

ZOO & YOU



MEERKATS
★ COMING ★
LATE 2016!



Fall 2016 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society



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MEERKATS ARE COMING TO REID PARK ZOO

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT THERE'S A MOB PLANNING TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE AT REID PARK ZOO???

Fortunately for the residents of Tucson, this mob is a group of meerkats -- and "gang" or "mob" is their proper collective term.

The meerkat is a small carnivore related to the mongoose and is native to southern Africa's Kalahari desert. Being desert dwellers, meerkats have several adaptations that help them thrive in the desert and make them a welcome addition to Tucson.

Meerkats live in underground burrows and are avid diggers. They have a special membrane over their eyes that keeps dirt out; in addition, their ears can close while digging so they don't have to wash the sand out of their ears. Meerkats clean themselves by social grooming which helps to strengthen bonds between the mob members: "You pick debris out of my fur, and I'll do the same to you."

Meerkats will eat almost anything they can catch including insects, scorpions, spiders, eggs, birds, rodents, and more. A sentry will go to a high position atop a large boulder or termite mound and watch for predators so the other meerkats can concentrate on feeding. If danger is spotted, a call goes out and the mob rushes for the nearest burrow hole.

Meerkats have been a requested addition to our Zoo by many of our visitors, supporters and staff. We began planning the exhibit last January and got amazing design and construction help from Roger Conley and his team at Cemrock, an international business headquartered here in Tucson that specializes in the fabrication of zoo exhibits. In addition, Arizona Trucking & Materials contributed rocks & gravel for the exhibit; Tuff Shed donated a night house and storage building; and A Thru Z Consulting donated interior holding structures for the animals. We are grateful to them all for contributing to make this happen.

Getting the permits to house these animals at our Zoo is a lengthy process, so it will be several more months before the exhibit opens. You can JOIN OUR MOB and be among the first to meet the new meerkats at a "Meerkats Mixer" - to be scheduled when we have an exact date of arrival. Stay tuned for details!



ACCREDITED BY THE
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ReidParkZoo.org

Oct - May: 9 am to 4 pm

June - Sept: 8 am to 3 pm

Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas

Reid Park Zoological Society's Zoo & You prints quarterly

GOOD TIMES AT ZOO EVENTS

SUMMER SAFARI FRIDAY NIGHTS

Ever wonder how the Zoo animals stay cool? Or what the lions like to eat? Zoo visitors learned these answers and more from the Zoo Keepers at 2016 Summer Safari Friday Nights. Guests also enjoyed weekly Café specials, music from popular Tucson bands, animal encounters, crafts and face painting. A BIG thank you to Title Sponsor, Tucson Medical Center, and Event Sponsor, Cox Communications, for their generous support.



POKÉMON GO SAFARI NIGHTS

Surprise guests appeared at the Zoo this Summer. Growlithe, Tauros, Clefairy, Magmar, Pikachu and more were captured by trainers at the Zoo's 13 Pokémon stops. Lures were dropped, players traded cards, prizes were won from Heroes & Villains Comics, and Pokémon cosplay and face paint were seen by all. Nearly 10,000 people enjoyed the 5 nights - watch the Zoo's event calendars for more Pokémon fun.

BREW AT THE ZOO A "HOPPY" SUCCESS!

Thirty-three of Arizona's best craft brewers provided a variety of suds to a sell-out crowd of 2,000 people. Guests also enjoyed delicious food from Taste Catering, wine glass painting with Creative Juice, Presta coffee and POPPED popcorn samples while listening to R&P Music Factory and Satyr Entertainment. The event would not happen without the generous support of the breweries, Craft Tucson and Austin Santos of The Address at 1702 - thank you! Nearly \$60,000 was raised toward building the new Animal Health Center. A "shandy" shout-out to our Title Sponsor, Lloyd Construction, and sponsors Cemrock Landscapes, FreedomSmokeUSA, and media partners I Heart, Local First and Yelp. Save the date for next year's event - June 17th.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT...



GREAT HORNED OWL UPDATE

Meet Nimbus, a male great-horned owl. Nimbus was brought to the Zoo in April, at approximately 2 weeks old. He was too young to be able to survive on his own; he had not yet developed flight feathers to fly nor was he old enough to regulate his body temperature. He may have fallen out of the nest or may have been pushed by one of his siblings. Nimbus was cared for by Zoo Keepers, and now he is a healthy and strong young owl. Keepers have been working with Nimbus to socialize him for presentations and outreach programs; you might be lucky enough to meet him in person soon!



