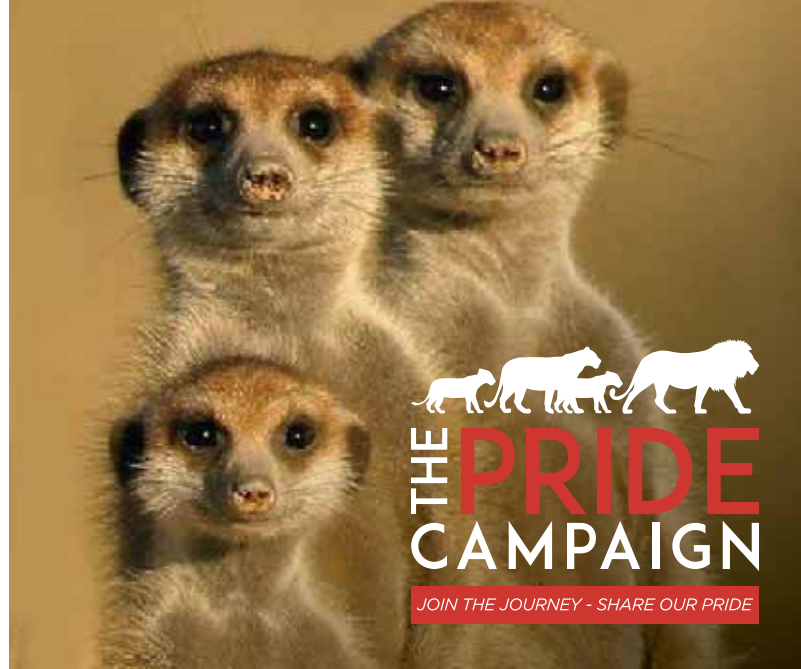


So far, the two animals have interacted with a strong metal fence between them, allowing them to rub cheeks and bodies against one another while still maintaining a degree of separation. "We're waiting on a few more signs from Joanne," Carl said. Namely, she needs to do a slow, sultry roll onto her back while batting her eyelashes at Jai. Once this happens, the keepers will consider putting them together.

Until then, the two tigers watch each other from their respective habitats. Joanne likes to splash around in her indoor pool, while Jai "really loves beer kegs." He likes to wrap his muscular forearms around the metal barrel in a bear hug and toss it about. Joanne has since followed her potential mate's lead and batted around a smaller keg of her own. This was "exciting to see," said Carl, since past tigresses have shown only minimal interest in the barrels.

Check out Joanne and Jai at Isle of the Tiger along the Tropics Trail.

ISLE OF THE TIGER



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, Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at 602.914.4322 or lfrias@phoenixzoo.org.

The Many Ways You Can Support the Zoo

Become a Wildlife Champion

Brand new to the Wildlife Champions - prairie dogs! Show your love for our prairie dog "town" today and become a Wildlife Champion! Your symbolic adoption directly supports the Zoo's mission of providing experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world.

This prairie dog-inspired \$75 package includes:

- Personalized sponsorship certificate
- Plush prairie dog
- Prairie dog fact sheet
- Prairie dog full-color photo
- Subscription to "Wild Times" e-magazine

To become a Wildlife Champion and for a complete list of packages, visit phoenixzoo.org/support/adopt-an-animal or call 602.914.4313.

A circular inset image showing a close-up of a tiger's face. The tiger has orange fur with black stripes and is looking directly at the camera.

ROAR WITH US!

Be a Part of the Wildest Club in Town!

Are you a professional with a passion for conservation, wildlife and community leadership?

Discover more.

phoenixzoo.org/wildest-club-in-town



Howl Your Support for the Zoo!

Join the Wolfpack, the Phoenix Zoo's monthly giving program, and help sustain the critical work of caring for over 3,000 animals, educating people from across the world and helping our conservation partners in the field.

It's the easiest and greenest way to give! No paperwork... no hassle... just choose the amount you'd like to donate, and your contribution is automatically processed each month. Every January, you will receive an acknowledgment letter with your total contribution for the entire year.

Your donation goes a long way...

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| \$25 a month | buys enrichment toys for our orangutan family. |
| \$50 a month | feeds one Arabian oryx for a year. |
| \$100 a month | supports the black-footed ferret breeding and release program. |
| \$200 a month | helps us buy meat for our hungry carnivores. |

Coming Soon!

