

ZOO & YOU



Fall 2019 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society





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For more information, contact Gail Brown at gail@reidparkzoo.org or (520) 881-4753.

Reid Park Zoological Society

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Love at First Stripe

In mid-May of 2019, our two new Grevy's zebras Ben and Anna were in their habitat together for the first time. Both zebras had lived with other zebras at former zoos, but had not yet met each other. Any animal introduction can be nerve-wracking, as at times they may not pair well together. But Ben and Anna experienced what can only be called "love at first stripe." They ran together. Anna kicked at Ben but continued to run in front of him, seemingly enjoying the chase. They raced throughout the habitat and, soon, they bred.

Several weeks later, ostriches Ethel and Eiffel were introduced to the zebras. Neither zebra nor ostrich was too interested in one another at this time. Having the four animals together can be dynamic depending on breeding cycles. Certain times of the year Eiffel's neck turns bright red indicating he is in breeding mode. Eiffel is always easy to distinguish from Ethel due to his dark

black feathers on his body while female ostriches have brown back feathers. The zebras are less obvious about breeding conditions.

By spending time with our zebras, animal care staff have observed appearance and personality differences that they use to tell them apart. If you spend enough time watching the pair, you may see these differences too. Each zebra has its own unique pattern of stripes, like fingerprints in humans. Since they are so difficult to tell apart, keepers use their personalities more than appearance. Ben is a very mellow zebra, usually relaxed and calm. Anna is much sassier and more playful.

Grevy's zebra are endangered in the wild due to habitat loss. Reid Park Zoo partners with other organizations to support protection of wild zebras and wild places. By visiting and supporting Reid Park Zoo, you too are helping protect these, and other animals in the wild.



Dr. Gilbert Aguirre visits Reid Park Zoo

He's a "larger than life" sort of gentleman and his tall cowboy stature can sometimes surprise you with his calming demeanor.

On September 28, Dr. Gilbert G. Aguirre visited the Zoo with his nephew Lorenzo Quiroz. Dr. Aguirre is the largest donor ever to the Reid Park Zoo. In 2010, Aguirre donated a 765-acre ranch to the Zoo and this most generous contribution blazed the trail for what is now the Gilbert G. Aguirre Annual Giving Circle* at Reid Park Zoo.

Dr. Aguirre is a sixth generation rancher and Tucson native. He graduated from the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in animal science and received a UA Honorary Doctorate in 2018. After moving to San Juan Capistrano in the early years, he now serves as Rancho Mission Viejo's Executive Vice President of Ranch Operations. He is a leader in the ranching industry and has devoted his professional career to the advocacy and preservation of

ranching, rodeo and western tradition. Aguirre oversees all of Rancho Mission Viejo's ranching, farming, agricultural and industrial leasing and related ranching interests. He is a member of the ranch's Executive Committee and has participated in all major land-development decisions for more than 40 years.

One of his many accomplishments and claim-to-fame is the Annual Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo which is billed as "The Richest Two Day Rodeo in America." Aguirre was elected to the California Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2008 and his philanthropic work in that state remains strong.

In 2014, Dr. Aguirre visited the Zoo for the first time in years. This up close and personal experience impressed him. "I had no idea the little Zoo that I remembered years ago had grown to this."



Next to the Reid Park Zoo Wildlife Carousel is a plaque that honors Gilbert's work here and reminds visitors of his generosity after so many years of calling Tucson, Arizona his home.

**The Gilbert G. Aguirre Circle honors a special group of individuals who make an annual gift of \$10,000 or more to support the progress of Tucson's Reid Park Zoo. A dinner is held each Spring to recognize the Circle with Mr. Aguirre as the guest of honor. The next dinner will be held in April of 2020. For more information, please contact the Development Department at 520-881-4753.*

Geriatric Animal Spotlight

As you travel the Zoo, you will see animals at all stages of their lives from youthful squirrel monkeys to elderly bears. When animals age at the Zoo, they often face similar problems as older people. Animal care and veterinary staff do their best to monitor and manage the special needs of animals as they age.



