

MARCH APRIL MAY | 2015



Lincoln Children's

ZOOtracks



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MAKES HIS ZOO DEBUT**  
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FOR THE COMMUNITY**  
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Learn firsthand.

**Lincoln Children's Zoo**  
1222 South 27th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
402.475.6741

[LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org)

**OPEN DAILY**  
April 1 - October 18  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Everest the snow leopard

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The Lincoln Children's Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums



Community Services Fund of Nebraska

Lincoln Children's Zoo is a member of Community Services Fund. Learn more at: [www.CommunityServicesFund.org](http://www.CommunityServicesFund.org)

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**For information on Planned Giving and Endowments, please contact Kayla McElroy at 402.475.6741 ext. 131.**

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**Mission: To enrich lives through firsthand interaction with living things.**

# OPENING DAY



EARLIER THAN EVER BEFORE!

# ZOO OPENS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



St. Elizabeth



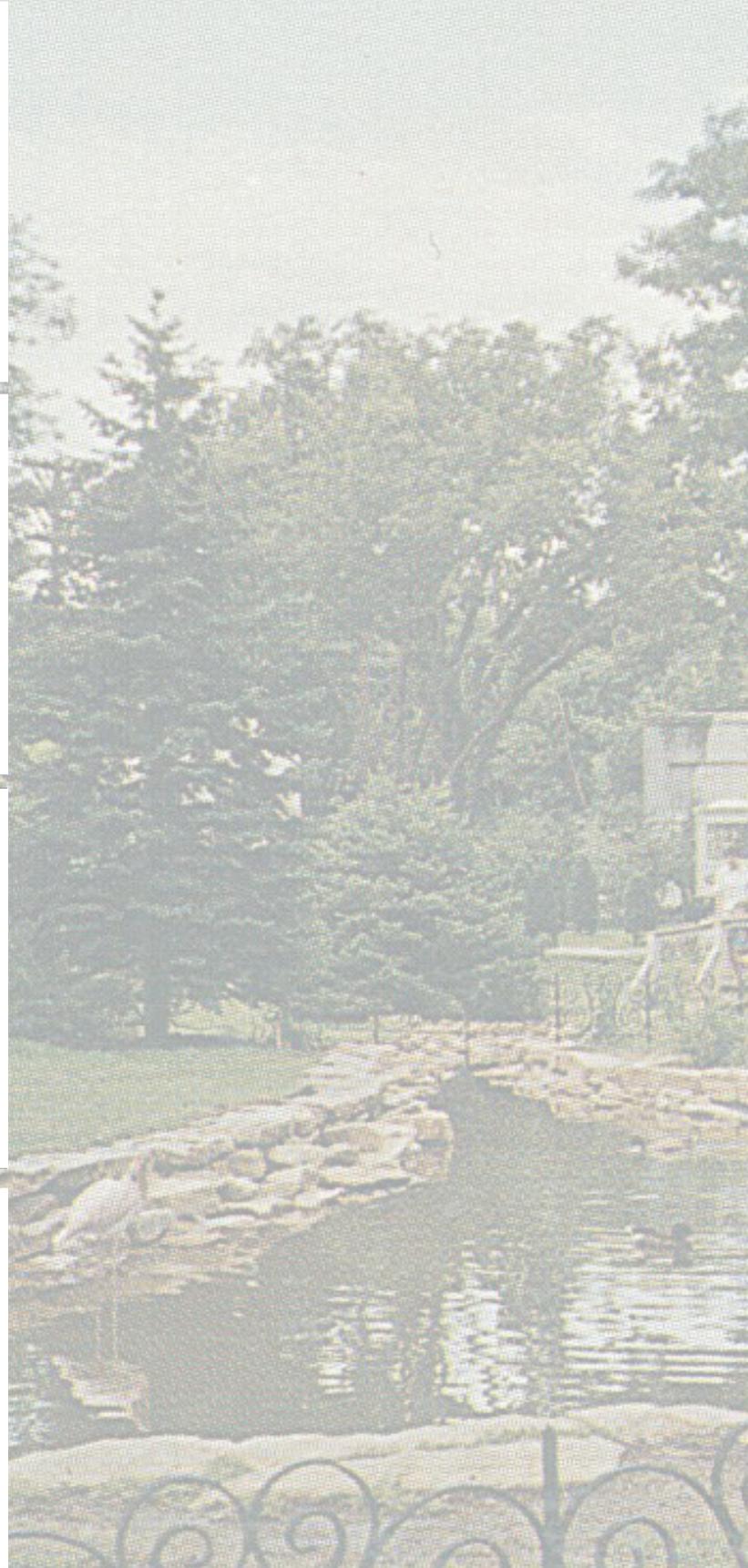
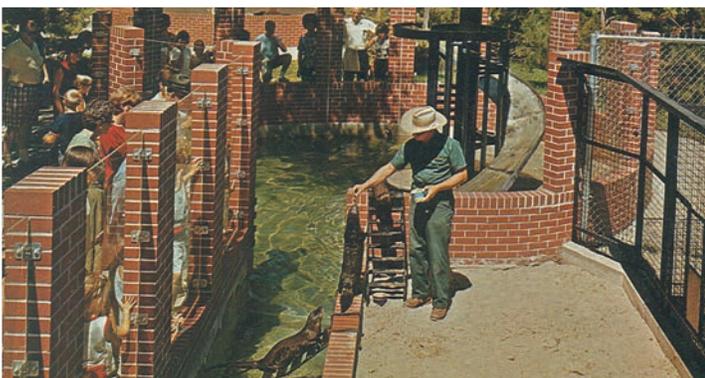
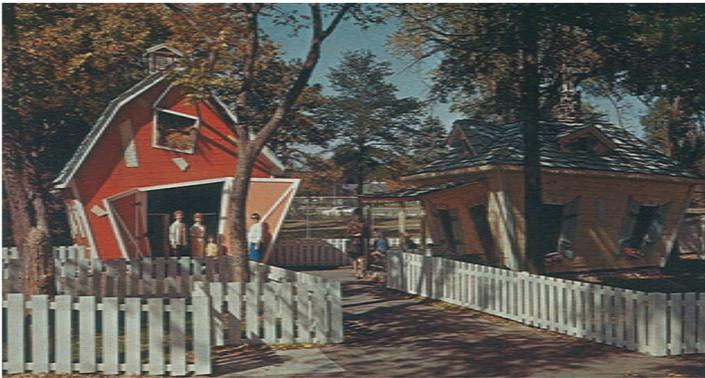
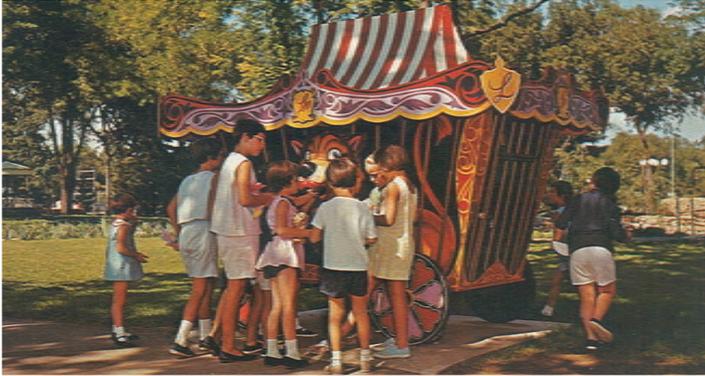
New arrivals at the Zoo are brought to you by CHI Health St. Elizabeth.