Construction begins this fall on the Phoenix Zoo's Predator Passage. As the final element in The Pride Campaign, this long-awaited and exciting project expands the Africa Trail.



To celebrate this milestone, we will be offering the opportunity to purchase personalized bricks which will be installed as pavers in the Passage. Additional information will be shared on the Zoo's website, social media pages and emails once the program rolls out. Don't miss your chance to become a "piece" of the Zoo!

Smart Year-End Giving

Learn how certain gifts could make a positive impact on your personal finances, while at the same time supporting your favorite threatened or endangered animal who lives here at the Phoenix Zoo.

RSVP Now





CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES

What Can the Phoenix Zoo Do for You?

Though we are 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

Offering a variety of integrated marketing opportunities including sponsorship of special events and guest experiences as well as onsite sampling, couponing and product display.

Corporate opportunities include:

Sponsorship | Membership | Matching Gifts

Ticket Discounts | Corporate Events

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](#).



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.*



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.



A close-up photograph of a sand cat's face, showing its light green eyes, white whiskers, and sandy-colored fur. The cat is looking slightly to the left.

Sand Cat 101

By **Katerina Frye**
Interpretive Content Intern

Weighing in at six pounds with furry, square faces and black knee-stockings, sand cats look a lot like house cats.

But don't be fooled by their cuddly appearance. These wild felines dwell in the scorching deserts of the western Sahara, the Middle East and parts of Asia. Since water is scarce in those areas, sand cats hydrate by absorbing moisture from their prey. Birds, reptiles, insects and even snakes are all potential victims. Sand cats scurry across the desert with their bellies low to the ground, reaching a near sprint before pouncing onto their dinner. They are especially fond of horned and sand vipers, stunning the animals with rapid blows to the head before striking with quick bites to the throat. Sand cats hunt mostly at night in order to avoid the blistering 100+ degree heat. But if they are out in the day, the matted fur on their paws prevents their feet from burning. The fur also means they don't leave tracks. Coupled with their sandy coloring, this makes the sand cat almost invisible in the desert. Though there are no reliable estimates of the current sand cat population, they are classified as "Near Threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. This is mainly due to habitat loss from human settlement, as livestock can damage the sand cats' food sources and homes. They are also occasionally killed by shepherd dogs and ranchers who find them to be a nuisance.

The Sand Cat Species Survival Plan is a non-profit organization that works to conserve wild and captive populations. They assist zoos with planning sand cat habitats and relocate the animals as needed. Additionally, the organization has successfully aided in the births of new litters. All of their work helps to ensure sand cats will be around for decades to come.



Wildlights for Wildlife

A Charity Drive

Presented by



VALLEY TOYOTA DEALERS

Gear up for an incredible night in support of the Phoenix Zoo!

Embark on a four-wheel adventure full of food trucks, animals, entertainment and family fun. Plus enjoy a drive-thru exclusive preview of the 30th anniversary of ZooLights!

**Sunday, November 7
5 – 10:30 p.m.**



ALL AGES WELCOME
Reservations limited. To purchase,
visit phoenixzoo.org/wildlights.

phoenixzoo
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

WIN FOR WILDLIFE

RAFFLE

**You could be the lucky winner
of one of these great prizes!**



Tickets on sale now!

\$20 PER ENTRY OR SIX FOR \$100

Proceeds benefit the non-profit Phoenix Zoo!

One winner for each item will be selected on Monday, November 8, 2021, and contacted on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, via email and/or phone. Winners need not be present to win. Raffle ticket purchase(s) are not tax-deductible donations. All proceeds benefit the non-profit Phoenix Zoo.

Visit phoenixzoo.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

September 1
International Primate Day

September 7
Threatened Species Day

September 22
Elephant Appreciation Day
World Rhino Day

October 4
International Zookeeper Day

October 9
World Migratory Bird Day

October 20
International Sloth Day

October 21
Reptile and Amphibian
Awareness Day

October 24
International Gibbon Day

October 29
World Lemur Day

Happy International Gibbon Day!

Native to the dense forests of southern Asia, these acrobatic omnivores are perfectly adapted to life in the trees with strong, hook-shaped hands and long, powerful arms and legs that allow for incredible reach, grasp and propulsion. In fact, their dramatic form of locomotion, called brachiating, can move gibbons through the jungle at up to 35 miles an hour, bridging gaps as wide as 50 feet with a single, swinging leap.