The **white rhino Yebonga is 46 years old** and can be identified by her blunt horn. She moves more slowly throughout her habitat compared to the younger male, and has more frequent foot radiographs to help the vet check her foot health. She has occasionally received special foot care of ointments rubbed on her lower legs, and oral medications to help with old age foot issues. Median life expectancy = 31.4 years



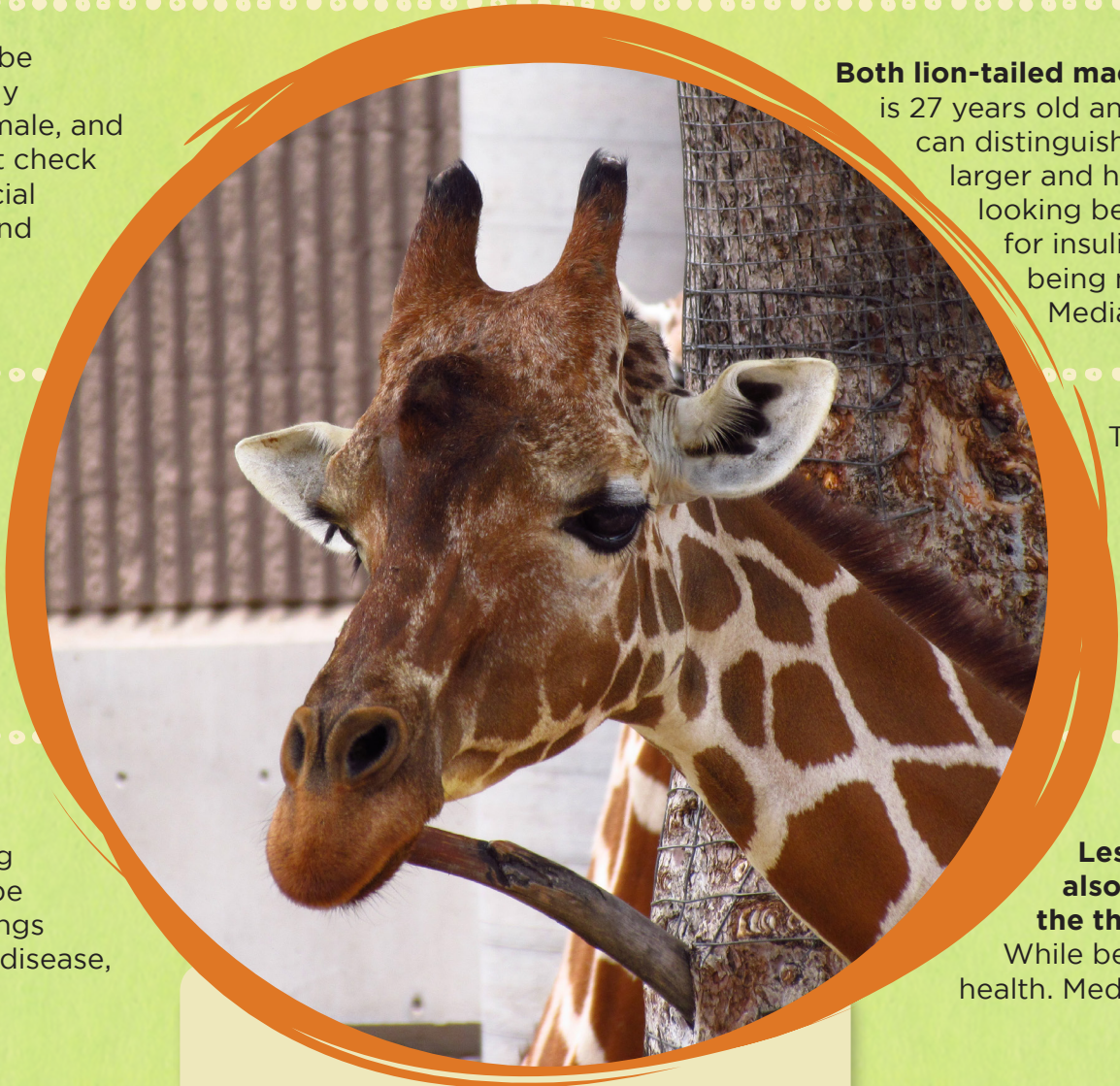
Tina, the 38 year-old female east African grey crowned crane lives with her mate and can be identified by the band on her left leg. While an older bird, she still dances, bows and jumps. She can be quite vocal and is a stunning bird to observe. The keepers monitor her weight carefully as she tends to be on the lean side. Median life expectancy = 25 years



