

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



CONTENTS

- 2 | Living Collections
- 3 | Collection Numbers
- 4 | Habitat Additions and Improvements
- 6 | Animal Updates
- 8 | Animal Care
- 10 | Conservation
- 14 | Membership
- 15 | Big Fun with Bigfoot
- 16 | Learning and Engagement
- 18 | Events
- 22 | Art on the Wild Side
- 23 | Sponsorships
- 24 | Getting Noticed
- 25 | Award & Accolades
- 26 | The Storm
- 28 | Breaking Ground
- 30 | In Gratitude
- 34 | Financial Statements
- 36 | Leadership

FRONT COVER

A Phoenix Zoo-reared Chiricahua leopard frog being released to the wild.

MISSION

The 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.

phoenixzoo.org

ACCREDITED BY THE
**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**



DEAR FRIENDS,

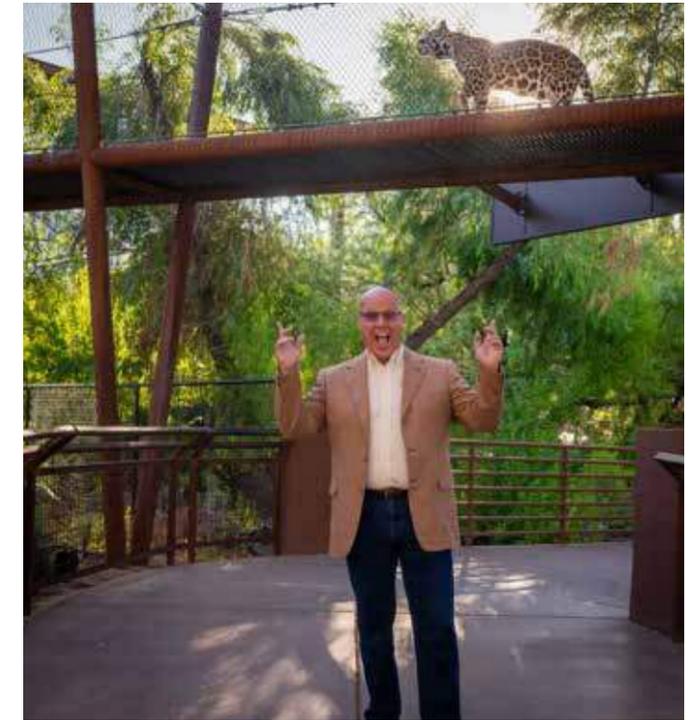
This past year has been one of meaningful progress at the Phoenix Zoo. It has truly been a year of growth, connection and care. Thanks to your continued support, we welcomed new audiences, expanded our animal collection and invested in projects that strengthened our commitment to conservation, research, education and serving as a great community asset.

Some of our proudest achievements this year were reaching more diverse audiences across our community, introducing thousands of guests to the Zoo. A perfect example was 602 Day, when admission was \$6.02 for all guests. Nearly 19,000 people joined us that day, making it not only a celebration of Phoenicians and our city, but also a powerful reminder of how access to nature and wildlife can bring people together. Serving our community in this way is central to who we are.

We were also thrilled to welcome many new animals to the Zoo this year. Guests delighted in meeting beautiful secretarybirds, celebrated the arrival and naming of our new baby giraffe, Kasi, and were able to meet our new hamadryas baboons, kudus and impalas, along with a variety of other new residents. Each new animal represents both joy and excitement for our guests and an important opportunity to inspire conservation awareness.

Several major trails and habitats also saw breathtaking improvements. The opening of Big Cats of Arizona marked a significant milestone as it showcases Arizona's native big cats, mountain lions and jaguars, while highlighting the importance of protecting wildlife close to home. Our orangutans received new climbing structures that encourage natural behaviors and provide fun enrichment. We also remodeled the greater flamingo habitat, enhancing both animal care and guest viewing.

Behind the scenes, we made critical investments in infrastructure that will benefit the Zoo for decades to come. On the Savanna we added a new, much larger barn, enabling us to hold more species in this habitat in the future. Construction is underway on



the Midwestern University Zoological Medical Institute within The Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation Animal Care and Conservation Campus, shaping the future of veterinary care for wildlife at the Zoo. Also mid-construction is the Doornbos Animal Rescue and Care Center, which will be a quarantine facility for new animals to the Zoo, as well as a place where wild animals can find respite after being confiscated from poachers in wildlife trafficking cases.

When we reflect on this year, what stands out most is how much is possible when a community comes together around a shared love for animals and conservation. From welcoming new guests and new animals to improving habitats and expanding life-saving facilities, there is truly so much happening at the Phoenix Zoo because of all who support it. We are grateful to be on this journey with a community who believes so strongly in protecting and caring for the natural world.

Sincerely,

Norberto J. (Bert) Castro

President and CEO,

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo



BIG CATS OF ARIZONA



FERN & THISTLE

When the Big Cats of Arizona habitat opened in April, the Zoo was preparing the mountain lion space for two older cats, not cubs. However, when the Zoo's mountain lion sisters, Sierra and Mystic, passed shortly before and after the opening of the new habitat, respectively, there was an unexpected change of plans.

As preparations began for the grand opening of Big Cats of Arizona, 750 miles away in California, there were three mountain lion cubs who had just been orphaned and relocated to the Oakland Zoo. They were spotted hiding under a car in a neighborhood of Portola Valley, outside Oakland, scared and alone. Their mother had been struck by a car, and the cubs would not be able to survive on their own in the wild.

While mourning the losses of Sierra and Mystic, the news came through that there was an opportunity for two of the cubs to make their way to Phoenix if the Zoo had the room to house them. The third cub went to the Birmingham Zoo.

The cubs, named Fern and Thistle, arrived at the Phoenix Zoo, still timid and too small to enter the beautiful new habitat.

Behind the scenes, keepers worked hard to acclimate the siblings to the new environment. Through behavioral enrichment, varied feeding strategies and plenty of patience, the cubs became more comfortable in their new space. Thistle was the first to warm up to his new home and keepers, and once big enough to safely enter the habitat, he made his way outside and began exploring. The shyer of the two, Fern, joined Thistle outside just a few days later.

Now, nearly a year old, the brother and sister duo are a strong representation of their species and comfortably and confidently keep watch atop their tall platform in the Big Cats of Arizona habitat.

COLLECTION NUMBERS

AMPHIBIANS
20 Species | 5,348 Individuals*



BIRDS
114 Species | 459 Individuals



FISH
11 Species | 5,079 Individuals*



INVERTEBRATES
30 Species | 10,891 Individuals*



MAMMALS
88 Species | 379 Individuals



REPTILES
122 Species | 419 Individuals

*Includes populations managed as groups



BIG CATS OF ARIZONA

On April 2, the ribbon was officially cut to announce the grand opening of the Big Cats of Arizona habitat on the Arizona Trail. With major supporter Art Pearce and his family in attendance, guests watched for the first time as female jaguar, Caipora, made her way across the overhead catwalk and into her brand-new habitat.

This beautiful habitat was thoughtfully designed to reflect the natural beauty of Arizona's wild landscapes, providing the jaguars and mountain lions with enriching spaces that encourage their natural behaviors. Caipora's habitat includes an active flowing creek, while male jaguar, Saban, enjoys an approximate 1,500-gallon pool. Next door, mountain lions Fern and Thistle enjoy features of brush and rocks to blend in with, as well as trees and structures to climb that extend up onto a platform in the middle of the habitat.

In the center of the innovative areas, guests can relax under the large shade structure as they take in the scenery and observe the cats in their striking new homes.

In addition, the Zoo was able to construct a brand-new event space as part of the trail expansion. The Doornbos Desert Grove, in the heart of the Arizona Trail, includes a viewing window into Caipora's habitat and ample space for events with multiple set-up designs.

This new feature of the Arizona Trail is a spectacular homage to the state's big cats and provides substantial educational material through interactive signage whereby guests can compare their hand to cat paws, learn about camera traps and cat scat and discover the history of Arizona's big cats.