There are over a dozen known species of these lesser apes and the Phoenix Zoo is home to one of them – the buff-cheeked gibbon. If you've been to the Zoo early in the morning, you have no doubt heard the hauntingly distinct call of siblings, Enik and China, who reside on an island in the main lake. Often referred to as the "songbirds of the primate family," they vocalize with amazing range, able to project their voices up to two miles.

Buff-cheeked gibbon fun facts:

- Their arms are 1.5-times longer than their legs.
- They are the only nonhuman primate that walks on two legs when not brachiating.
- All gibbons are cream-colored at birth, turning black as they mature. Yet females will eventually turn back to cream at sexual maturity.
- They are monogamous and mated pairs will sing complex harmonies together.

**Over the last 45 years, habitat loss and hunting has decreased population numbers by 50%...
help us celebrate this incredible species
by recognizing International Gibbon Day.**

Consider a **Wish List** purchase
to benefit our Primate Team's ongoing
care of Enik and China!

FEATURED CREATURE
GIBBON



GLOWING STRONG FOR 30 YEARS!

PHOENIX ZOO

zoolights

Presented by



NOV 24 – JAN 15 | 5:30 – 10:30 P.M.

Millions of Sparkling Lights | Hundreds of Dazzling Displays
Amazing Animal Lanterns | Cruise ZooLights* | And More!

DON'T MISS THE MAGIC OF ZOOLIGHTS!

On sale October 1 at phoenixzoo.org.



Captions Here



Good News for Springsnails at the Zoo and in the Wild

Regular readers of “Wild Times” may recall that the Phoenix Zoo’s Conservation and Science team have been caring for several different species of rare springsnails for a number of years at the request of state and federal wildlife agency biologists. Our goal is to better understand what these tiny animals need to thrive in our care, and to produce enough springsnails at the Zoo to boost snail populations in the wild through translocation, or transfer of Zoo-raised animals to where the species is found historically in the wild.

In July, Zoo scientists met with Arizona Game and Fish Department and US Fish and Wildlife Service biologists in southeastern Arizona to pick up several dozen threatened San Bernardino springsnails to add to the existing snail tank at the Zoo’s Johnson Conservation Center. The latest census of San Bernardino springsnails was very encouraging, giving us hope that this species is holding on in the wild and further spurring our efforts to continue to support that population with additional animals raised at the Zoo.



Updates from the Zoo’s Field Conservation Research Department

We’re happy to report that the Phoenix Zoo’s Field Conservation Research Department team recently received a grant from Panthera’s Small Cat Action Fund to support a project aimed at helping understand wildlife movement in and through the Borderlands region, in both southern Arizona and northern Mexico. Although the project focuses primarily on ocelots, we will also be looking at abundance and movement of other animals in the region, including jaguar, deer, mountain lions and bears. We are

awaiting word from other funding sources regarding additional support for this project and are excited to begin work in the field later this fall. After having significantly scaled back our research efforts for the past year due to COVID-19, we are excited to be dusting off the camping gear for a cautious return to the field. We are also pleased to share that our collaboration with the ASU School of Life Sciences Undergraduate Researcher program will continue this school year with students assisting with our work remotely and, following safety protocols, in the field.



While these photos are from our work with conservation partners in Costa Rica, we are hopeful to capture images of ocelots in the US/Mexico Borderlands in the next year as we work on this new project.



Another Milestone

Working to Save the Black-footed ferret

The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation /Phoenix Zoo is caring for 27 black-footed ferret kits at the Zoo's Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Conservation Center, making this the most successful breeding season in 20 years. The first litter was born in May and the last just in June.

"It has certainly been a banner year for ferret kits at the Conservation Center," says Dr. Tara Harris, Director of Conservation and Science at the Phoenix Zoo.

The Zoo is one of six facilities worldwide breeding black-footed ferrets for release to the wild. Considered one of North America's most endangered species and once thought to be extinct in the wild, the black-footed ferret has returned to its native habitat through reintroduction efforts facilitated by state, federal, tribal and non-governmental wildlife conservation

partners. The Zoo has produced over 500 black-footed ferrets in our 30 years of involvement with the breeding program, with many released into the wild in prairie grasslands in Arizona and other parts of their native range.

The six litters of kits at the Zoo are raised inside their specially designed nest boxes, tended by moms Mandolin, Lazuli, Ridley, Sedona, Vermillion and Yoshi, who are all doing a fantastic job caring for the little ones.