Billy the 46 year-old gibbon can be heard early in the morning and late in the day vocalizing. His song carries across the Zoo, and on some days, he can be heard beyond the Zoo perimeter. While he still swings across his habitat well, he faces arthritis and heart disease, just like older people do. Median life expectancy = 16.4 years



Spotted-necked otter Pfeiffer is 21 years old and in great health. While being an older animal she enjoys swimming and throwing things into the air and catching them. Her active lifestyle keeps her healthy. You can spot her by looking for the heart shaped white spot on her throat; she is also is smaller and darker than the male otter. Median life expectancy = 14 years



Denver, our 30 year-old giraffe, is the smaller of the two giraffes and is lighter in color. Denver receives more frequent veterinarian attention due to her advanced age and finicky eating habits. She often refuses various food items that she previously liked, challenging her keepers to keep varying her diet. Median life expectancy = 19.4 years

The **pair of tigers at the Zoo are both 18 years old** and are sometimes hard to tell apart. Sita, the female, has more white on her face above her eyebrows and on her cheeks. Sita recently underwent treatment for severe arthritis but is responding well and moving throughout her habitat like a younger cat. Baheem, the male, is a little lean—as older animals, and sometimes people, can be. Both tigers take a variety of supplements and medications prescribed by the veterinarian. Median life expectancy = 16.1 years



Both lion-tailed macaques are getting older. Hadji, the male, is 27 years old and Beanie, the female, is 31 years old. You can distinguish them based on size, with Hadji being much larger and having a large lower mane around his face, looking beard-like. Hadji is currently being trained for insulin injections as he is pre-diabetic. Beanie is being monitored as well. Median life expectancy = 26.6 years



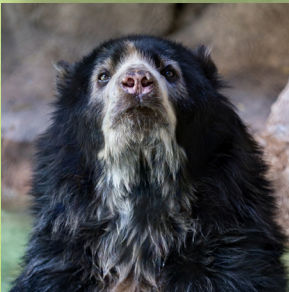
The South America Aviary is home to two birds whose age is notable: **Strawberry, the 25 year-old spoonbill**, is a type of bird that lives in the South America Aviary and is pink in color like a flamingo. As the name indicates, her beak looks like a spoon to swish the water and filter out her food. Median life expectancy = 15 years



Leslie the King Vulture is 54 years old and also lives in the South America Aviary. She is the third oldest king vulture in AZA zoos. While being an old bird, so far Leslie is in good health. Median life expectancy = 45-48 years



Worf, the Zoo's 26 year-old male Andean bear, can be recognized by the grey and tan hair on his muzzle and around his nose. As he has aged, his facial markings have gotten lighter, just like people "go grey". Andean bears are excellent climbers, but due to Worf's age, he often stays lower to the ground and spends more time wading in his pool. Worf receives special foot soaks to help keep his paws in good health. Median life expectancy = 25 years



EDUCATION PROGRAMS - *WHERE LEARNING GETS WILD!*

LITTLE CRITTERS: A FEAST FOR THE BEASTS (AGES 2-5)

Saturday, November 9, 9-10 a.m.

\$12 members, \$20 non-members

Thanksgiving is right around the corner! Food is on our mind in this Little Critters program. Up close experiences with animal ambassadors will introduce your little critter to different types of animal eaters. Then we will investigate animal diets and learn how often some animals need to eat. You will be full of knowledge by the time this program is done! Advance registration is required.



LITTLE CRITTERS: HOLIDAY TREAT (AGES 2-5)

Saturday, December 14, 9-10 a.m.

\$12 members, \$20 non-members

The holidays are here, and we want to celebrate with you! Warm up in the Zoo's Conservation Learning Center while helping make holiday enrichment that the animal care team will give to the animals at Reid Park Zoo later. Enjoy an up-close visit from some of the Zoo's animal ambassadors as you learn how the Zoo uses all kinds of treats—including the ones you will make—to help keep our animals healthy. Advance registration is required.