ORANGUTAN CLIMBING STRUCTURES

The orangutans enjoyed the addition of new terrestrial climbing structures throughout their habitat to further provide enrichment opportunities and reinforce their arboreal nature.



GREATER FLAMINGO HABITAT

The greater flamingo habitat received a facelift this fall that included new grass, a redesigned water feature and a designated space to lay and care for their eggs.



VELDT BARN

To facilitate more space for animals on the Zoo's Savanna, a new veldt barn was constructed to include housing for new species including impala and kudu.

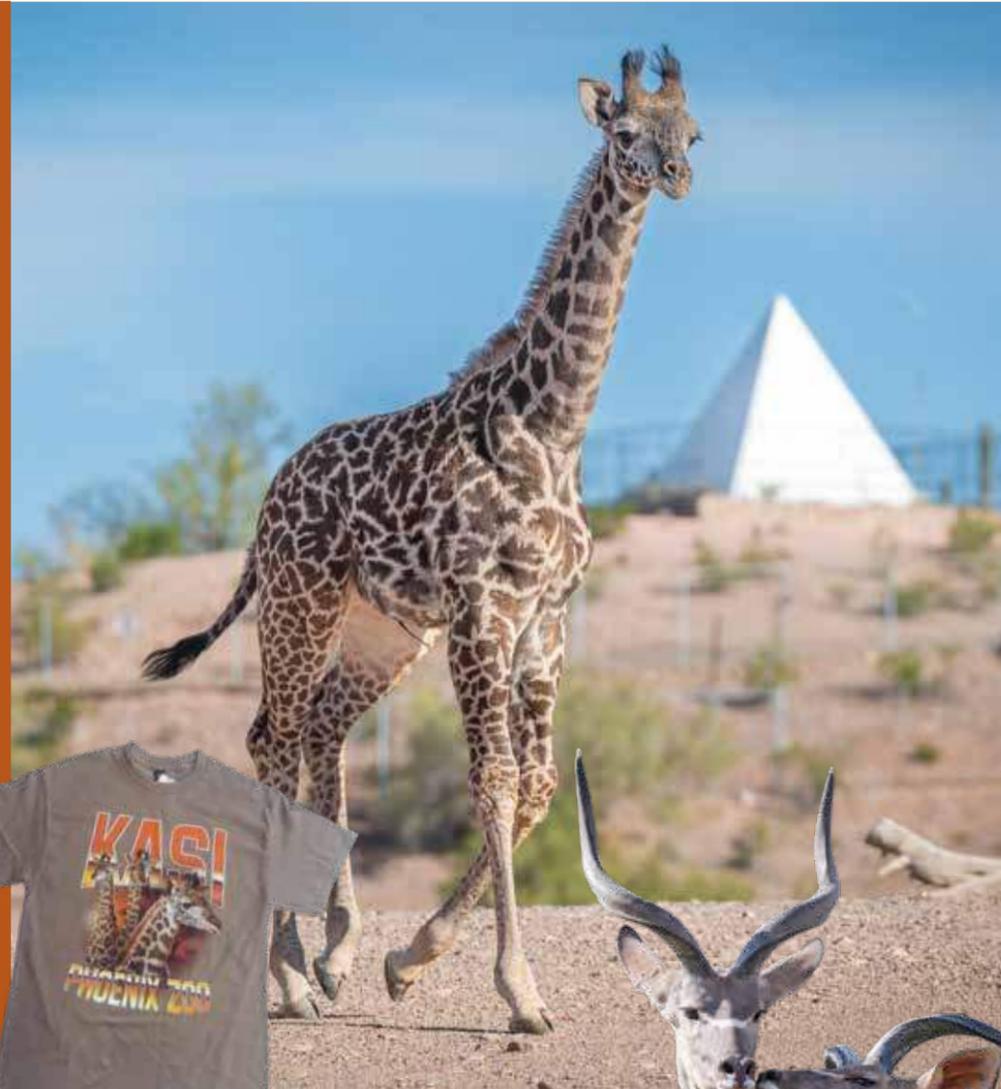


A NEW CALF JOINS THE HERD

Sunshine gave birth to a female calf fathered by Miguu. This is their fifth calf together and is a great win for the Masai giraffe Species Survival Plan.

The adorable new calf, named Kasi, can now be seen roaming the Savanna with her mother. The name Kasi, meaning speed in Swahili, was voted on by fans of the Zoo with more than 11,000 total votes across five name options!

In addition, the Zoo's Plaza Marketplace gift shop created a Kasi t-shirt to commemorate her arrival.



SECRETARYBIRDS

The Zoo welcomed a new species this year with two secretarybirds making their appearance at Predator Passage. A new habitat was built next to the vultures and across from the African lions, thanks to the generous support of the Twiford Foundation. Stan and Risha are brother and sister and hail from sub-Saharan Africa.

IMPALA AND KUDU JOIN THE SAVANNA

Two new species were introduced to the Savanna this year, increasing the biodiversity in this expansive habitat. First, in May, the Zoo welcomed a new species to the Zoo, kudu. A month later, five impala made their way into the habitat. With this addition, there are now over 30 individuals living on the Savanna between giraffe, gazelle, kudu, impala, stork and guinea fowl.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF INDU

In May, the Phoenix Zoo lost 59-year-old Indu, the Zoo's only remaining Asian elephant and a long-living testament to the incredible care provided by the keepers at the Phoenix Zoo.

Throughout her 27 years at the Zoo, Indu formed a deep connection with her caretakers, who dedicated themselves to providing her with the best life possible. She was known for her curious and independent spirit.

Indu's imposing stature was matched only by her gentle demeanor as she brought smiles to the faces of countless guests, from wide-eyed children seeing an elephant for the first time to lifelong Zoo supporters who came back time and again to visit her.

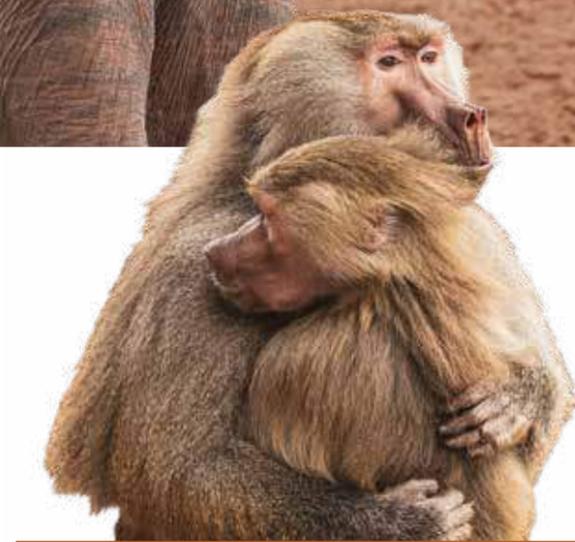
The Phoenix Zoo community is deeply saddened by the loss of Indu but took solace in the profound impact she had on everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

"Indu, you were my first, and will likely be my last, elephant love. Thank you for introducing me to this incredible life. Thank you for loving me and teaching me so many important life lessons."

- Heather
A keeper of Indu

"I vividly remember the first day I stood eye-to-eye with Indu. That silent exchange between us was more powerful than words. A relationship with an elephant is something you feel; it lives in your chest."

- Stevie
A keeper of Indu



BABOONS

The Zoo's hamadryas baboon population doubled this winter when two new individuals joined the troop. Three-year-old female, Addison, and four-year-old male, Mzuzi, were quick to make themselves part of the group, getting along great with one another, and with long-time Zoo residents Moja and Ana.



RARE ORANGUTAN DIAGNOSIS

In June, keepers noticed a mass near the right armpit of Michael, the male Bornean orangutan. He was anesthetized for further evaluation, and the mass was surgically removed. Following consultation with both primate and human pathologists, the mass was diagnosed as apocrine carcinoma, a very rare form of cancer that can be locally invasive and aggressive. The Zoo's veterinary team, alongside an outside surgeon, performed a surgical resection of the affected area. Michael is now undergoing anti-androgen therapy and continues to be closely monitored.