"Many of these kits will likely go to release sites in North America designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Black-footed Ferret Recovery Program, while others may stay here at the Phoenix Zoo or go to one of the other five breeding centers for participation in the managed breeding program," says Harris. "We are hopeful that the kits produced at the Phoenix Zoo will be valuable

contributors to the recovery of their species.” In celebration of the exciting milestone, the Zoo asked for help from the public to name Sedona’s litter of three females, approximately two months old. Name suggestions were submitted by Zoo staff and volunteers, and narrowed down by Conservation Center staff who provide the kits’ daily care.

The public was invited to vote for one of three groups of names:

- **Arizona Towns:** *Strawberry, Payson, Bisbee*
- **Marvel Characters:** *Wanda, Scarlet, Agatha*
- **Desert Plants:** *Saguaro, Cholla, Prickly Pear*


In total, we received 2,436 votes and Arizona towns (Strawberry, Payson and Bisbee) swept the competition with 61% of the votes!

The Johnson Conservation Center is an off-exhibit space at the Zoo reserved specifically for programs that support native species recovery and research. In addition to black-footed ferrets, the Phoenix Zoo also breeds cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls, narrow-headed gartersnakes and Chiricahua leopard frogs, among other species of conservation concern in Arizona.



Calling All Party Animals!

WILD BIRTHDAYS



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!



