

MARCH APRIL MAY | 2014



Lincoln Children's

ZOOtracks

SPECIAL: SUMMER CAMPS ISSUE

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BOBCAT'S BEST FRIEND**
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Lincoln Children's Zoo
1222 South 27th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
402.475.6741

LincolnZoo.org

OPEN DAILY

April 9 - October 19
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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www.CommunityServicesFund.org

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

OPENING DAY



EARLIER THAN EVER BEFORE!
ZOO OPENS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



New arrivals at the Zoo are brought to you by Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center.

CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES
Saint Elizabeth
Regional Medical Center

A DOG IS A BOBCAT'S BEST FRIEND

NEWEST RESIDENT AT LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO



BY JESSICA SIMPSON

Tiny, six-pound Apollo looked more like a cuddly kitten than a bobcat when zookeeper Sara Reagan first met him, but his immediate confidence gave him away. There was no hint of fear or intimidation in his lively demeanor when he stepped out of his kennel and greeted Sara's 12-pound dog Kato.

Although he was smaller and, at only three months old, younger than two-year-old Kato, he was ready to play with his newfound buddy.

"If he went straight to the zoo, he would have become too wild on us. Because we want him to be an education animal, we needed him to be more people-friendly and tactile," Reagan said.

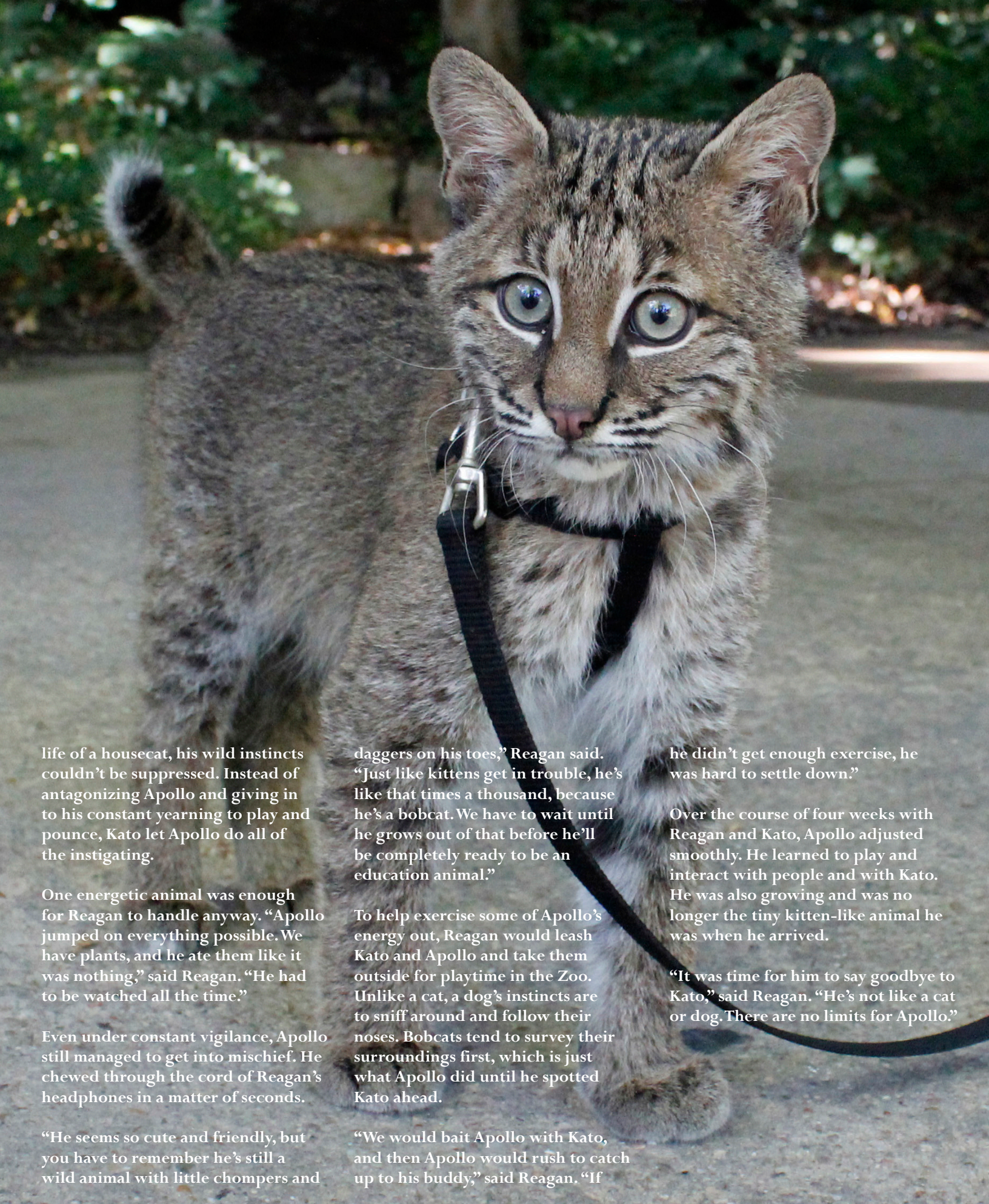
Normally young bobcats have siblings and their mother to interact with, but because Apollo was rescued and given to the Zoo, he needed some special care and attention. Zoo curator, Randy Scheer, decided it was in Apollo's best interest to get some extra TLC and spend his first month in Lincoln with Reagan and her dog. The situation was certainly unique, but the animals' health and well-being is always the Zoo's first priority. Scheer knew little Apollo would thrive with Reagan and Kato.