# BUILT BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

THE 50-YEAR STORY OF LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO



## BY RYAN GROSS

“Without a doubt, the Lincoln Children’s Zoo is shaping up as one of the finest attractions of its kind in the nation and a tremendously exciting entertainment and educational opportunity for Lincolnites and their visitors.”

*Arnott Folsom, Zoo Founder, June 16, 1965*

After years of planning, Lincoln Children’s Zoo was ready to open its gates to the families of Lincoln. Children and adults gathered on opening day, July 21, 1965, to visit the highly anticipated zoo. Monkey Island, Opossum Den and the otter exhibits were ready for visitors. It was a grand celebration for what would become one of Lincoln’s finest attractions.

In 1958, Arnott Folsom and community leaders announced the plans for a new children’s zoo in Lincoln. They wanted to create a place where animals were not just seen from a distance but were in close contact to the children and adults who visited. “The real significance of Lincoln Children’s Zoo is the kinship and understanding it will foster between children and animals,” James Ager, *Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star*, June 7, 1959. With interaction between animals and people being the main focus, Zoo organizers set forth to transform the land on 27th and A Street like no other zoo in the country.

As the Zoo project progressed, Folsom and the other organizers knew how important the community would factor into its creation. Funding for the Zoo was primarily to come from private donations. Folsom and his team began to reach out to community leaders, businesses and organizations for help. Donations, small and large, were given by people all across Lincoln.

On February 27, 1963, Harold Bishop, a local barber, along with other local barber shops donated their entire day’s proceeds to the Zoo. In that same year twenty-four Lincoln Boy Scout Packs, Troops and Posts donated \$403 to go towards the purchase of 300 feet of train track. Supporters continued their hard work of raising money through 1963. On July 30, Hillcrest Country Club hosted an exhibition golf tournament featuring two of the greatest golfers of all time, Arnold Palmer and Gary Player. Proceeds from the tournament were donated to the Zoo fund.

With the help of the community, the Zoo neared completion in 1965. The hope of Folsom and his staff was to open in late spring, however, rain and weather delayed construction and opening day until late July. With most of the construction complete, Zoo organizers decided to open the gates on Wednesday, July 21. A modest crowd of 400 showed up on the first day and were quite pleased with what they saw and the level of interaction. Folsom commented to the *Lincoln Star* that day “Our Zoo will have more contact between people and animals than any other zoo in the world.”

Soon after opening, staff was overwhelmed with the number of positive reviews the Zoo was receiving and just five days later on Sunday, July 25 over 4,200 people showed up to get a look at what everyone was talking about. The Zoo continued to be a hit with not only the Lincolnites but with surrounding communities. On September, 19, 1966 Mrs. Ray Rivett penned a letter to the editor of the *Omaha World Herald* praising the newly opened children’s zoo. “I would like to say how lucky Nebraska is to have such a delightful zoo for children.”

As the first year of the Zoo came to an end, Folsom was pleased with the attendance but more importantly he was inspired by the support from the community. As the years passed the Zoo would grow, adding new animals, new exhibits and more beautiful gardens. Mr. Folsom would remain active in improving the Zoo once saying this Zoo is a project that will never end, it will always grow and change. Up until his death in 1971, he continued visiting organizations and businesses seeking funds to create a better Zoo.

50 years later a lot at the Zoo has changed. There are new animals, buildings and paths but two things haven’t changed. It is a place like no other zoo in the nation. One where children are encouraged to get up close to nature and animals and it’s a place where community support is as strong as ever.

This article does not have enough room to list the number of contributors to the building of Lincoln Children’s Zoo. That says a lot about the Lincoln community and this Zoo. Tens of thousands have given through their time, their money and their spirit to its success. In the past 50 years the Zoo has grown in size, saved endangered animals, given hope to children in hospitals, inspired teenagers to make a difference around the globe and most importantly brought people and animals together like no other zoo in the world. The 50-year story of Lincoln Children’s Zoo is about a community coming together to create something amazing.

# REGAL PRINCE EVEREST MAKES HIS ZOO DEBUT

BY JESSICA SIMPSON

On March 27, Everest was unveiled at the Lincoln Children's Zoo. Weighing in at about 70 pounds and measuring 4-feet long, not including his 32-inch tail, Everest the snow leopard is the newest addition to the Zoo's animal kingdom.

The 1 ½ -year-old was the only cub in his litter born at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago last May. In October, when he was finally old enough to travel, Zoo staff made the eight-hour trip to the windy city to pick him up and transport him safely and swiftly back to Lincoln.

When he arrived, Everest was kept tightly under wraps. Zookeepers, including Sara Reagan, trained him all winter long, getting him ready to flaunt his outgoing personality and beauty for opening day.

"He's very handsome and good looking, and he'll want to show off when he's on display," Reagan says. "He's like a Disney prince — like Prince Eric from *The Little Mermaid*."

More than just a pretty face, like all snow leopards, Everest's thick, lush coat is smoky gray and white-colored with black markings scattered throughout. In the wild, this distinct coloring isn't just for beauty. It helps snow leopards stay camouflaged and warm in their Himalayan Mountain habitat. Their long, fuzzy tails keep them balanced as they leap along mountainous ridges and offer protection from biting wind and snow.

"Snow leopards are much fuzzier than other leopards, like the Amur and African species," explains Reagan.

"They are extremely cold-oriented, and they need a thick coat for protection against harsh elements."

To ensure Everest stays cool, Zookeepers will keep his area temperature controlled year-round. He will also have the option of going between his inside and outside areas.