CHACO CENTER FOR CONSERVATION-PECCARIES

Outside of Phoenix, the Zoo's veterinary team traveled to Paraguay to work with the Chaco Center for Conservation and Research. The Zoo's team provided health assessments to Chacoan peccaries by taking samples of weight, hair and blood, thus obtaining preliminary data of each individual, ensuring they were in good health before being moved to new pens with other healthy peccaries.



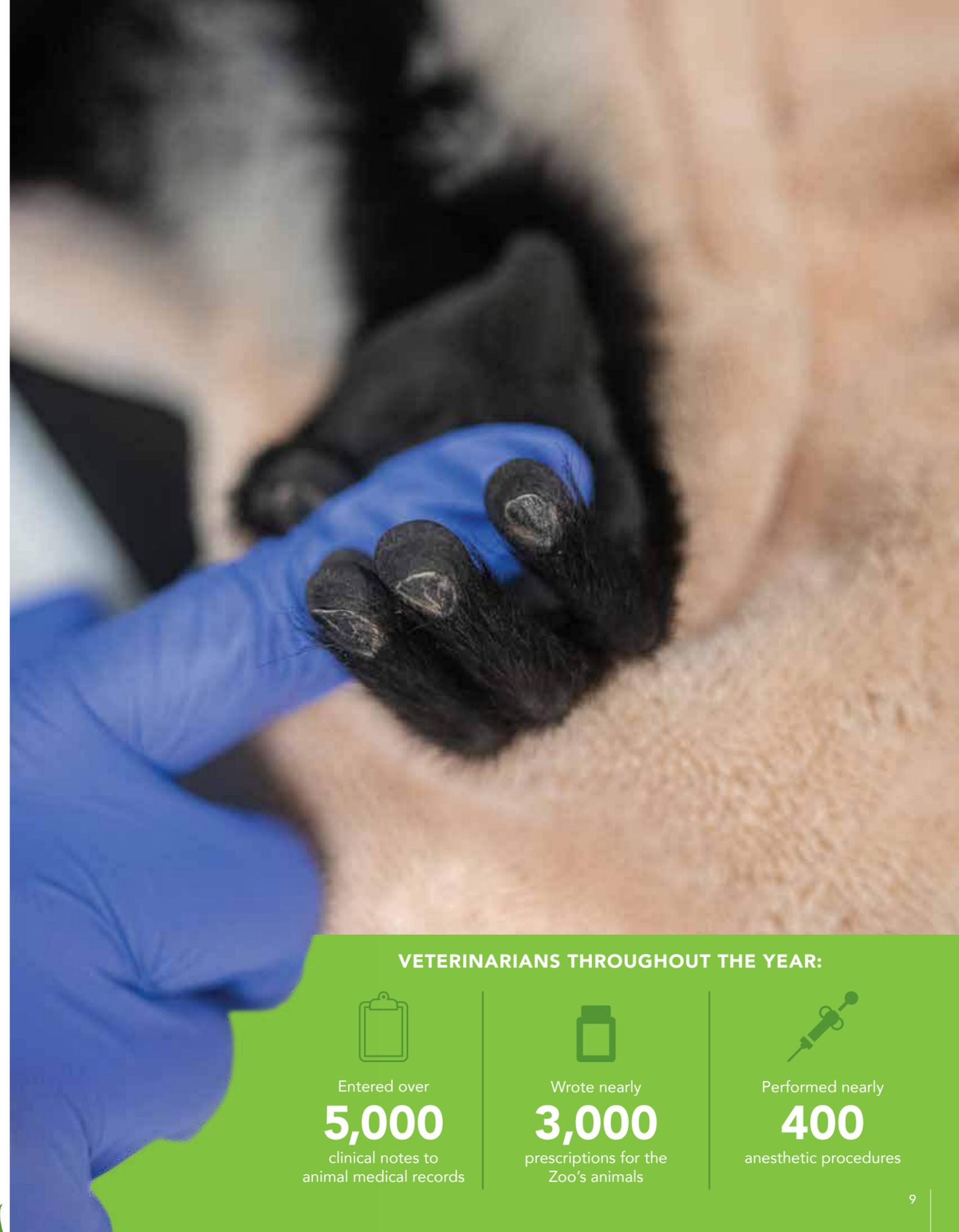
ALLIGATOR AMPUTEE

Roscoe, one of our six American alligators was diagnosed with chronic osteomyelitis, an infection affecting the bones in his right rear leg. After careful evaluation, amputation was determined the best treatment option. Following a successful surgery, Roscoe has returned to his habitat and is adapting well.



EMERGENCY SUMATRAN SURGERY

When keepers observed that Joanne, a Sumatran tiger, was showing signs of lethargy, she was evaluated and diagnosed with an enlarged, fluid-filled uterus. Emergency surgery was performed to remove her uterus and ovaries, and Joanne has since made a full recovery. Pathology results confirmed the presence of uterine cancer, which was likely the cause of the fluid buildup. Fortunately, the cancer appeared to be confined to the uterus and was successfully removed during surgery.



VETERINARIANS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:



Entered over
5,000
clinical notes to
animal medical records



Wrote nearly
3,000
prescriptions for the
Zoo's animals



Performed nearly
400
anesthetic procedures

SAVING BFFS

When cuts to federal funding threatened the livelihood of black-footed ferrets in the wild, the Phoenix Zoo, alongside the AZA's Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE) Black-footed Ferret Program, jumped into action to raise funds. With impending cuts to the teams responsible for plague prevention in their native region, the already highly endangered ferrets would face a monumental hurdle.

Together with other conservation organizations and Black-Footed Ferret SAFE, the Phoenix Zoo helped raise the more than \$500,000 necessary within two months to ensure the field teams were able to continue their work keeping the ferrets and their prey safe through plague mitigation across 10 reintroduction sites in North America.



photo: Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Southern Plains Land Trust



CONSERVATION ON TAP

In collaboration with Huss Brewing Co., the Phoenix Zoo introduced a creative and engaging way to connect new audiences with conservation through a series of thoughtfully crafted, native-species-inspired beers. This past year's releases included Mexican Wolf IPA, Jaguar Light Lager and Chiricahua Leopard Frog Limited Edition Unfiltered IPA, pairing seasonal flavors with meaningful conservation storytelling. Moving forward, the Zoo will continue to spotlight a new native species every four months, aligning each release with the season while championing the Zoo's conservation efforts. This innovative partnership demonstrates how conservation messaging can be accessible, memorable and appealing — meeting people where they are and inviting them to be part of protecting Arizona's wildlife in a fresh, unexpected way.



THE PHOENIX ZOO RELEASES 30,000TH CHIRICAHUA LEOPARD FROG

Since the program began, more than 30,000 tadpoles, juveniles and adult Chiricahua leopard frogs raised at the Phoenix Zoo's Johnson Conservation Center have been released to the wild, helping recover wild populations.

Chiricahua leopard frogs are native to higher-elevation areas of Arizona, New Mexico and northern Mexico and are listed as Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Disease, especially from chytrid fungus, is a major threat to these frogs. Invasive non-native species such as bullfrogs have also caused population declines, along with habitat loss and drought.

Like other amphibians, Chiricahua leopard frogs play important roles in their ecosystem. They control insect populations, including mosquitoes, and they serve as a food source for many different animals. As an indicator species, their presence or absence in an area can also serve as a warning about water quality issues.





2025 BY THE NUMBERS: PHOENIX ZOO FIELD CONSERVATION SCIENCE EDITION

Sorted:

109,604 photos and videos from Arizona

+

61,537 photos and videos from Costa Rica

171,141 photos and videos sorted this year!

Counted in Costa Rica:

61 white-lipped peccaries in one 10-second video 

10 biodiversity detection nodes reporting acoustic data 

1 camera vandalized by a black bear repeatedly 

Documented:

663 records of white-tailed deer 

&

3 badger photos 

in six months of data from the Atascosa Complex Wildlife Study in Southern Arizona.