YOUNG ZOO EXPLORERS SERIES: HIBERNATION STATION (AGES 6-12)

Sunday, November 10, 9-11 a.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non-members

Bearing down for the winter? We are finishing off this series focusing on different types of dormancy in animals. We will find out what can affect dormancy patterns and meet some animal ambassadors up close! From hibernation and brumation to estivation, you will be an expert on animals that slow down in different seasons or for different reasons. Advance registration required.

JUNIOR ZOO KEEPER (AGES 6-12)

Sunday, November 3,
Sunday, December 15, 9-11 a.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non-members

Does your child want to be a Zoo Keeper? Through this interactive, hands-on program your child will experience a snapshot of a day in the life of a Zoo Keeper. Travel behind-the-scenes to the Zoo's kitchen to prepare a meal for one of the animals at the Zoo, watch a training demonstration with an animal ambassador, feed the giraffes, and

even clean an animal night house. We will do and see it all, just like a Zoo Keeper! Have your child leave their best clothes at home and be prepared to get down and dirty on this behind the scenes adventure! Advance registration is required.

DR ZOO (AGES 8-12)

Sunday, November 17, Saturday,
December 21, 9 a.m. -11 a.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non-members

Does your child dream of becoming a Zoo veterinarian? Your child will travel behind-the-scenes to the Zoo's state-of-the-art Animal Health Center for a day in the life of a Zoo Vet. Participants will utilize the Freeport-McMoRan Education Gallery to view the surgery, treatment and pharmacy rooms of the Animal Health Center. They'll experience first-hand the importance of math and science in diagnosing and treating animal ailments through hands-on activity stations that are based on real-life zoo scenarios. After they've finished helping all of their patients, they'll earn their Dr. Zoo certificate! Advance registration is required.

FAMILY BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR (AGES 5 AND UP!)

Friday, Nov 29, 9:30-10:30 a.m. AND
12:30-1:30 p.m.; Saturday November
30, 12:30-1:30 p.m. only; Saturday,
December 28; Sunday, December 29,
9:30-10:30 a.m. AND 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**\$18/member participant,
\$23/non-member participant**

Journey behind the scenes with your family over the holidays! Find out what it takes to care for over 250 animals every day, why zoos are important, and learn what YOUR Zoo is doing to protect wild animals and wild places. The adventure begins in the giraffe barn, continues to the Zoo's kitchen, includes a behind the scenes visit with the rhino and ends at the giraffe encounter. After the tour, you and your family can choose to remain in the Zoo to explore for as long as you like. Please note this is a one-hour walking tour on dirt roads. Advance registration is required.

NATURE PLAY: SEASON'S GREETINGS (ALL AGES)

Saturday, November 30,
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Free with regular zoo admission

The seasons are upon us, year round here in Tucson! At this month's Nature Play, we're learning all about our favorite seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. Make ice sculptures, use water colors and nature items to create beautiful works of art, practice puddle jumping, and much more!

NATURE PLAY: NATURE'S PLAYGROUND (ALL AGES)

Saturday, Dec 28

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Free with regular zoo admission

Let your imagination come alive at this month's Nature Play. We'll provide large and small tree rings, pinecones, river stones, small branches and sticks, and much more for your child to investigate and engage in imaginative play. Learn from our specially trained Nature Play Partners about why unstructured play in nature is so important for your child's development, and get some fresh ideas for encouraging these practices at home.



WINTER CAMP (GRADES 1-2 AND GRADES 3-6)

Thursday, December 26 and Friday
December 27, 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

**\$45/day members,
\$55/day non-members**

Winter discoveries await your child during this special camp! Your child will explore how wildlife survives during the winter season and how the Zoo prepares to keep its animals safe and warm. Each day of camp will focus on a different theme and will be filled with up close animal encounters. Advanced registration is required.



Dr. Zoo (Ages 8-12)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



ZOO LIGHTS HOLIDAY MAGIC

Presented by Tucson Electric Power

Member Preview Night:

Wednesday, December 4, 6-8 p.m.

