



Lincoln Children's

ZOOtracks



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Learn firsthand.

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

**LincolnZoo.org**

**OPEN DAILY**

April 14 - October 20  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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**General Manager**  
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**Zootracks Magazine**

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Matschie's tree kangaroo from  
the Lincoln Children's Zoo

**Contributing Photos**

Joel Sartore / JoelSartore.com



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.**

## LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



**BIGGEST**  **CELEBRATION**  
**EVER**

## WE'RE EXTENDING OUR SEASON!

**NOW OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER 20TH.**

SPONSORED BY: Bryan  Health

### FACTS ABOUT YOUR ZOO

- One of only 224 nationally accredited zoos in the country
- Home to more than 350 animals, more than 40 of which are endangered
- Third highest attended arts and science attraction in Nebraska
- Home to two highly-endangered Amur leopards (only an estimated 30 are left in the wild)
- More than 7,000 families have a Zoo membership
- Had one of three Matschie's tree kangaroo born in a zoo this year
- Hosts 42 special-event days
- In 2012, twin pygmy marmosets were born, the only two recorded births in North America
- Offers more than 75 educational camps and programs
- Two endangered red pandas and four endangered ring-tailed lemurs born this year

### THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



# A GIFT OF NEW NORTH AMERICAN OTTERS

Lincoln Children's Zoo recently received a pair of playful and adorable gifts in two North American river otters. The two new additions, Richard and Eloise, will join the two current North American river otters on display.

The otters were acquired through the Roger's Wild Animal Acquisition Fund. The fund was created with the purpose helping the Zoo acquire new animals. The fund was established by a gift from the Roger's Foundation in honor of Richard and Eloise Agee. The Agees were active followers of the Zoo and enjoyed traveling as well as shared a great appreciation for wildlife and nature.

"Gifts from individuals such as the Rogers, foundations and other organizations are incredibly important to the Zoo," John Chapo, president and CEO of the Zoo said. "Gifts and donations not only help the Zoo acquire new animals and care for endangered ones, but they also aid in fulfilling the mission of bringing interactive exhibits to children in the community."

## PLAYFUL OTTERS

North American river otters are known for their playful nature. In captivity and in the wild they often wrestle and chase each other. Many captive otters have the ability to perform water maneuvers triggered by hand gestures from their zookeeper. The Zoo's two current otters have been conditioned to act based upon gestures from keepers.

\*PHOTO COPYRIGHT JOEL SARTORE / JOELSARTORE.COM

# UNLEASH YOUR CHILD'S IMAGINATION

## 2012 FALL CAMPS



### JR. ZOOKEEPER

\$40 MEMBERS | \$50 NON-MEMBERS

5-7 YEAR-OLDS & 8-10 YEAR-OLDS

OCTOBER 1 | 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

What do zookeepers do on a daily basis? Get a behind-the-scenes look at zoo operations. Jr. Zookeepers will feed and care for animals, complete daily health checks and more during this in-depth experience.

### ZOO EXPLORER

\$75 MEMBERS | \$85 NON-MEMBERS

5-7 YEAR-OLDS & 8-10 YEAR-OLDS

OCTOBER 15 & 16 | 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Get ready to explore the Zoo in this new exciting camp. Campers will get a Zoo map and spend two days behind-the-scenes looking for unknown treasures. During their treasure hunt, campers will find out what zoo animals eat, where they sleep and what they do for fun.

REGISTER NOW AT [LINCOLNZOO.ORG](http://LINCOLNZOO.ORG)