It didn't take long for Apollo to get used to his new routine: spending time playing with Reagan and Kato and getting comfortable with his new home at the Zoo. Spending days at the Zoo acclimated Apollo to new people and noises in the keepers' office. This

activity helped socialize and prepare him for what he'll experience when Zoo is buzzing with visitors. In the evening, he'd continue socializing with Reagan and Kato, often going for walks around the Zoo.

Kato turned out to be the perfect new friend for the rambunctious baby bobcat. "Kato was very graceful and submissive," Reagan described. "He never got cranky, and he let Apollo assert his dominance, which was good for Apollo. He needed to be able to do that."

Kato's easygoing attitude also balanced their relationship, because in a real fight, Apollo probably would have come out ahead. His sharp teeth and claws gave him an advantage, and, even though he was living the



life of a housecat, his wild instincts couldn't be suppressed. Instead of antagonizing Apollo and giving in to his constant yearning to play and pounce, Kato let Apollo do all of the instigating.

One energetic animal was enough for Reagan to handle anyway. "Apollo jumped on everything possible. We have plants, and he ate them like it was nothing," said Reagan. "He had to be watched all the time."

Even under constant vigilance, Apollo still managed to get into mischief. He chewed through the cord of Reagan's headphones in a matter of seconds.

"He seems so cute and friendly, but you have to remember he's still a wild animal with little chompers and

daggers on his toes," Reagan said. "Just like kittens get in trouble, he's like that times a thousand, because he's a bobcat. We have to wait until he grows out of that before he'll be completely ready to be an education animal."


To help exercise some of Apollo's energy out, Reagan would leash Kato and Apollo and take them outside for playtime in the Zoo. Unlike a cat, a dog's instincts are to sniff around and follow their noses. Bobcats tend to survey their surroundings first, which is just what Apollo did until he spotted Kato ahead.

"We would bait Apollo with Kato, and then Apollo would rush to catch up to his buddy," said Reagan. "If

he didn't get enough exercise, he was hard to settle down."

Over the course of four weeks with Reagan and Kato, Apollo adjusted smoothly. He learned to play and interact with people and with Kato. He was also growing and was no longer the tiny kitten-like animal he was when he arrived.

"It was time for him to say goodbye to Kato," said Reagan. "He's not like a cat or dog. There are no limits for Apollo."