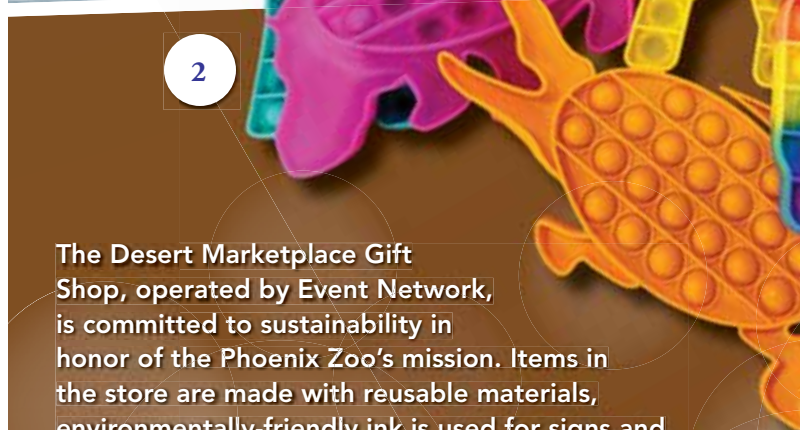
602.914.4333

What's In **Store**

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

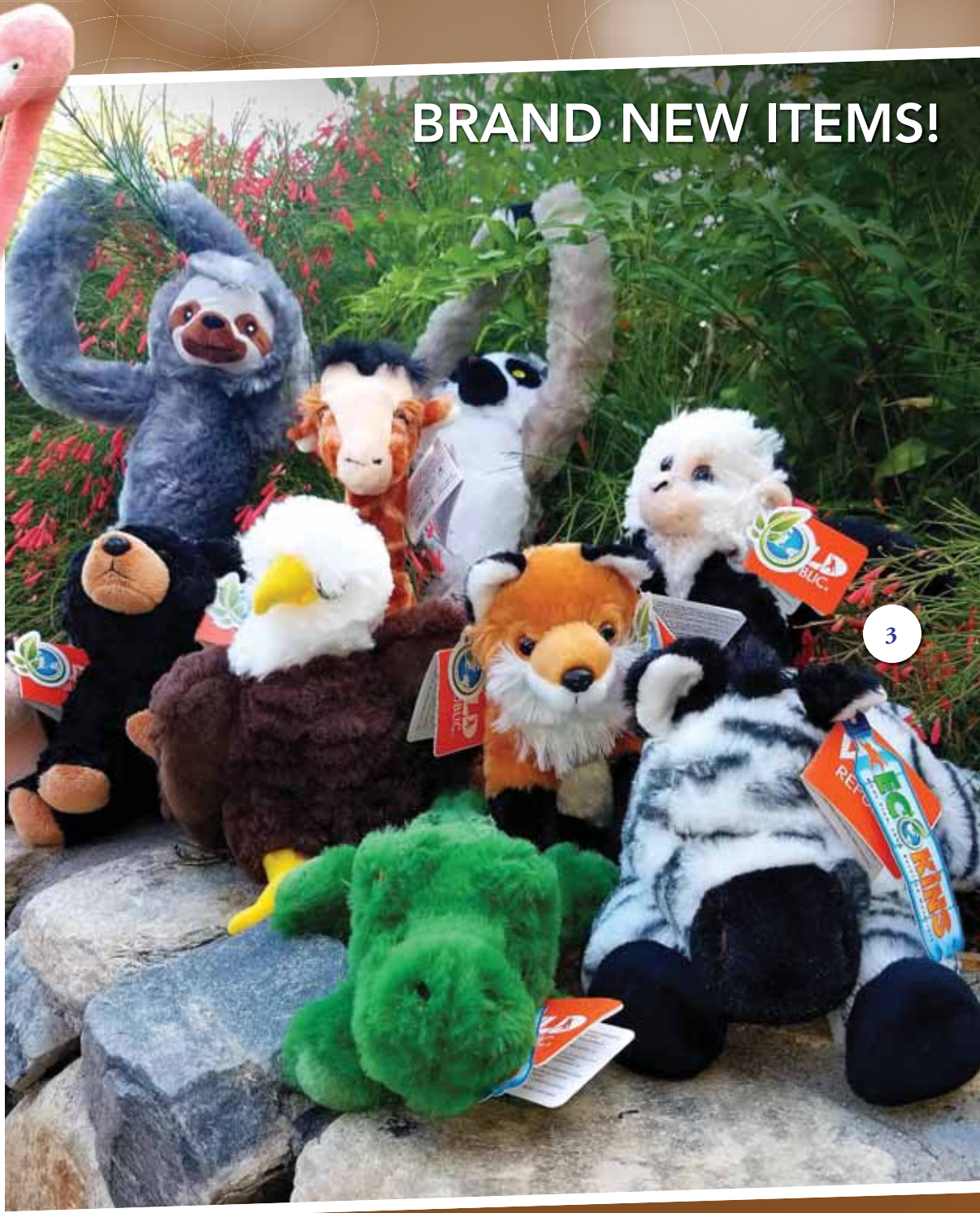


1



2

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% post-consumer recycled materials.



BRAND NEW ITEMS!

1. Giant Plush from Melissa & Doug | \$60 – \$180

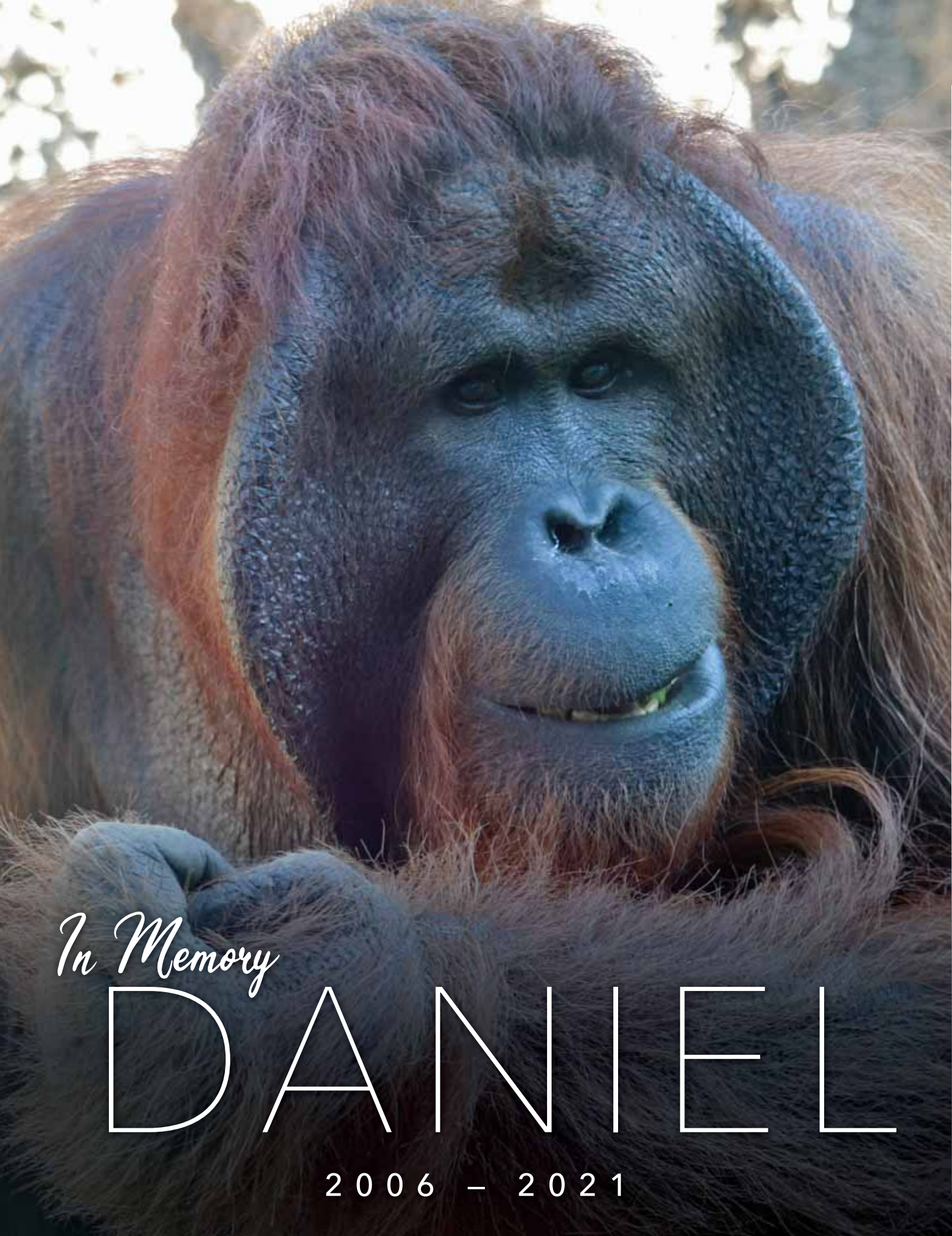
Giraffe stands over 4 feet tall; great for play rooms, nurseries or classrooms!