## Royal Etiquette

This past winter, Reagan and the team of zookeepers trained Everest through operant conditioning and positive reinforcement.

"I give Everest a cue, and if he does it correctly, he gets food," Sara explains. "He's very energetic and food motivated. Now he knows how to do an up, he can sit, he can lie down and he presents both of his paws to the mesh barrier. I have a target stick that he'll put his nose to, so we can move him in and outside, too. Eventually he'll be able to open his mouth for us so we can check his teeth."

Because he's just a kitten, Everest is full of energy and needs exercise and enrichment on a daily basis. Reagan follows a calendar of interactive activities to do every day.

"He interacts with different scents like pepper or straw that smells like the Zoo's goats and llamas," she says. "I also put his food in a big pan and put toys on top of it, so he has to move all of the toys to get to his food — anything to keep him busy."

Reagan describes Everest as a ping-pong ball. "He's everywhere all of the time. He loves to interact

with everything," she added. "His first few days on exhibit might be overwhelming for him, but he will be curious and interested in all of the people. Plus, he's the poster boy for being a beautiful cat, and he knows it."

## Aiming to Please

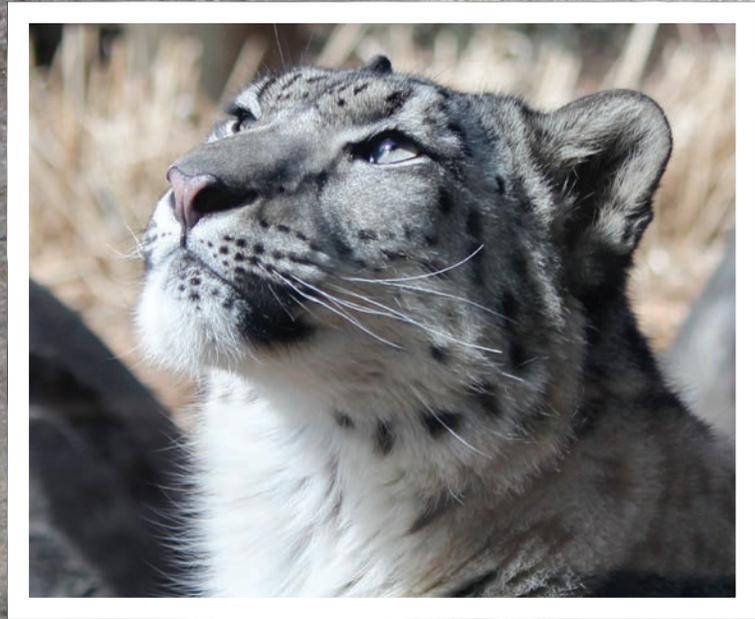
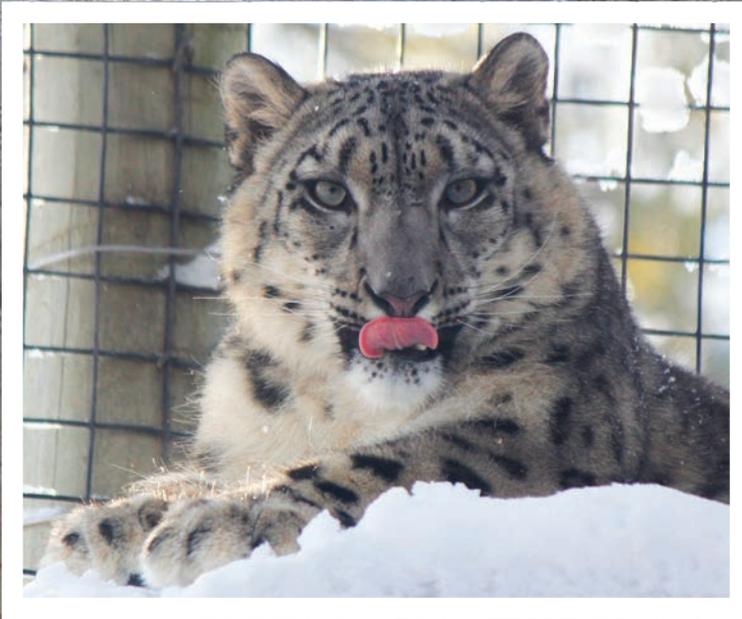
Some of Everest's other favorite activities, besides earning his meaty treats, are destructing and shredding objects.