3-4 YEAR-OLDS + PARENTS
\$79 MEMBERS | \$94 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

June 9 - 13	Wake Up the Train
June 16 - 20	Down on the Farm
June 23 - 27	Playful Penguins
July 7 - 11	Wake Up the Train
July 21 - 25	A to Zoo

4-5 YEAR-OLDS
\$99 MEMBERS | \$119 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A.M. - NOON

June 2 - 6	Wake Up the Train SOLD OUT
June 9 - 13	Animal Super Powers
June 16 - 20	Monkey Around
June 23 - 27	Party with the Peacocks SOLD OUT
July 7 - 11	Wake Up the Train
July 14 - 18	Dino Dig
July 21 - 25	Mission to Madagascar
July 28 - Aug 1	Penguins Have Happy Feet

AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.

June 2 - 6	Mission to Madagascar
June 9 - 13	Dino Dig
June 16 - 20	Penguins Have Happy Feet
June 23 - 27	Wild Cats
July 7 - 11	The Great Disappearing Act
July 14 - 18	Monkey Around
July 21 - 25	Animal Super Powers
July 28 - Aug 1	Party with the Peacocks

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

2014 ZOO SUMMER CAMPS

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

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 experiences.



Space is limited!
See camp descriptions & register at LincolnZoo.org.

6-7 YEAR-OLDS

\$99 MEMBERS | \$119 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A.M. - NOON		AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.	
June 2 - 6	Animal Planet	June 2 - 6	Go Wild!
June 9 - 13	Wild West Wrangler SOLD OUT	June 9 - 13	Things with Wings
June 16 - 20	Beetles, Bugs & Butterflies	June 16 - 20	Critter Keepers
June 16 - 20	Wild West Wrangler		
June 23 - 27	Penguin Plunge SOLD OUT	June 23 - 27	Feast with Beasts
July 7 - 11	Dr. Zoolittle	July 7 - 11	Penguin Plunge
July 14 - 18	Wild West Wrangler	July 14 - 18	Animal Planet
July 14 - 18	Catch Me If You Can	July 14 - 18	Wild West Wrangler
July 21 - 25	Go Wild!	July 21 - 25	Dr. Zoolittle
July 28 - Aug 1	Critter Keepers	July 28 - Aug 1	Beetles, Bugs & Butterflies
*SIGN UP FOR A MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSION TO MAKE IT A FULL-DAY CAMP			

8-10 YEAR-OLDS

\$99 MEMBERS | \$119 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A.M. - NOON		AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.	
June 2 - 6	Penguin Planet	June 2 - 6	Zoo Scene Investigator (ZSI)
June 16 - 20	Zoo Grossology	June 16 - 20	Penguin Planet
July 7 - 11	What's for Dinner?	July 7 - 11	Go Ape!
July 28 - Aug 1	Go Ape!	July 28 - Aug 1	Zoo Grossology
*SIGN UP FOR A MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSION TO MAKE IT A FULL-DAY CAMP			

\$198 MEMBERS | \$238 NON-MEMBERS

FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	
June 9 - 13	Animal Care
June 23 - 27	Jr. Zookeeper SOLD OUT
July 14 - 18	Jr. Zookeeper
July 21 - 25	Jr. Zookeeper

10-12 YEAR-OLDS

\$198 MEMBERS | \$238 NON-MEMBERS

FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.	
June 9 - 13	Animal Training 101
June 23 - 27	Jr. Zookeeper SOLD OUT
July 7 - 11	Animal Care
July 14 - 18	Jr. Zookeeper SOLD OUT
July 28 - August 1	Animal Training 101



FASCINATING FACTS

- CAN RUN UP TO 37 MPH
- NOCTURNAL
SLEEP DURING THE DAY
- HIDE FOOD IN TREES





hello
i'm an

Amur leopard



COLLECTIBLE POSTER

WORLD'S SMALLEST FOXES

TWO NEW FENNEC FOXES ARRIVE AT LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO

BY JESSICA SIMPSON

Two Fennec foxes, the world's smallest fox, will make their debut at the Zoo this year. Brothers Bolt and Jet, not even one-year-old, will only weigh about 3 to 3.5 pounds when they're full-grown.