2. Fidget Poppers | \$8

Sensory fidget toys; great for anxiety relief, exercising mathematical thinking or fine-tuning motor skills. Lots of colors and shapes newly in stock.

3. Ecokins Plush from Wild Republic | \$14.99 – \$25

Made from 100% recycled materials. Each 12" Ecokin is made with 16 recycled water bottles.



In Memory

DANIEL

2006 – 2021

It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that we announce that we lost our 15-year-old male Bornean orangutan, Daniel. He had a chronic history of respiratory illness that likely resulted in his severe, fibrosing pneumonia. When his symptoms got worse, he was immobilized for medical examination and treatment. He went into respiratory arrest and could not be revived.

Initial pathology exam showed severe chronic fibrosing pneumonia in both lungs. Respiratory issues are the most common cause of death in orangutans in managed settings.

Daniel was born on April 11, 2006, at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and came to Phoenix in late 2013 as a scrawny, unfledged pre-teen to be a companion for our younger female, Kasih.

Dan went through a lot in his 15 years. He was a real trooper. Daniel had chronic air sacculitis and endured multiple surgeries, including a marsupialization, in order to manage it. After suffering the sudden loss of his companion, Kasih, in 2017 keepers spent a lot of socializing time with him and really got to know his silly quirks. Daniel was somewhere between a goofy kid and a grown, mature male. You knew you were in for a good day when Dan spent his breakfast time, spinning in circles while eating his favorite snacks. He never sat for a meal without making a small nest to sit in. As part of his medical treatment, Daniel was trained to accept nebulizer treatments, and he accepted them easily – sometimes while hanging upside down. Daniel was always up for a training session, and he picked up new behaviors almost immediately. Dan was very clear about when it was time to come inside at the end of the day, meeting you with his signature authoritative “glare” if you weren’t moving fast enough. When Rayma came to Phoenix in April 2019,

she and Dan took to each other right away. At their first meeting, Rayma took Daniel’s hand and led him through the night house. They were inseparable ever since... literally. Dan showed Rayma the training ropes, and the two were always ready to get into some minor trouble as a “team.” They were always with each other; they ate together, shared the same room (though always separate nests) and investigated all new enrichment as a pair.

For those who’ve known Dan since he arrived here as a seven-year-old youngster, he was curious, a little destructive with our viewing windows, and an all-around pleasure to work with. In 2018 Daniel made national news with his ground-breaking sinus surgery. He had been dealing with a sinus infection that left him with labored breathing, coughing, frequent mucous production and a distended air sac. A team consisting of Dr. Jeff Steurer of the Southwest Veterinary Surgical Service, veterinarians from the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation and Dr. David Simms M.D., an ear, nose, and throat surgeon of Arizona Otolaryngology Consultants worked together to perform an endoscopic surgical procedure that made a significant impact on Daniel’s health at the time.