Collected:

7 water samples at the Zoo to test for jaguar DNA toward advancement of environmental DNA sampling techniques to be used in the wild  

Traveled:

40,000+ miles for Zoo staff conservation grant projects  

Supported:

40+ conservation grant projects around the world 

1,500+ hours of Zoo conservation staff and volunteer work in the field in Arizona 




MEMBERS EXPERIENCE MORE

This year, the Phoenix Zoo delivered a dynamic lineup of member events, offering meaningful, year-round opportunities for the community to connect with wildlife and conservation. The standout experience was the highly anticipated Big Cats of Arizona Member Preview on April 4 & 5, which drew exceptional attendance and enthusiasm. The Zoo welcomed 2,336 members on Friday and 3,945 members on Saturday. Members enjoyed early access to the new habitats, keeper chats and hands-on activities that resulted in 415 crafted behavioral enrichment items for the Zoo's animals.

Beyond this new habitat opening event, monthly member engagement continued to grow through diverse offerings including Curator Talks, animal carcass feedings and storytime held during member hour, celebration of pollinators on National Hummingbird Day and a rejuvenating member yoga session in the Orangutan Bilik in December. Together, these offerings strengthened the Zoo's relationship with its membership community by providing more value to members, deepening educational impact and fostering meaningful connections that support the Zoo's mission, year-round.

BIGFOOT VISITS THE ZOO

Lions, tigers and cryptids, oh my! Apparently, the legendary and elusive Bigfoot was craving some sunshine and warmth and found himself at the Phoenix Zoo this spring. Given his experience in the world's natural uninhabited and hidden corners, he was on a mission to share ways we can protect our home planet.

In his true nature, Bigfoot wasn't seen often, but he was caught on social media a handful of times and even appeared in a few Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater presentations! While he was out lurking around the Zoo, guests were invited to explore his

home base. His interactive compound, brought to the Phoenix Zoo through collaboration with Event Network, featured interactive games, a slide, live terrariums, photos from previous stops and a wish tree. After exploring his compound, learning about the wonders of the natural world and how to "take the pledge" in saving our environment, guests could write a wish or promise to the environment and hang it on the tree for everyone to see.



REACHING NEW AUDIENCES

The Zoo continued to expand its reach this year, connecting with new audiences through meaningful, nature-based learning experiences. Through a collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education, middle and high school students from across the state, including Yuma and Willcox, participated in immersive conservation learning.

The Zoo also welcomed new audiences through Comic Conservation, an art exhibition featuring acclaimed artists such as Todd McFarlane. More than 5,000 guests attended the opening celebration, which included artist meet-and-greets, community partner booths and hands-on programming.

Family Programs returned, reaching thousands of guests through Nature Play, story times and seasonal activities that create joyful early connections to wildlife.



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

Impact and accessibility remain central to the Zoo's mission. Enhancements to special needs programming supported a 15 percent increase in participation, ensuring more families have access to safe and inclusive experiences. Summer Camp Zoo 2025 welcomed over 800 campers, with 100 percent of surveyed caregivers recommending the program, and half reporting that their child adopted a new conservation behavior after camp. The Zoo also reintroduced middle school programming, including the first-ever Horse Hands Camp, which showed meaningful improvements in participants' confidence and appreciation for animals.

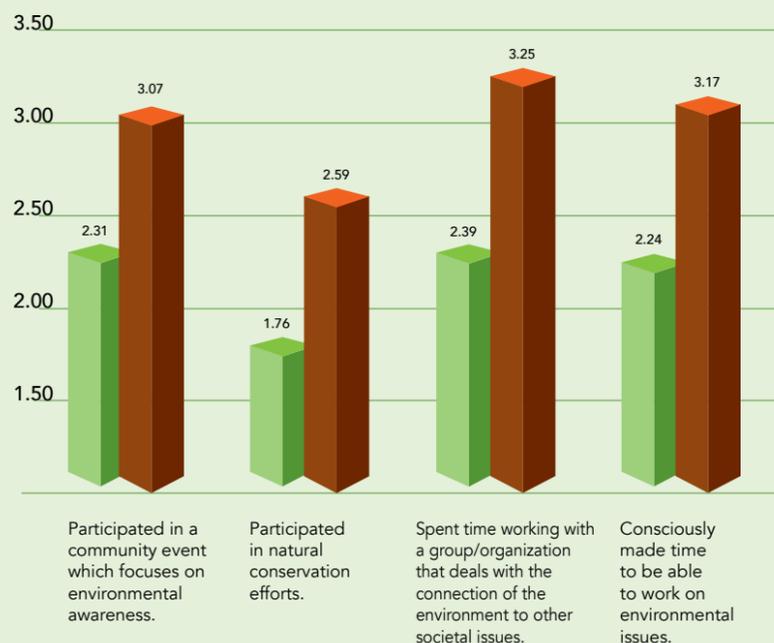
In a collaborative study with Arizona State University, the Zoo conducted its first formal evaluation of ZooTeens, the Zoo's youth volunteer group, and Trailblazers, the Zoo's youth advisory council. Early results reflect promising growth in environmental stewardship, leadership and civic engagement — key predictors of longterm conservation involvement.

2024-2025 Trailblazers Cohort Mean Conservation Behavior Growth Pre/Post Assessment

In the last six months, how often, if at all, have you engaged in the following environmental activities and actions?

1 = Never | 3 = Sometimes | 5 = Frequently

AVERAGE PRE | AVERAGE POST



EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES

Zoo programs continue to empower young people, families and all guests to become active participants in conservation. Night Camp staff introduced Helping Out WildLife (HOWL), a hands-on initiative that encourages campers to take small, meaningful conservation actions in their daily lives, mirroring the amplified impact of a wolf pack's collective howl. Staff interactions throughout the year also demonstrated the heart of the Zoo's mission, from guiding conversations about responsible pet ownership in Monkey Village to helping a young guest overcome a panic attack in Stingray Bay.

A guest shared, "We have an 8-year-old who had a severe panic attack and was unable to touch or feed the stingrays. He was crying uncontrollably from disappointment in himself... The staff member came to the rescue! She assisted him with patience and kindness and tender-heartedness and our child was able to pet one of the stingrays. He was all smiles and repeatedly said "I'm so proud of myself" and "Next time, I'll feed them." They went above and beyond and made this an exceptional experience for our child. It is rare for him to come through a panic attack

to be able to participate in activities the way they helped him do so today."

The Zoo's youth leadership programs remain a powerful pathway for developing future conservation advocates. One ZooTeen shared, "I get to be a role model for the next generation and inspire them to be curious about the natural world," while a Trailblazer noted, "I've grown into a confident leader with a career ahead of me — something I would not have found without Trailblazers." These stories reflect the profound ways the Zoo connects people with wildlife, and helps shape the next generation of stewards for the natural world.





DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

In 2025, the Zoo hosted its first Día de los Muertos event, honoring the vibrant Hispanic holiday. The two-day celebration, which was sponsored by Valley Toyota Dealers, featured multiple ofrendas, live performances by local dance groups and mariachis, culturally relevant craft-making and an art sale, showcasing works fitting the theme, all of which were donated by Joe Raymond, a local art collector.

The Zoo's ofrenda was filled with animals from the Zoo who had passed, and guests were encouraged to bring photos of their own pets to add to the display. Throughout the Zoo, guests enjoyed

altars that were created and installed by numerous Zoo staff, Colibri Collective and Midwestern University.

In addition, there were large dancing puppets in the Zoo's main plaza, mask making for guests and a storyteller sharing the history and importance of Día de los Muertos.

After a successful inaugural event, bringing in more than 11,000 guests over two days, the Zoo is excited to grow and develop the celebration for an even more impactful event next year.

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS THAT SUPPORT THE MISSION

The Phoenix Zoo is deeply grateful to the organizations supporting its mission by hosting large-scale ZooLights celebrations and daytime gatherings throughout the year. Events hosted by HonorHealth, Freeport-McMoRan, Discount Tire, HopeKids and the City of Phoenix just to name a few, provided meaningful opportunities for staff and families to gather, celebrate and connect at the Zoo. Their continued partnership highlights the Zoo's value as a trusted, welcoming venue.