Fennec foxes are nocturnal animals found in the Sahara desert of North Africa. To battle the hot, dry

temperatures of the Sahara, they sleep during the day and awaken at night to hunt and interact.

Zookeeper Sarah Jurgens says she can tell Bolt and Jet are active at night, because when she arrives at the Zoo in the morning, their area looks nothing like it did when she left. "We'll come in and their area is

a disaster," she laughed. "Their crates are on the opposite end of the room and sand is everywhere."

Another distinctive feature of this small fox species is the size of their ears. In stark contrast to their tiny bodies, their ears can measure up to six inches long. These bat-like ears radiate body heat to help cool their bodies during the day. Fennec foxes also have thick insulating fur to protect them from the sun and keep them warm when temperatures drop at night. The Fennec fox's feet are another unusual but helpful adaptation. Their feet are not only hairy on top, but also on the soles to save them from hot sand and help them dig and burrow.

In their natural habitat, Fennec foxes are omnivores. At the Zoo, Bolt and Jet eat plants, rodents, eggs and insects. Fennec foxes are opportunistic eaters, meaning they eat what they can find in the wild. Their diet may consist of fruit, berries, lizards and snails. Bolt and Jet particularly like bananas and apples, and they also go nuts over mice, Jurgens said. The brothers receive crickets and mealworms for some added protein.



*PHOTO COPYRIGHT JOEL SARTORE / JOELSARTORE.COM

ZOO CALENDAR

WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE ZOO

APRIL

WED 9

OPENING DAY

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

SAT 19

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY **NEW!**

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 for ticket information.

MAY

SUN 11

MOTHER'S DAY

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

Moms receive free admission or one free train ticket.

CATHOLIC HEALTH
INITIATIVE
Saint Elizabeth
Regional Medical Center

SAT 17

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 sign your child up in advance by visiting Lincoln Fire and Rescue or come early on Saturday to sign up. This race is organized by Lincoln Fire and Rescue.

MON 26

MEMORIAL DAY **OPEN!**

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

SAT 31

RUNZA READING DAY

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

Your favorite children's books will come to life at the Zoo this weekend. Stop by and listen to stories read by local heroes and celebrities. Get an activity bag for kids, free train rides for the first 350 children and other fun activities. After listening to stories, explore the Zoo to interact with over 300 animals.



JUNE

FRI 6

GARDEN PARTY

6 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo | Zoo closes at 3 p.m.

SAT 7

SUMMER KICK-OFF **NEW!**

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

Start your summer at the Zoo! Featuring special animal demonstrations throughout the day, face painting for children, live entertainment and fun food specials at the Safari Café.