"He absolutely loves destroying pumpkins, gourds and phone books," Reagan describes.

"He likes to wreck things; he's just a little wild kitten. Since he's young, he's still extremely energetic."

Despite his seemingly never-ending supply of vigorous energy, though, Everest is a loving cat that wants to please his zookeepers. Undoubtedly, he'll fall in love with all of the Zoo's visitors, too.







# FASCINATING FACTS

- CAN LEAP UP TO 50 FEET

- CARNIVORE  
EATS MEAT

- COMPARABLE IN SIZE  
TO A 6FT. MAN

**hello**  
my name is

**Everest**  
(the snow leopard)



Lincoln Children's

ZOO

COLLECTIBLE POSTER



# Lincoln Children's ZOOcamps



**3-4** YEAR-OLDS + PARENTS  
\$89 MEMBERS | \$104 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.	
June 8 - 12	Wake Up the Train
June 15 - 19	Down on the Farm <b>SOLD OUT</b>
June 22 - 26	Playful Penguins & Friends <b>SOLD OUT</b>
June 29 - July 3	Wake Up the Train
July 6 - 10	A to Zoo

**4-5** YEAR-OLDS  
\$109 MEMBERS | \$129 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A.M. - NOON		AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.	
June 1 - 5	Penguins Have Happy Feet	June 1 - 5	Monkey Around
June 8 - 12	Wake Up the Train	June 8 - 12	Dino Dig
			<b>NEW!</b> Water Buddies
June 15 - 19	<b>NEW!</b> Jungle Explorer <b>SOLD OUT</b>	June 15 - 19	Animal Super Powers
			<b>NEW!</b> Zoo Rangers
June 22 - 26	Dino Dig	June 22 - 26	Penguins Have Happy Feet
			Mission to Madagascar
June 29 - July 3	<b>NEW!</b> Zoo Rangers <b>SOLD OUT</b>	June 29 - July 3	Party With Peacocks
			<b>NEW!</b> Water Buddies
July 6 - 10	Penguins Have Happy Feet <b>SOLD OUT</b>	July 6 - 10	Dino Dig
			<b>NEW!</b> Bug's Life
July 13 - 17	<b>NEW!</b> Zoo Action Heros <b>SOLD OUT</b>	July 13 - 17	Great Disappearing Act
July 20 - 24	Wake Up the Train <b>SOLD OUT</b>	July 20 - 24	<b>NEW!</b> Zoo Action Heros
July 27 - 31	Party With Peacocks <b>SOLD OUT</b>	July 27 - 31	Monkey Around

**\*SIGN UP FOR A MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSION TO MAKE IT A FULL-DAY CAMP**

**2015**

## ZOO CAMPS

Each day campers will explore animal habitats, talk with real zookeepers, study animal behaviors and take part in fun, educational activities. Zoo Camps are led by skilled instructors who will guide your child through interactive learning opportunities and behind-the-scenes tours.

**The wildest summer camps in town are at Lincoln Children's Zoo!**

**Camp Check-in:** Morning: 8:10 - 8:25 a.m. | Afternoon: 12:40 - 12:55 p.m. | Full Day: 8:10 - 8:25 a.m.

All summer campers get an official Zoo Camp T-shirt!

Space is limited! See camp descriptions & register at [LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org).



PROUD SPONSOR

# 6-7 YEAR-OLDS

\$109 MEMBERS | \$129 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A.M. - NOON		AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.	
June 1 - 5	Animal Planet	June 1 - 5	Critter Keepers
June 8 - 12	Wild West Wrangler <b>SOLD OUT</b>	June 8 - 12	Feast with the Beasts
June 15 - 19	Go Wild! <b>SOLD OUT</b>	June 15 - 19	Critter Keepers
June 22 - 26	Catch Me If You Can	June 22 - 26	<b>NEW!</b> Claws, Paws & Jaws
June 29 - July 3	Critter Keepers <b>SOLD OUT</b>	June 29 - July 3	Animal Planet
July 6 - 10	Wild West Wrangler	July 6 - 10	Dr. Zoolittle
July 13 - 17	Wild West Wrangler	July 13 - 17	Penguin Plunge
	<b>NEW!</b> Undercover Animals		Dr. Zoolittle
July 20 - 24	Wild West Wrangler	July 20 - 24	<b>NEW!</b> Undercover Animals
	<b>NEW!</b> Claws, Paws & Jaws		Go Wild!
July 27 - 31	Wild West Wrangler	July 27 - 31	Critter Keepers
	Penguin Plunge		<b>NEW!</b> Winged Things