A HOWLING GOOD TIME: SPOOKY SAFARI RETURNS

Spooky Safari delivered a frightfully fun experience once again, solidifying its place as a Valley favorite for Halloween celebrations. During its three-night run, the Zoo welcomed approximately 15,000 guests, with families and costumed creatures of all ages filling the paths in search of treats, face painting, festive games and creative crafts. This popular event continues to grow as a beloved seasonal tradition that brings the community together for safe, family-friendly Halloween fun.

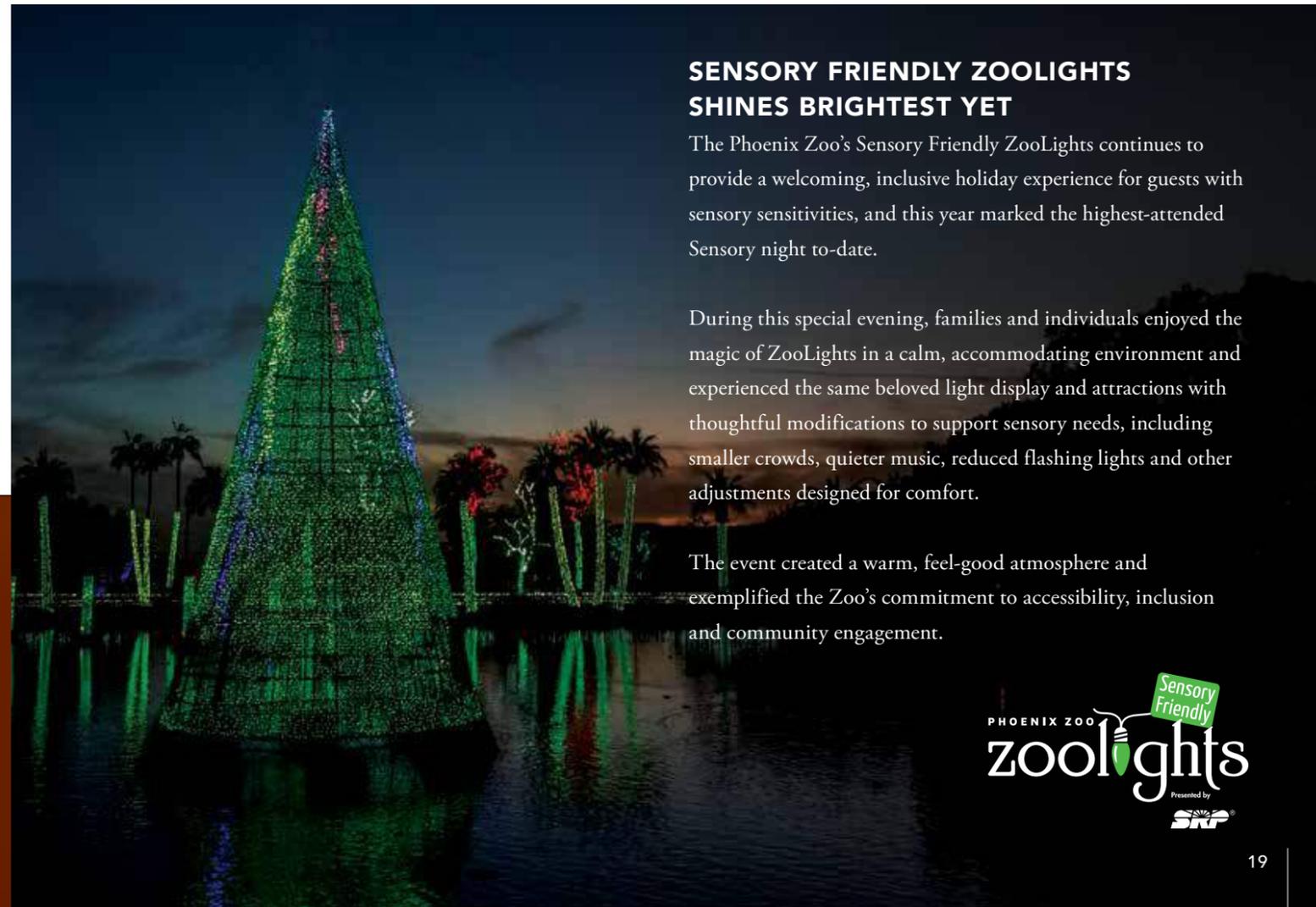


SENSORY FRIENDLY ZOOLIGHTS SHINES BRIGHTEST YET

The Phoenix Zoo's Sensory Friendly ZooLights continues to provide a welcoming, inclusive holiday experience for guests with sensory sensitivities, and this year marked the highest-attended Sensory night to-date.

During this special evening, families and individuals enjoyed the magic of ZooLights in a calm, accommodating environment and experienced the same beloved light display and attractions with thoughtful modifications to support sensory needs, including smaller crowds, quieter music, reduced flashing lights and other adjustments designed for comfort.

The event created a warm, feel-good atmosphere and exemplified the Zoo's commitment to accessibility, inclusion and community engagement.

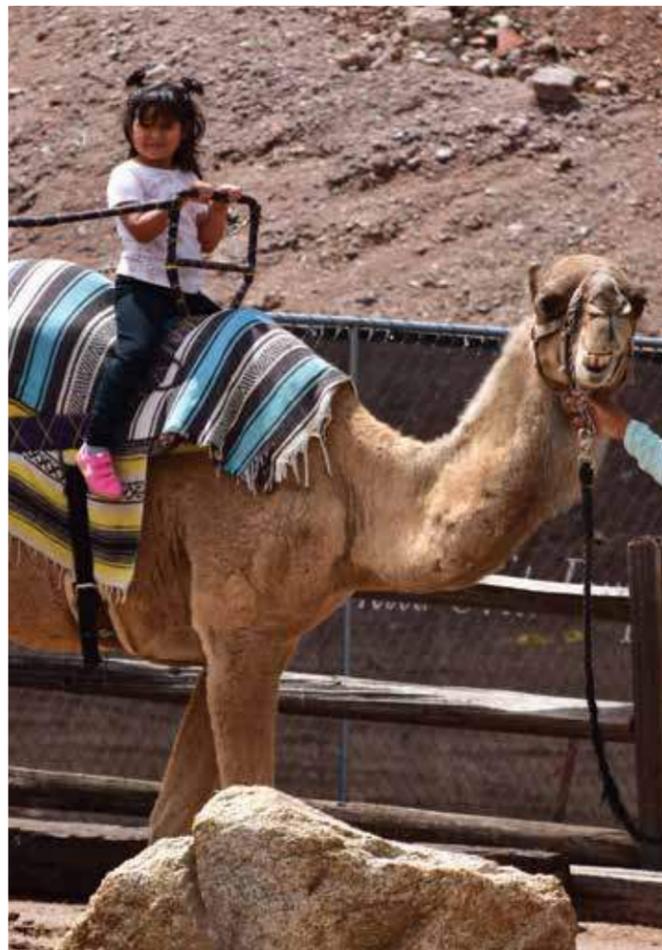




602 DAY

On June 2, the Zoo took part in the second annual 602 Day. The celebration honors the City's 602 area code and showcases the vibrant local culture, businesses and community spirit that make Phoenix unique. Many local businesses offer discounts or deals reflecting the 602 number, and the Phoenix Zoo joined in by offering general admission for only \$6.02 as well as kettle corn, camel rides and select gift shop items for that same price.

Between the awesome deals and the beautiful unseasonal weather (a high of 83 degrees in June), it was a huge hit. In fact, it was the largest paid attendance day in the 62-year history of the Zoo with nearly 19,000 guests coming out to visit.



TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

In partnership with Midwestern University, the Phoenix Zoo hosted two Teddy Bear Clinics in 2025. This cute event welcomed young guests and their stuffed animals to the Zoo for a checkup from Midwestern University medical, pharmacy and optometry students. Their best furry friends received pretend vaccines, were dressed in fun bandages and were awarded an official Teddy Bear Health Certificate.