SAT 14

TRAIN BIRTHDAY PARTY **NEW!**

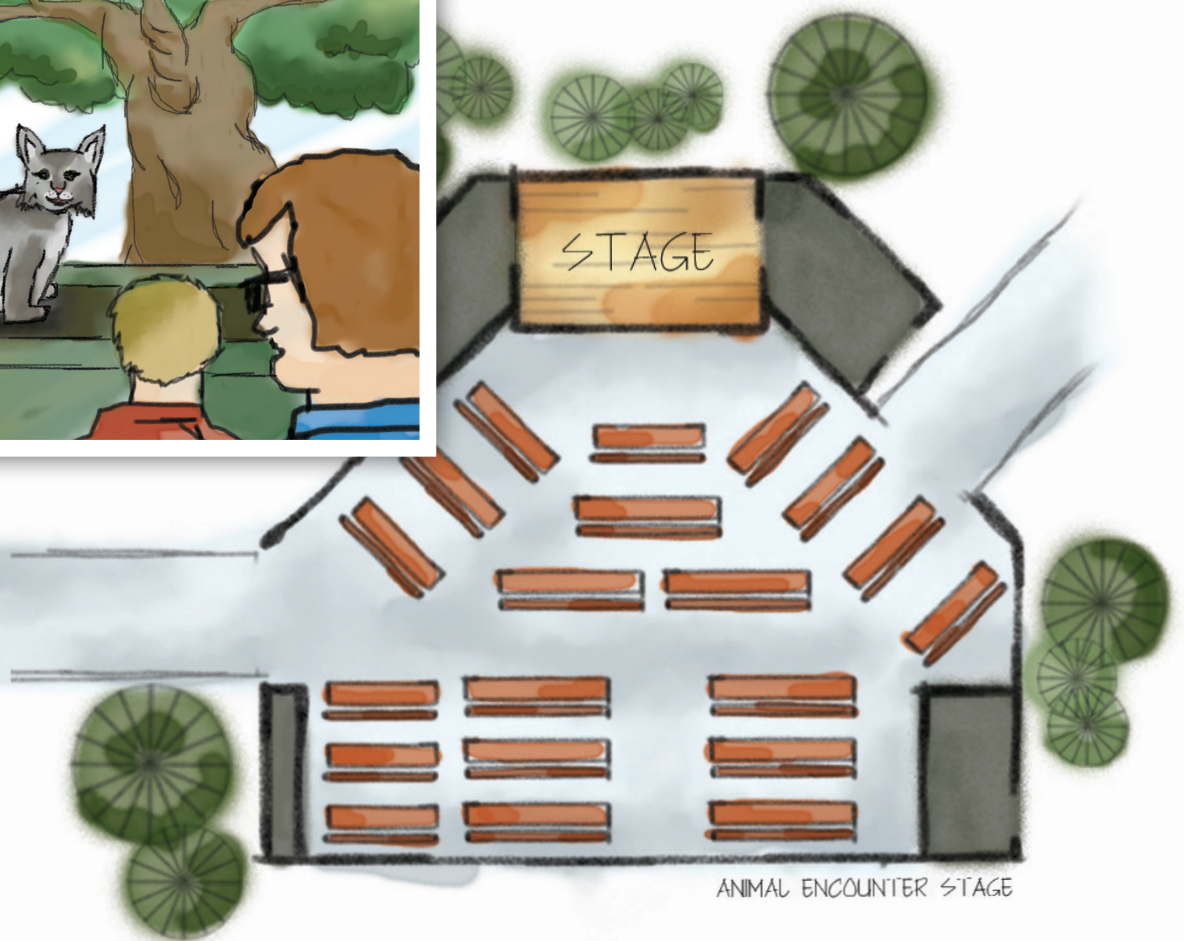
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Celebrate the 51st birthday of Z.O.&O with discounted train rides, conductor of the day contest and fun train activities!

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER STAGE



presented by
UNION BANK
& TRUST COMPANY®



BY RYAN GROSS

This year a new experience, Animal Encounter Stage is coming to Lincoln Children's Zoo. This new stage will offer a one of a kind opportunity where guests can meet their favorite animals and talk with real zookeepers. "We are bringing our animals out to our guests so they can get an up-close experience with them," Zoo president and CEO John Chapo said.

The Animal Encounter Stage will be located near Critter Outpost and will have a capacity of 75 to 100 guests. Multiple animal shows and zookeeper talks will be held each day at the

stage. "You will see some new, exciting animals as well as some of your favorites," Chapo said. The new shows will be scheduled to allow guests to enjoy the existing penguin show.

"When a guest enters the Zoo, they will have an opportunity to talk with a zookeeper and interact with an animal nearly every hour we are open," Chapo said. The Hive and Critter Outpost are two other areas where Zoo guests can get up close to animals and ask questions.

Zookeepers are working with a variety of animals to showcase at the stage.

The list includes a bobcat, porcupine, armadillo, owl, macaws, foxes, snakes, lizards and a few others. The Zoo is hoping to add additional animals in the future. The stage will also contain screens where guests can see behind-the-scenes footage and photos of Zoo animals as well as watch Zoofari with Larry the Cable Guy videos.