**\*SIGN UP FOR A MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSION TO MAKE IT A FULL-DAY CAMP**

# 8-10 YEAR-OLDS

\$218 MEMBERS | \$258 NON-MEMBERS

FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	
June 1 - 5	Jr. Zookeeper
June 8 - 12	<b>NEW!</b> Jr. Zoo Vet <b>SOLD OUT</b>
June 15 - 19	<b>NEW!</b> Wildlife Rescuers
June 22 - 26	Animal Training 101
June 29 - July 3	Jr. Zookeeper
July 6 - 10	<b>NEW!</b> Wildlife Rescuers
July 13 - 17	Animal Training 101
July 20 - 24	<b>NEW!</b> Jr. Zoo Vet <b>SOLD OUT</b>
July 27 - 31	Jr. Zookeeper



# 10-12 YEAR-OLDS

\$218 MEMBERS | \$258 NON-MEMBERS

FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	
June 1 - 5	<b>NEW!</b> Zoo Vets
June 8 - 12	Jr. Zookeeper
June 15 - 19	<b>NEW!</b> Jr. Zoologist
June 22 - 26	<b>NEW!</b> Zoo Vets
June 29 - July 3	Jr. Zookeeper
July 6 - 10	<b>NEW!</b> Jr. Zoologist
July 13 - 17	<b>NEW!</b> Zoo Vets
July 20 - 24	Jr. Zookeeper
July 27 - 31	<b>NEW!</b> Jr. Zoologist



# WELCOME WOLF'S GUENONS

**BY RYAN GROSS**

A new species of monkey will be calling Lincoln Children's Zoo home this year. Two Wolf's guenon monkeys moved into the Zoo in November coming from the Bronx Zoo in New York. Guenon monkeys are medium in size and some of the most colorful monkeys in Africa.

In their native land of western and central Africa, Wolf's guenons live in wetland and lowland forests. They have long back legs, rounded heads and long tails that are used for balance while climbing trees. They are known for their striking color patterns on their hips, brow bands and noses. They often have mustaches as well as large cheek pouches.

Named after Dr. Ludwig Wolf who found the monkeys in his travels to Africa in 1887, guenons communicate in a variety of ways. Their vocal sounds, facial gestures and head movements represent different messages to other guenons. The showing of their teeth or the movement of their heads and tails are also used to communicate, however, when there is potential danger they are silent, making a noise similar to a sneeze or making subtle movements.

Wolf's guenons are frugivores which means they typically eat fruit. Their diet at the Zoo consists of bananas, apples, yams and assorted greens. Because they often eat nectar, they serve as pollinators for certain trees in the rainforest. They may also forage on seeds and insects for protein.

The new wolf's guenons at the Zoo can be found in their new home located across from the spider web and next to the Natural Play Area. Be sure to stop by their exhibit and see them as they are known to be very active and playful.

\*PHOTO COPYRIGHT JOEL SARTORE / JOELSARTORE.COM

# IT'S A FOSSA!

## BY RYAN GROSS

One of the Zoo's newest animals has the claws of a cat, tail of a monkey and ears of a weasel. What is this incredible looking animal? It's Leezoe the fossa!

The fossa is a member of the Eupleridae family which is a carnivore closely related to the mongoose. Native to the island of Madagascar, they are known for their distinctive catlike look and long tails. Their tail is nearly half the length of their entire body and is used to help balance them when jumping from branch to branch on trees.

Typically found in undisturbed forest habitats, fossa are solitary animals that use scent to communicate and keep track of each other. They scent mark rocks, trees and the ground to establish their area. The home area of a fossa rarely overlaps with other fossa. They are the top predator in Madagascar with their main prey being the lemur. Fossa are the only predator in the world whose primary diet is made up mostly of primates. At the Zoo, Leezoe will eat meats similar to a bobcat or leopard.

The Zoo's fossa, Leezoe, will be 3 years old in June and came from the Micke Grove Zoo in California. His current zookeeper, Sara Reagan, took care of his parents at Chahinkapa Zoo in North Dakota while she worked there. "Fossa are one of the most interesting and intriguing animals at any zoo and it's incredibly exciting to have such a wonderful individual right here at our Zoo in Lincoln," Reagan said.