HAVE YOU MET ARI?

This year, the Zoo introduced its first mascot; Ari, the Arabian oryx! Ari represents the Phoenix Zoo's history and pride in helping bring back the Arabian oryx from the brink of extinction.

Before disappearing from the wild entirely in 1972, a group of oryx arrived in Phoenix as part of Operation Oryx to aid in the repopulation of this critically endangered species. Over the next 20 years, the Phoenix Zoo, alongside the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society of London, worked to stabilize the population, eventually releasing a herd back to the wild in 1981. Since then, Arabian oryx have been removed from the IUCN's Endangered list and is now considered a Vulnerable species, a huge win for conservation.

Ari is a great representation of his species and a welcome reminder of the great conservation work taking place in AZA-accredited facilities across the world.

He can often be seen on Zoo grounds during events, visiting other mascots around the Valley or giving a good hug or a high-five to anyone who asks. Be sure to introduce yourself next time you see Ari at the Zoo!





A WILD YEAR FOR ART

Created in 2019, the Art on the Wild Side program continues to grow and bring in new audiences to the Zoo through exhibitions that focus on conservation and the natural world.

In 2025, the Wild Side Gallery hosted three exhibitions beginning in the spring with a show featuring works from the Society of Animal Artists. In the summer, the Gallery hosted an exhibition with art created by employees and volunteers of the Zoo. Finally, to round out the year, the Wild Side Gallery exhibited Comic Conservation; a unique show featuring comic book art and other forms of graphic illustration highlighting each artist's unique and bold interpretation of wildlife and the natural world.

Comic Conservation also featured an event in October where children were invited to meet the artists and collect autographs, learn more about comics and their favorite superheroes and even join a drawing session with comic veteran Todd McFarlane, an

illustrator of Spider-Man and creator of Spawn.

In the Savanna Gallery, the year began with Urban Wildlife; a rumination on how we coexist with wildlife here in the desert. This was followed by an exhibit featuring works created by the children of Zoo staff and volunteers. And finally, the year ended with In Your Wildest Dreams; a whimsical depiction of animals and thought-provoking interpretations of nature that sparks curiosity and wonder.



DOORDASH MAKES A WILD DELIVERY

In December, DoorDash brought its biggest – and wildest – delivery yet to the Phoenix Zoo. A massive 6,500 pound, and over 14-foot-tall DoorDash bag delivered a special snack for several animals, including fresh produce for orangutans, giraffe and flamingos, along with a custom delivery for Chutti the greater one-horned rhino featuring his favorite foods – bananas, apples and carrots. At 5,500 pounds, Chutti finally met something bigger than himself, with the oversized bag outweighing him by 1,000 pounds.

DoorDash also made a generous donation to cover a full week of produce for Zoo animals. The iconic bag appeared for one night only during ZooLights, delighting guests with snacks and adding to the festive atmosphere. While the DoorDash bag has made stops across the country from California beaches to a Chicago baseball game, this marked the company's largest delivery to date. The sponsorship captivated guests and animals alike, creating a memorable moment that supported animal care and elevated the guest experience.



KEEBLER

In the fall, Keebler successfully brought fun to life with the Find the Stripes scavenger hunt, celebrating the launch of Keebler Spookie Fudge Stripes cookies. For three months, families were invited to explore the Zoo while locating striped animals, learning facts about their patterns and engaging with the Keebler brand in an interactive and memorable way.

Guests participated by scanning QR codes located at six striped animal habitats throughout the Zoo. These codes directed guests to Keebler's Open for Magic platform where discoveries at each location could be logged for a chance to win exciting prizes, including an annual Zoo membership and exclusive-behind-the-scenes animal experiences. This unique experience also included a presence at the Zoo's annual Spooky Safari event. Guests were delighted to receive samples of both the classic Fudge Striped cookies along with Keebler limited time release of the Spookie Fudge Striped cookie.



MAJOR MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND BRAND IMPACT

This past year, the Phoenix Zoo received significant media attention that amplified the mission of the Zoo and strengthened brand recognition locally, nationally and internationally. The Arizona Republic and azcentral.com featured a landmark conservation milestone, highlighting the release of the Zoo's 30,000th Chiricahua leopard frog into the wild.

The Arizona Republic also followed the carefully coordinated move of female jaguar, Caipora, into her new habitat, Big Cats of Arizona, garnering front page placement. This in-depth coverage offered readers a rare behind-the-scenes look at the meticulous planning, animal care expertise and timing involved in ensuring a successful transition.

In addition, the Zoo's African lion cubs captured widespread public attention as they celebrated their first birthday. The celebration featured custom "cub-cakes," engaging behavioral enrichment and a joyful moment as hundreds of enthusiastic and adoring guests gathered to sing Happy Birthday to the boys. This milestone generated significant media interest and social engagement, further extending the Zoo's reach and reinforcing the powerful emotional connection between the community and the animals in the Zoo's care.

In October, a powerful microburst struck the Zoo, prompting a swift, coordinated response to safeguard animals, staff and guests. The Zoo's preparedness, professionalism and transparency were widely praised across local outlets including AzFamily, FOX 10 Phoenix, ABC15 Arizona and 12 News, as well as The Arizona Republic. Coverage extended well beyond Arizona, with national and international outlets such as CNN, The Weather Channel and ABC Los Angeles highlighting the Zoo's response.

The overwhelmingly positive tone and breadth of this coverage reinforced the Phoenix Zoo's reputation as a trusted leader in animal welfare, conservation excellence and community stewardship – reaching millions and elevating awareness of the work far beyond Zoo grounds.



IF I FITS, I SITS

How do you get over 19 million views on social media? Easy, post cat videos. Senior Carnivore Keeper, Alyssa, captured a silly video of Joanne the Sumatran tiger playing with a box in her night house. Posted with the simple caption, "If I fits, I sits" the video went viral overnight.

Animal lovers, especially cat lovers, immediately gravitated to the video, liking, sharing and commenting with pictures of their domestic cats doing the same thing. The video even caught the attention of Chewy, a popular pet supply company. Expecting nothing in return, Chewy sent care packages to Joanne and her keepers, including pounds of catnip, Chewy swag and a hand-painted portrait of Joanne, which now hangs in the carnivore keeper office.

While videos go viral from time to time, it is rare to have one perform so well. TikTok accounted for over nine million of the total views and the Zoo's account almost doubled in following. The video also exposed the Zoo to new regions of the globe, going viral in other countries including Australia, Brazil, Canada and England. The virality of this cute, but simple video shows that social media is a great way to connect and inspire audiences beyond our physical reach.



#1 BEST ATTRACTIONS: ZOOS AND WILDLIFE PARKS

The Phoenix Zoo was proudly named #1 in Ranking Arizona for "Best Attractions: Zoos & Wildlife Parks," an honor it has consistently earned every year since 2012. This long-standing recognition reflects the Zoo's unwavering commitment to exceptional animal care, engaging guest experience and meaningful conservation work – an achievement the Zoo celebrates with pride and excitement as a testament to the community's enduring support.



BEST PLACE FOR CAT LOVERS IN PHOENIX MAGAZINE

The Phoenix Zoo was honored by Phoenix Magazine as "Best Place for Cat Lovers," recognizing the Zoo's Big Cats of Arizona habitat. The award highlights the Zoo's exceptional care, immersive habitats and engaging guest experiences that celebrate and protect some of the world's most iconic big cats.



BEST ZOO IN PHOENIX NEW TIMES

The Phoenix Zoo won big at the Phoenix New Times "Best of Phoenix 2025" awards, taking home top honors for Best Zoo and Best Family-Friendly Fun, continuing a strong streak of winning these local accolades year after year for its excellent animal care and engaging experiences for families.

A MICROBURST WITH MACRO COMPLICATIONS

On October 13, a microburst storm rolled through the Zoo, leaving in its wake dozens of downed trees, uprooted pathways and damaged structures around the park. For the first time since 2019, the Zoo was forced to close for three days to evaluate and repair the damage.