Special admission of \$4 for Member Adults: \$2 for Member Children Ages 2-14 (December 4 only)

Regular Admission Nights:

December 5-23, 6-8 p.m.

Encore Nights:

December 26-30, 6-8 p.m.

\$10 for Adults, \$6 for Children ages 2-14, \$3 off for Zoo Members

Group ticket packages available for groups of 20 or more

It's the most wonderful time of the year at Reid Park Zoo. Sip hot cocoa as you stroll through a winter wonderland of over one million glittering lights, illuminated sculptures and brilliant holiday scenes. Bring the kids to visit Santa through December 23, enjoy festive entertainment and falling snow in an enchanted forest of sights and sounds sure to put you in the holiday spirit.

BREW LIGHTS

Saturday, December 7, 6-8 p.m.

\$35 Adult VIP (ages 21+), \$30 Zoo Member VIP (ages 21+)

Zoo Lights Only: \$10 Adult General Ticket, \$6 Children ages 2-14 General Ticket \$3 off for Zoo Members

Drink in the sights and sample craft beers from local breweries under the twinkling lights of Tucson's favorite holiday tradition: Zoo Lights, presented by Tucson Electric Power.

Kick back with some music and take home a collectible souvenir glass. Café and Gift Shop will be open for dinner and shopping.

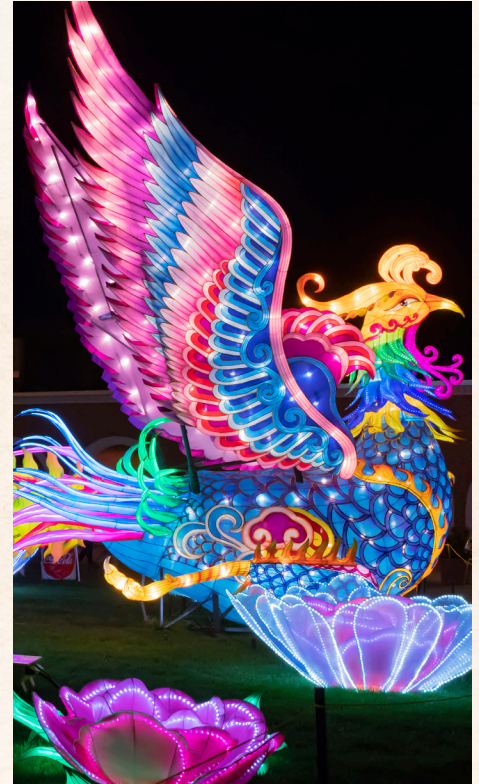
ASIAN LANTERN FESTIVAL

February 13-16, February 20-23 and February 27-March 1, 6-9 p.m.

Nightly March 5 - March 29, 6-9 p.m.

\$18 for Adults, \$16 for Children ages 2-14, \$2 off for Zoo Members

Back by popular demand with over 80% new lights and sights this year! A dazzling display of custom-made Chinese lantern structures will illuminate Reid Park Zoo this spring! Colossal by day and radiant after dark, guests will discover over 40 spectacular scenes representing traditional Chinese folklore along with fantasy settings and larger-than-life replicas of animals from around the world. Explore Asian culture with captivating live performances and sample Asian-inspired dishes in the Zoo's Café. Tickets go on sale online in January. Watch for details at www.ReidParkZoo.org



New Fenghuang (Phoenix) Lantern

• 'Tis the Season to Give the Gift of

Membership!



Free admission to the Zoo for an entire year

•
Discounts to special events, education programs and Member previews

•
Discounted admission at over 150 other zoos and aquariums

•
A great way to support your local Zoo!

Visit ReidParkZoo.org to give the gift of membership today!

For more information on these and other upcoming events and education programs, please visit our website at www.ReidParkZoo.org
Check back often to see what's new at your Zoo!

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Reid Park Zoo events?

Call 881-4753 or email gail@reidparkzoo.org

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ZOO LIGHTS

Holiday Magic

December 5-23 & December 26-30
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Over a Million Twinkling Lights • Santa • Music • Festive Fun

For Tickets and Info Visit
ReidParkZoo.org