Leezoe is very active and will be a great animal for Zoo guests to experience, noted Reagan. When visiting his exhibit, guests should watch him as he moves with ease up and down the trees. They should also take notice of him walking on the ground as fossa run flatfooted much like a bear. At times, he may

even vocalize which sounds much like a low chuckle.

Leezoe's exhibit is located next to the aviary. "He will be excited for you to stop by and say hi to him in his new home," Reagan said.



\*PHOTO COPYRIGHT JOEL SARTORE / JOELSARTORE.COM

# HAVE YOUR BIRTHDAY AT THE ZOO!



## Ultimate Party | \$175 +tax *Valued at \$300*

- Admission for the entire day  
*Includes 12 children and 2 adults. Additional guests are \$12.50 per person*
- 1 hr. party in the Safari Room or Crooked House
- Unlimited train rides for the day
- A critter visit of your choice and chat presented by our Critter Encounter specialists
- Special birthday present from the Zoo
- Two pitchers of soda, lemonade or fruit punch
- Ice cream sundae bar
- Zoo welcome sign for birthday child
- Zoo wagon to transport gifts
- Members receive 10% off



**Reserve Your Party!**  
at [LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org) or call 402.475.6741

## TREETOP TOYS

APPAREL • TOYS • SOUVENIRS



# NEW TOYS!



[LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org)

402.475.6741 • 1222 S. 27th Street • Lincoln, NE 68502

# ZOO CALENDAR

WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE ZOO

## APRIL

SAT 4

### BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

8 - 10 a.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Join the Easter Bunny for breakfast at the Zoo! This pancake buffet includes an Easter egg hunt, 5 X 7 photo with the Easter Bunny, activities and special animal meet and greets. All proceeds from this event help care for the Zoo's animals. Advance tickets required; visit [LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org) for ticket information.

SAT 25

### EARTH DAY & PARTY FOR THE PLANET

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Celebrate Earth Day at the Zoo! Say hello to your favorite animal friends while completing a conservation scavenger hunt, plus learn about recycling and take part in other fun activities.



## MAY

SAT 9

### ZOO FUN RUN

10 a.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

This is the wildest kids race in town! The one-mile race starts at 10 a.m. and all runners get a free train ride. Have lunch at Safari Café and stay to see how a real fire truck works, go inside a police car, plus other great surprises. You can register your child in advance at [LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org) events page or come early on Saturday to sign up. This race is organized by Lincoln Fire and Rescue.

SUN 10

### MOTHER'S DAY

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Moms receive free admission or one free train ticket. Plus, find out which Zoo animals are moms!



FRI 15

### ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Visit all of the endangered species that call the Zoo home!



St. Elizabeth

MON 25

### MEMORIAL DAY OPEN!

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

The Zoo is open all day! Come visit all your favorite animals and join us for the 2015 season opening of Laura's Butterfly Pavilion! Check out over 150 butterflies at one of the Zoo's most popular summer stops.

## JUNE

WED 3

### WILD WEDNESDAY

10 a.m. - 8 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

The Zoo is open late 'til 8 p.m. every Wednesday in June, July & August. Every Wednesday the Zoo will feature special animal demonstrations on the Animal Encounter Stage!

SAT 6

### ANIMALS GOT TALENT! NEW!

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Get ready for the Zoo's first ever Animals Got Talent! Visit all of your animal friends and learn about each of their special talents. Then cast your vote for your favorite! The Zoo will also have special shows at the animal encounter stage showcasing some of our most talented animals!



**BECOME A MEMBER  
SAVE BIG!**



**FOR ONE SMALL FEE, YOUR  
YEAR IS FREE!**

**FREE**

- Unlimited admission
- Entry to Boo at the Zoo
- Exclusive member extra hours
- *Zootracks* magazine mailed subscription
- Entry to our new Jammin' at the Zoo event

**SAVE BIG**

- Discounted tickets to North Pole Express
- Discounted tickets to Breakfast with the Penguins
- Lower priced registration for Zoo Camps
- Lower priced registration for Tots & Turtles
- Special prices on birthday parties

**PLUS!**

- Discounted or free admission to nearly 200 zoos and aquariums nationwide (including zoos in Omaha, Kansas City and Des Moines)