Everyone across the Zoo's staff, from Operations to Horticulture to Accounting, grabbed shovels, rakes and brooms and jumped into action. Over the course of the next three days, Zoo staff removed downed trees and limbs with the help of a few outside contractors, shoveled dirt that was covering the Zoo's trails and began the lengthy task of reassembling ZooLights fixtures. This included the capsized 50-foot-tall digital tree that floats in the Zoo's main lake. A crane was brought in to lift the tree from the lake so repairs could begin, and through the team's rapid response and expertise, they were able to repair the tree and have the Lake Lights Show up and running for the start of the ZooLights season!



We are deeply grateful no animals, guests, staff or volunteers were harmed during the storm as our staff acted swiftly to usher animals inside and move guests to safety. Those with golf carts rushed to pick up guests and get them to cover and toward the exits as the storm lifted. It was truly a full team effort, and we are incredibly proud of the Zoo's employees and their work during this stressful event and the following recovery efforts. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the community for assisting in recovery efforts, with special acknowledgment for the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation and Ken Kendrick.

THE FUTURE OF ANIMAL CARE AT THE PHOENIX ZOO

In 2025, the Phoenix Zoo broke ground on two enormously important projects that will define the future of animal healthcare for the organization. Phoenix Zoo's Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), located within The Joyce Corrigan Animal Care and Conservation Campus, presented by The Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation and The Robert Kemper Corrigan Foundation (Corrigan Campus), encompasses the Midwestern University Zoological Medical Institute and the JoEllen and Philip Doornbos Veterinary Student Center. The Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Conservation Center is also an element of the Corrigan Campus. The construction of the VMC is a great step in cementing the Zoo as a leader in animal wellbeing and will position the Zoo to continue to pave the way for zoological veterinary care.

The new space will feature large medical facilities with indoor viewing windows and digital screens to educate guests as they observe veterinary exams and animal health procedures

which may take place in real time. The space will also contain classrooms and collaborative workspaces to train and motivate the wildlife veterinarians of tomorrow. Located in the heart of the Zoo, the VMC will be a state-of-the-art facility. While construction began on the VMC, fundraising for the Doornbos Animal Rescue and Care Center (Doornbos ARCC) gained momentum and subsequently ground was broken nearby, on this much-needed new facility.

The Doornbos ARCC will serve as a quarantine facility for Zoo collection animals, while simultaneously providing space to house animals confiscated through wildlife trafficking cases. Being so close to the border, the Phoenix Zoo has the unique ability to be easily accessible for rescued wildlife being smuggled across our southern border. Additionally, having this new facility apart from the Zoo's residents greatly reduces the chance of spreading disease and protects our community.



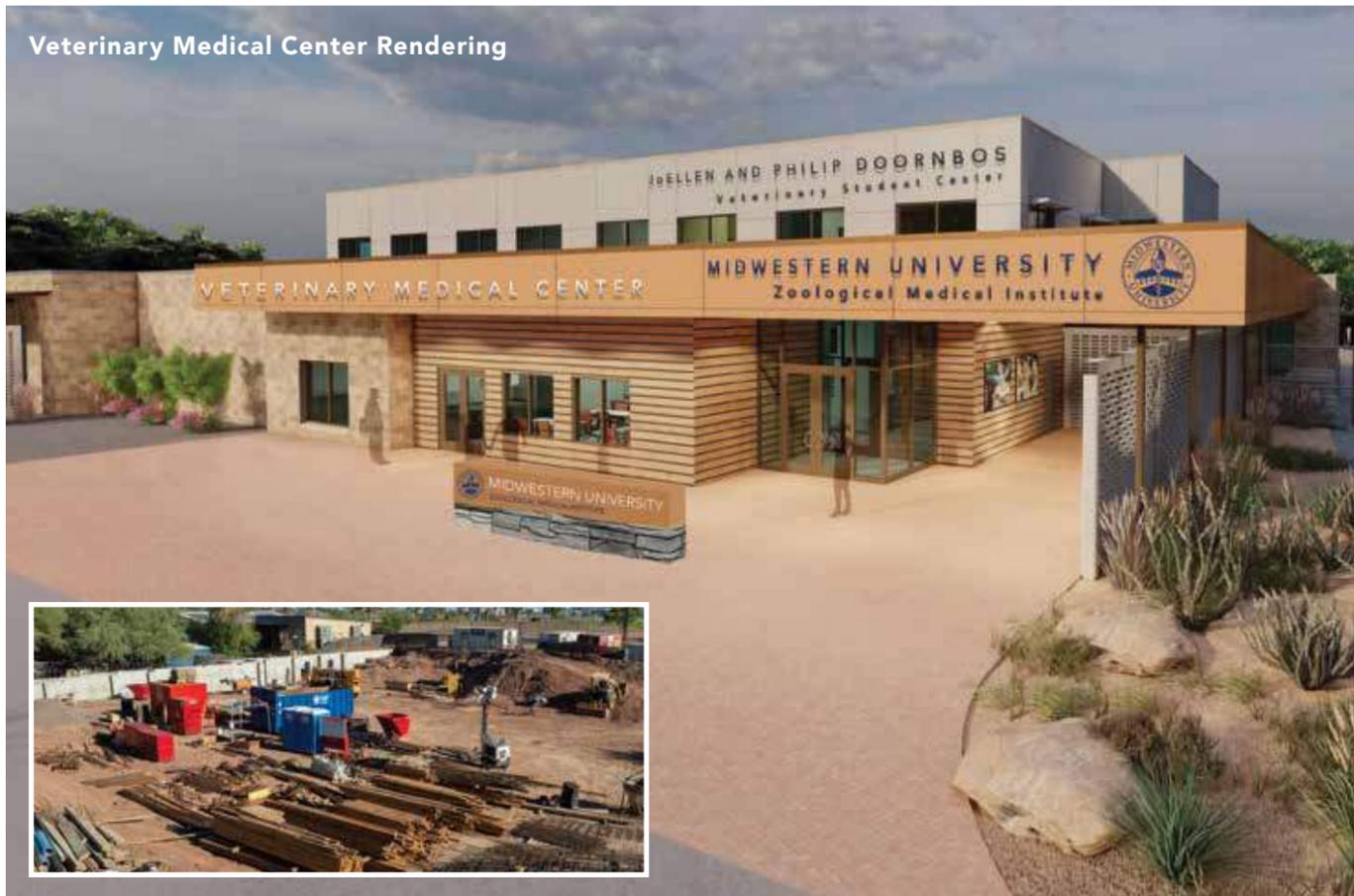
THE PHOENIX ZOO AUXILIARY

The Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary wrapped up their Paw Prints in Glass project, raising money to benefit the Doornbos Animal Rescue and Care Center. Participants in the fundraiser were able to have paw prints of their pets etched in glass and added to the wall on Zoo grounds.

Now, the Auxiliary is working on a new fundraising effort, building a mosaic of the Zoo's female jaguar, Caipora, created through photos submitted by donors to the project.

As always, the Auxiliary is sticking to their motto of "doing a little fundraising and being helpful wherever needed".

Veterinary Medical Center Rendering



Doornbos Animal Rescue and Care Center Rendering



IN GRATITUDE

The Phoenix Zoo is deeply grateful to the individuals, foundations and organizations whose generosity made this year possible. We are honored to recognize the donors listed below and thank you for your lasting impact.