INTRODUCING TWO FEMALE OSTRICHES

Early this summer the Zoo welcomed two new female ostriches from the Wildlife World Zoo in Litchfield Park, AZ. Lucy and Ethel, as they are known, joined a male ostrich named Eiffel in the habitat shared by the Grevy's zebra. Tuari, the Zoo's spunky male zebra, isn't always gentle with the birds, so you will probably see either the zebra or the ostriches (not both) on exhibit when you visit the Zoo. It's easy to tell Eiffel and the girls apart: male ostrich are black and white, and females are brown.



...YOUR ZOO



BRINGING OUT BEST BEHAVIOR: ENRICHMENT AT THE ZOO (PART I)

Sue Tygielski, PhD, Zoo Area Supervisor

We all love watching the natural behaviors of animals: an anteater digging at a rotting log with its sharp claws, a grizzly bear splashing and pawing at a delicious treat in a stream, a baby elephant rolling itself down a sandy hill. At the Zoo, one task of the animal care team is to create opportunities for the animals to engage in their natural behaviors. Zoo exhibits are designed with the animals' comfort and natural behavior in mind. Exhibits have permanent features the animals use to express many natural behaviors and Zoo Keepers enhance the space with a changing array of enrichment items.

Our Zoo Keepers go the extra mile to keep the environment stimulating and interesting for the animals. Keepers have a toolbox of standard enrichment items they can mix and match for animals on a daily basis. Our standard toolbox includes items like puzzle feeders, popsicles, time-released feeders for scattering food, toys to roll and pounce on such as heavy duty plastic balls -- as well as scents and paper items such as piñatas made by summer campers and brightly-wrapped birthday boxes.

'Browse' -- or tree branches, logs and stumps -- are also part of this set of enrichment. Our big challenge is gathering enough of this favorite enrichment item to satisfy the bears, cats, elephants, giraffe, and others. The City of Tucson's tree trimmers and private tree services help us to acquire trailers full of mesquite, sumac and other edible trees for play and food. Many animals, like the bears, will build nests from branches and leaves, while others like giraffe and elephants eat them. Our big cats just like to shred them for fun.

This is just one of the ways Zoo Keepers give our animals opportunities to express their natural behaviors. We'll talk about this more in the next issue.

MEET THE NEW EDUCATION AMBASSADORS

MEET FERRETS DIMITRI AND NADIA, TWO NEW EDUCATION AMBASSADOR ANIMALS AT THE ZOO



Ferrets are in the Mustelid family along with otters and weasels. Most ferrets are domesticated versions of the European polecat; ferrets have been kept by humans for over 2000 years for rabbit hunting and rodent control.

Although they don't have a permanent exhibit at the Zoo, Nadia and Dimitri make regular appearances at education programs on Zoo grounds and at outreach programs in the community. Nadia and Dimitri are also presented by docents and teen volunteers in our Conservation Learning Center, so stop by if you're visiting—you might get the chance to meet one of these ferrets up close.



ZOO-IT-ALL!

When you come to the Zoo, do you want to DO it all? Well, now is your chance to ZOO it all! The new ZOO-IT-ALL Daily Pass includes: admission, 1 camel ride, 1 train ride, and UNLIMITED carousel rides for the day. The Giraffe Encounter is not included. Passes may be purchased at the Admission Gate.

Adult \$20 | Child \$17 | Member \$12 (rides only)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PHOTO SAFARI FOR AGES 16+ - AFRICAN ADVENTURE

Sunday, September 18th and
Sunday, November 6th
8:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Do you love photography and wildlife? Join photographer Heather Bird at Reid Park Zoo for a morning of close encounters of the animal kind! Zoo staff will make special arrangements for unique photo opportunities of our animal residents. Please bring your own camera for this program and we'll provide the rest.

WORLD RHINO DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 25th
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Guests of all ages are invited to come enjoy TONS of fun to help raise awareness and promote conservation efforts for all five critically endangered species of rhinoceros. Activities are free with regular Zoo admission.

ZOOCSOON

Friday, October 14th
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

\$120 per person
\$90 per member
\$20 off early bird special

Join us for a night of fun, food, entertainment and auctions at the 23rd annual ZOOsoon, presented by Casino Del Sol Resort. Tables of 8 and 4 are available for sponsorship. This is a 21 and older event.

TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER'S HOME ENERGIZER WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 15th
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Learn why saving energy matters, and get the tools to save energy in YOUR home, at this special free workshop hosted by Tucson Electric Power at Reid Park Zoo. TEP staff will show you free and low-cost energy efficiency measures you can use at home in order to save energy and money. All adult workshop participants will receive a free kit containing devices to increase home energy efficiency valued at more than \$50. Advance registration is required.

HOWL-O-WEEN

October 28th, 29th & 30th
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Line opens for Zoo Members at 5:30 PM
\$9.50 per person
\$7.50 per Zoo member

Join us for Halloween fun, including costumed characters, trick-or-treating, and decorations galore. Minimal "BOO!" at the Zoo provides the entire family with an enjoyable, but not so frightening celebration. Animals will not be on display.

NATURE PLAY

Each Sunday in November
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Stop by during the month of November for Nature Play Sundays at the Zoo. From 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. each Sunday in November we'll have a free-play area set up near our Conservation Learning Center for kids to dig, build, splash, and more! Nature Play is free with regular Zoo admission.

TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

Saturday, November 5th
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Pack up your teddy bear or other stuffed friend for "check-up" while visiting the Zoo. You will measure and weigh, diagnose maladies, and even bandage your buddy with the help of Zoo staff and volunteers. Health certificates will be awarded to plush guests for participating. Activities are free with regular Zoo admission.

KIDS' NIGHT OUT (FOR KIDS AGES 6-12)

Saturday, November 5th
Drop-off 5:30 PM; last pickup at 9:00 PM

\$25 per child 6-12 years old

Hey, we get it, sometimes parents need some adult time. Drop your kids off at the Zoo this evening and go catch a movie, have dinner out, or just go home and enjoy the quiet. Meanwhile, we'll be touring the Zoo by flashlight, meeting some animals up close, and generally having a great time without you. Space is limited for this win-win event, so register early. Pre-registration is required, and will be available online starting September 1st.

FAMILY BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR FOR AGES 5 AND UP

November 26th
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

\$20 per person
\$15 per Zoo member

\$20 per person, \$15 per Zoo member
Journey behind the scenes at Reid Park Zoo and discover the rewards and challenges of caring for over 500 exotic animals every day! Children must be 5 or older and must be accompanied by an adult. All participants must register for the program.

ZOO LIGHTS

Dates Coming Soon
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

\$9.50 adults
\$5.50 children (2-14)
Members receive \$2 off each admission

Zoo Lights at Reid Park Zoo is guaranteed to put you in the winter spirit, with jingle bells, twinkling lights, falling snow, and Santa. Light displays, animal-themed light sculptures, and thousands of sparkling bulbs will help make Zoo Lights a part of your Tucson holiday tradition. Live animals will be off exhibit for this event. Zoo Lights is presented by Tucson Electric Power.

HOST YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE ZOO!

*Looking for a holiday party that
will entertain guests of all ages?*

Have your party during our annual Zoo Lights event. The beautiful deck overlooking the Mill Pond or an inside option are available for a reception or dinner, fully catered by Taste Catering. Guests may enjoy Zoo Lights from 6-8pm in December.

Reid Park Zoo is the perfect location for other events too, such as weddings, office barbecues, or elegant evenings under the stars. The Zoo offers wild one-of-a-kind experiences you and your guests are sure to enjoy. Book an appointment with one of our event specialists today. Call 520-881-4753 or email events@reidparkzoo.org.

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 the Zoo!
As programs fill, we often add additional dates or times.

Interested in becoming a
sponsor of Reid Park Zoo events?

Contact 881-4753 or
gail@reidparkzoo.org



Reid Park Zoological Society
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Tucson, Arizona 85716

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ZOOcSON

FOOD + ENTERTAINMENT + AUCTIONS

Friday, October 14th
6-9pm at Reid Park Zoo

Food from a variety of Tucson restaurants.
Entertainment by Cirque Roots, Jovert and Eduardo Minozzi Costa.
Live & Silent Auctions.

Ticket Information
\$90 for Zoo Members | \$120 for Non-Members
\$20 off reservation if made prior to August 31, 2016

For reservations call 520.881.4753 or
visit ReidParkZoo.org. A 21 and older event.



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