The Animal Encounter Stage is possible through a generous gift from the Abel Foundation and sponsorship provided by Union Bank & Trust.

The wildest party in town!



GARDEN PARTY

Lincoln Children's ZOO

6.6.2014

6 p.m.

Party

For 49 years, your Zoo has been delighting, teaching and enriching children — all without receiving any city, county or state tax support. The generous support the Zoo receives from our community makes it possible for the Zoo to fulfill its mission:

To enrich lives through firsthand interaction with living things.

Tickets

Tickets available Monday, April 1.
Adult-only event.

Online:
LincolnZoo.org

Telephone Kayla:
402.475.6741 ext. 131

\$100 per person
\$1,000 per table

A Benefit for Your Zoo
Food • Cocktails • Auction



NATURE'S PATH TO SUCCESS



BY RYAN GROSS

When Arnott Folsom opened Lincoln Children's Zoo nearly 50 years ago, he hoped it would be a place for children to experience nature up close and gain an appreciation of animals and science. Through the years, the Zoo has had millions of children enter through the gates and get face to face with endangered species, ride a horse and touch a variety of animals. Many of those children participated in camps, volunteered with Zoo Crew and some even went on to work at the Zoo. Dominic Dongilli is one of those children who grew up at the Zoo, transforming his life and future.

As a child Dongilli attended summer camps at the Zoo. He enjoyed the experience of getting a behind-the-scenes look at the animals. He remembers seeing Nancy the sloth and realizing how amazing she was and the purpose she serves. As he got older, his parents, who believed in the importance of volunteering, encouraged him to

get involved in community. He chose to participate in Zoo Crew, the Zoo's youth volunteer program. He chose Zoo Crew because of a friend who had signed up for the program. "At first I wasn't that excited to be working with the animals," Dongilli remembered. However, it didn't take him long to fall in love with them. It was at this time he started thinking this might be something he wanted to do in the future.

After a few years volunteering with Zoo Crew, Dongilli made the move to working at the Zoo. His various roles included Zoo Crew manager, camps assistant, butterfly pavilion host and the Zoo to You program coordinator. "These different roles showed me how much I love teaching and connecting people with animals," Dongilli said.

Upon graduating from Lincoln Pius X, Dongilli took the next step for his future and chose to major in biology at Creighton University. After his first year of college he continued working for the Zoo over the summer. He then received

an internship working at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo.

Dongilli is currently completing his junior year at Creighton. This year he was hired as a residence assistant (RA) at his dormitory. His experience in Zoo Crew and working various roles at Lincoln Children's Zoo have helped him as an RA. "I had many great mentors at the Zoo who taught me so much and it has helped me gain the skills to mentor students on my floor," Dongilli said.

Once he graduates from Creighton, Dongilli plans on a career working at a zoo. "I want to take animal education and interaction with people to the next level," Dongilli said.

Dominic Dongilli is the child Arnott Folsom had in mind when he opened the Zoo in 1965. A young boy who realized the importance of interacting with nature and living things—now grown up and doing his part to inspire and educate the next generation of children entering the gates of Lincoln Children's Zoo.



Youth volunteer program.

Each year nearly 400 students gain important life and job skills through volunteering at the Zoo.

Grades 7 through 12

- Learn and care for animals
- Help in conservation efforts
- Participate in daily Zoo operations

To register, visit LincolnZoo.org, call 402.475.6741 ext. 150 or stop by the Zoo.



ADVENTURES

By Lincoln Children's ZOO



EXPEDITION FLORIDA: **Ages 14-18 • Behind-the-Scenes • Career Exploration**



•GLOBAL YOUTH EXPEDITIONS•



Lincoln Children's ZOO

Zoofari

with Larry the Cable Guy

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children and their families are
able to bravely face the future
with brightened smiles and
lightened hearts.”**

**- Tony Werner, President & CEO
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