\$100,000 and Above

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Edward Dawkins	Daniel Gillooley	Wild Rivers Community	William and Barbara Loutos	Denise Osborne	Royal Palms Resort and Spa	Shannon and Ryan Tevis	commitments recorded during the 2025
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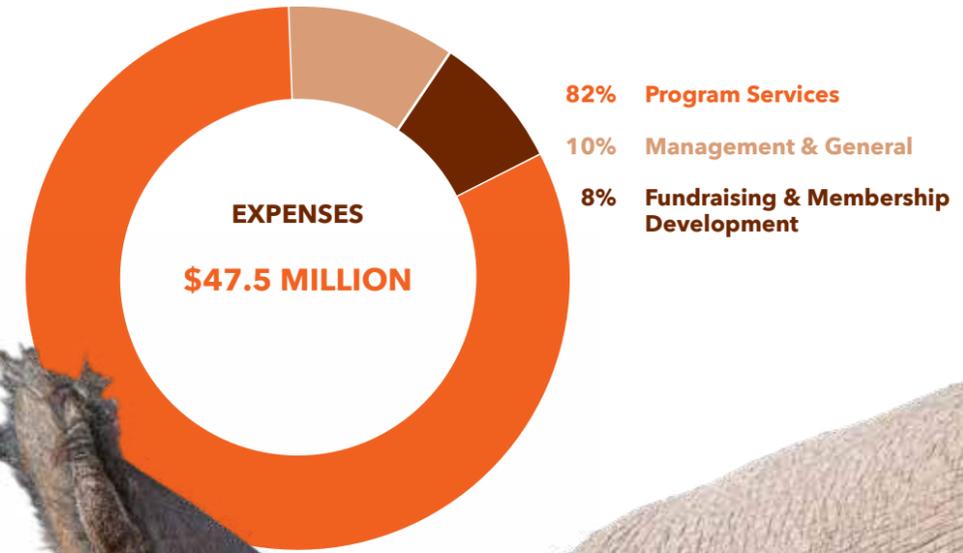
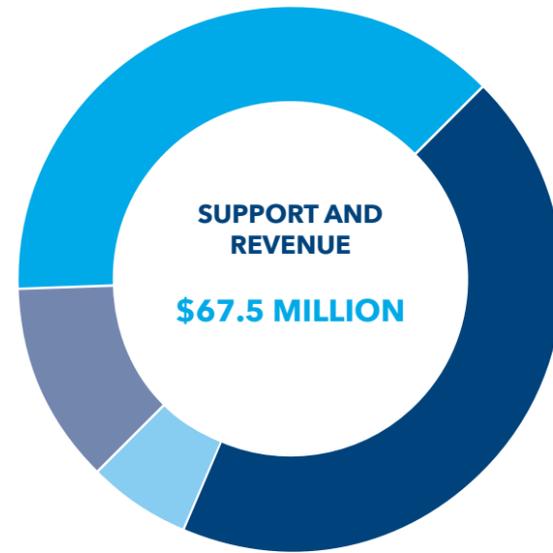
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	For the year ended June 30, 2025	For the year ended June 30, 2024
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Admissions & Memberships	\$ 29,721,447	\$ 29,329,719
Educational Programs	781,253	713,344
Group Services	1,733,542	1,893,542
Food & Retail	5,280,967	4,797,393
Contributions**	25,744,742	10,559,538
Investment Income/(Loss)	4,151,378	4,069,013
Other	47,994	326,526
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 67,461,323	\$ 51,689,075
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$ 38,770,108	\$ 34,714,822
Management & General	4,661,952	4,485,405
Fundraising & Membership Development	4,054,575	4,054,439
Total Expenses	\$ 47,486,635	\$ 43,254,666
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 19,974,688	\$ 8,434,409
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	\$ 99,173,131	\$ 90,738,722
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$ 119,147,819	\$ 99,173,131

** Includes revenue with donor restrictions prior to release for Capital Campaign and other projects of \$21,402,086 for 2025 and \$4,566,096 for 2024.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,322,531	\$ 4,013,899
Treasury Bills, short-term	\$ 25,192,099	\$ 31,615,111
Contributions Receivable	610,068	727,240
Other Current Assets	1,208,713	1,224,875
Other Assets		
Investments	6,439,514	5,128,781
Endowments	13,233,956	12,044,322
Assets restricted for long-term purposes		
Cash	10,299,651	5,072,631
Cash held for endowments	1,374,341	1,041,772
Contributions Receivable	13,180,699	2,506,875
Operating Lease Right-of-Use Assets	213,413	281,661
Property & Equipment, net	47,531,497	41,815,254
Beneficial Interest in Trusts	5,992,591	5,660,567
Other Assets	32,722	34,222
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 132,631,795	\$ 111,167,210
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 7,932,173	\$ 6,447,676
Deferred Revenue	\$ 5,330,597	\$ 5,259,501
Current portion of operating lease liabilities	\$ 71,328	\$ 65,934
Operating Lease Liabilities, Net of Current Portion	\$ 149,878	\$ 220,968
Total Liabilities	\$ 13,483,976	\$ 11,994,079
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	\$ 82,120,329	\$ 79,201,232
With donor restrictions	37,027,490	19,971,899
Total Net Assets	\$ 119,147,819	\$ 99,173,131
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 132,631,795	\$ 111,167,210





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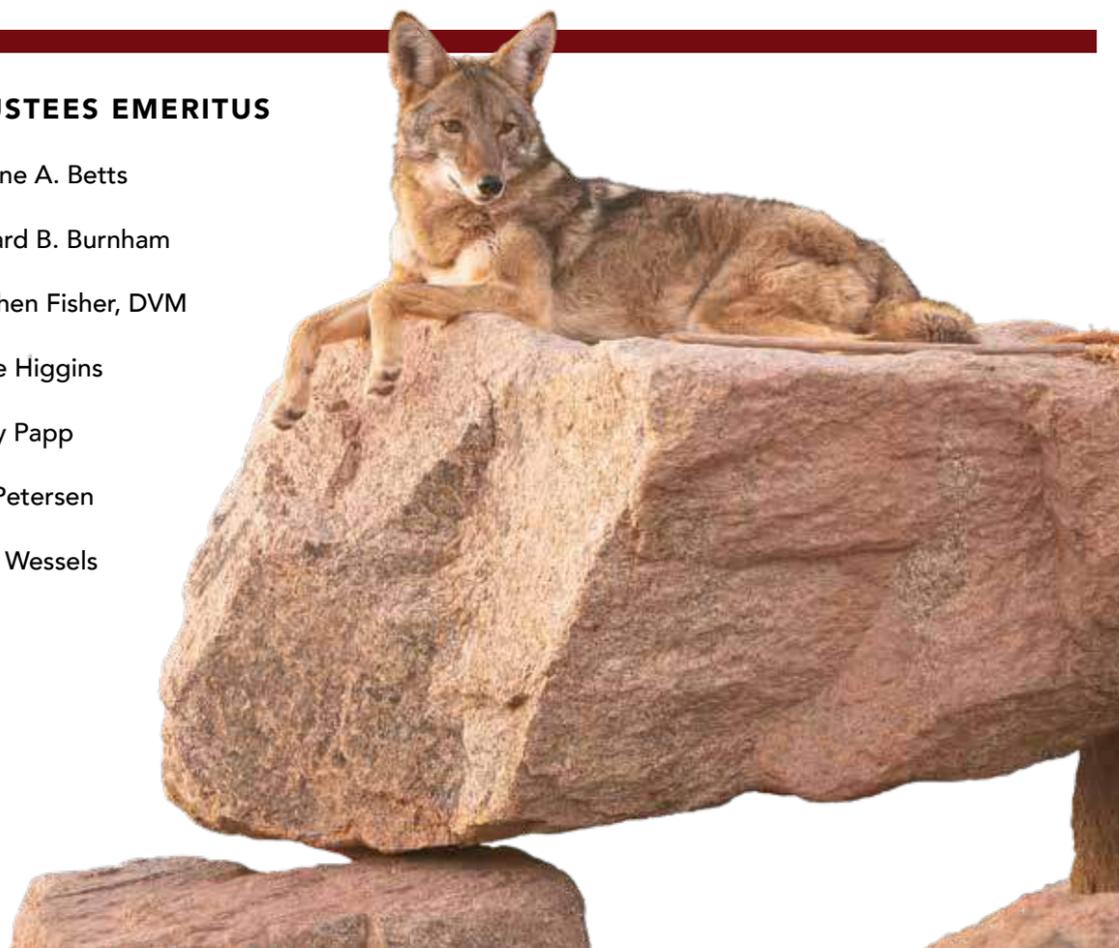
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