This has been a significant blow to the Primate team who, along with our veterinary staff, have provided specialized care for Daniel’s allergies and sinus issues for the past few years. The building will not be the same without breakfast antics, long calls down the shifting shaft and afternoon raspberry blowing. Staff are monitoring Rayma and ensuring she has extra attention. We will be discussing future plans for both her and our group with the Orangutan Species Survival Plan.

We appreciate everyone’s support. Daniel will be so sorely missed.

Looking to

LEVEL UP

your next gathering?

Whether virtual or in-person, we've got you covered!



Book a Virtual ZooToYou or Live On Location program and "wow" your guests with live ambassador animals from the Zoo!



Not sure what to do for the evening? Book a group Night Camp and we'll do all the planning for you! Up-close animal encounters, night hikes, fun games and wake up to the sounds of the Zoo! Your guests will most definitely be impressed.

phoenixzoo.org

Save the Date



is Coming!

**December 27 – 30, 2021
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Grades K – 4



phoenixzoo.org



PHOENIX ZOO MEMBERSHIP OPENS A WORLD OF WONDER AND ADVENTURE ALL YEAR LONG!

A Phoenix Zoo membership not only lets you visit thousands of amazing animals as often as you like — and for **FREE** — it offers a full year of enriching perks and privileges for one exceptionally **LOW** price!

In addition to the many tangible benefits, your membership helps the Zoo protect threatened and endangered species, care for our animals and educate future generations.

Become a member today and you'll receive
\$10 off your membership!

Simply **click here** to join and save today.
If joining by phone or in person at the Zoo,
just mention promo code: **WTFALL21**

* Offer expires October 31, 2021. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Not valid on previously purchased memberships.

Member Wednesday Lunch Special

Enjoy a **\$5 Member Meal**
every first Wednesday of each month featuring
a signature meal and a beverage.*



September Special

BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich
with a Medium Fountain Drink



October Special

Hot Dog with a
Medium Fountain Drink

*Must show current membership card
and photo ID at the time of purchase.

ENCOUNTERS & EXPERIENCES

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

Rydables

Adorable stuffed animal on the outside, super safe mobility-style electric cart on the inside. Rydables are a flexible and enjoyable way to experience the Zoo!

Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater

Animal presentations starting October 1.

Zoocademy Awards

Presented By 

Monday – Sunday | 10:30 a.m.

Additional shows

Friday – Sunday | 12:30 p.m.

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.

Camel Rides

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



WATER PLAY AREAS & PLAYGROUNDS

Water Play Areas open through October 31!

Enchanted Forest

Presented By Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Discovery Farm

Presented By 

Yakulla Caverns

Leapin' Lagoon Splash Pad

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 Adventures and Premium Adventures are limited to same party groups only and must be booked in advance by calling our Reservations Department at 602.914.4333.

Phoenix Zoo members receive a discount!

*Fees apply | Must show your current Phoenix Zoo membership card and photo ID at each venue to receive discount.



Leo, Age 7



Arabelle, Age 3



Asher, Age 5



Isabell, Age 10



Dallas, Age 10

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

Run Wild!
See ZooLights!
Save Our BFFs!



Sunday
January 16, 2022

Registration | 4 p.m.

5K Run | 5 p.m.

Get ready for the WILDEST
run in the Valley!

Sign up as a team or as an individual and **HELP FUNDRAISE**. Your participation in our Zoo Move & Groove 5K not only supports black-footed ferret conservation, but also helps care for the thousands of animals who call the Zoo home.

Registration opens September 13 at phoenixzoo.org.

Enjoy an exclusive night of ZooLights
with your registration

ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT

THE GLORY OF NATURE'S FORM

Arizona Highways

COMING THIS FALL!

September 10, 2021 – January 31, 2022

Savanna Gallery (inside the Savanna Grill)



Bruce Taubert



Paul Gill



John Sherman

Are you wild about art?

This fall, Art on the Wild Side is proud to present The Glory of Nature's Form featuring some of the stunning photography of Arizona Highways magazine.

Join us in celebrating the extraordinary beauty of Arizona's wildlife and wild places!

Sponsored by



SILVERTREE
WEALTH PARTNERS

RAYMOND JAMES

phoen/xzoo
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION



*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
**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**



World Association of Zoos
and Aquariums | WAZA
United for Conservation