## CELEBRATE YOUR FAMILY

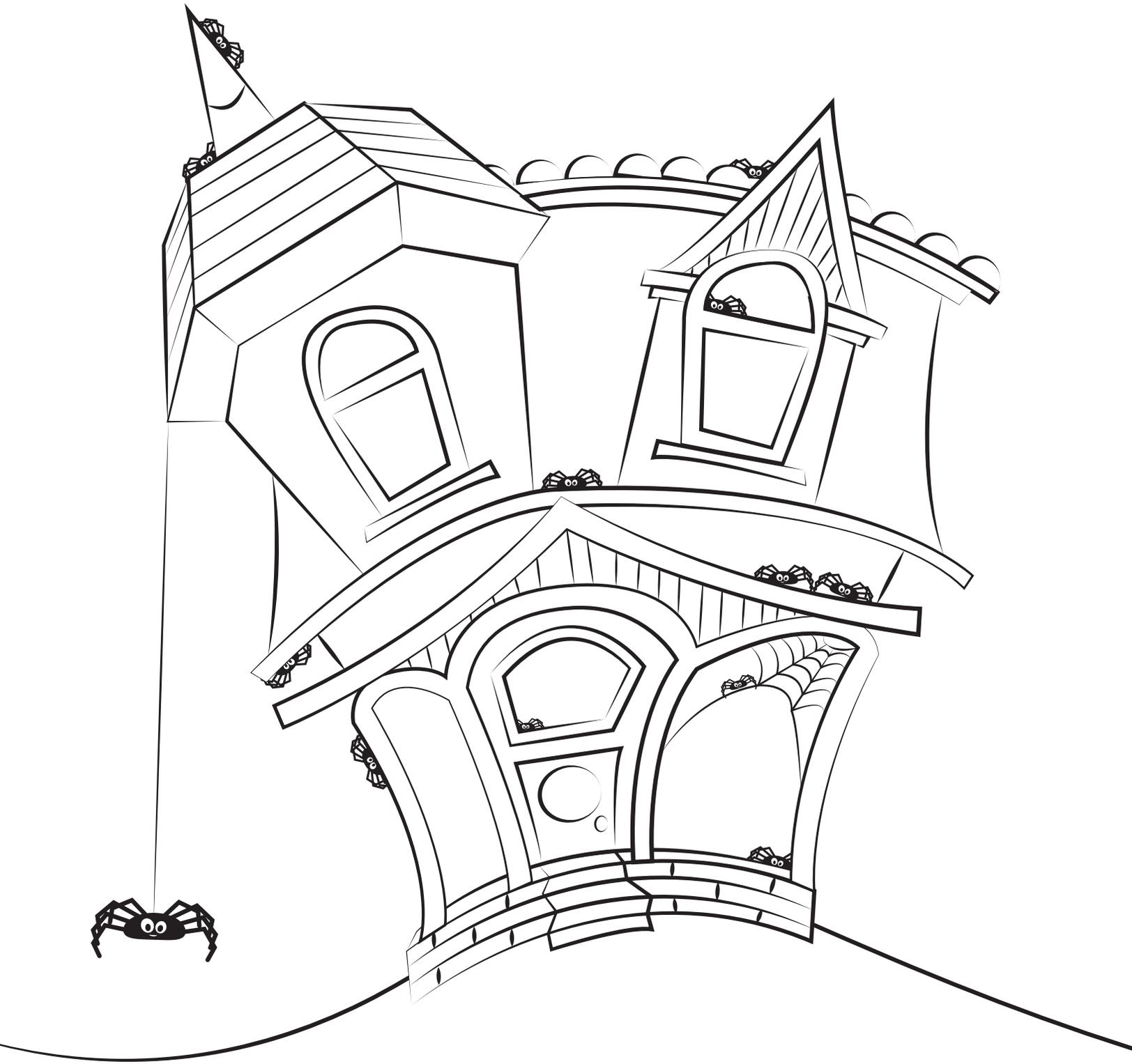


Lincoln Children's  
**ZOO** adoption



SHARE YOUR PERSONAL OR FAMILY MILESTONE WITH A GIFT TO LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO.

To make a personal, family, memorial or foundation gift  
visit [LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org) or contact Kayla: 402-475-6741 ext. 131 | Email [kmcelroy@lincolnzoo.org](mailto:kmcelroy@lincolnzoo.org)



# HIDDEN SPIDERS

CAN YOU FIND ALL 13 SPIDERS IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE?

# WORD SCRAMBLE

CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE THE HALLOWEEN WORDS?

GOHST

-----

DYACN

-----

ZARDIW

-----

DIERSP

-----

OBO

-----

PMKUPNI

-----

## COLOR TIME!

GET OUT YOUR BOX OF CRAYONS AND GIVE THE ZOO BAT AND HIS HAUNTED HOUSE SOME COLOR!



# ONE MAN'S VISION

## THE STORY OF ARNOTT FOLSOM



### BY RYAN GROSS

When Arnott Folsom opened Lincoln Children's Zoo 47 years ago, he had hopes of creating a family destination where thousands of children and adults could interact with nature. Each year since its opening, Mr. Folsom's mission has been fulfilled and renewed with the addition of new animals, exhibits and beautiful surroundings. Today the Zoo is one of the top tourist destinations in Nebraska, a testament to one man's vision.

In 1959, Folsom began working on a plan to create a children's zoo in Lincoln. At the time, the city had two smaller zoos at the Antelope Park building and Pioneers Park. Folsom along with City of Lincoln Parks Superintendent, James Ager, believed a children's zoo would draw more people to Lincoln. The two also knew there would be more impactful results than tourism alone. In the June 7, 1959 edition of the Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star, Ager said, "... the real significance of the project is kinship and understanding it will foster between children and animals."

The project began with a \$5,000 donation by Folsom and his wife. A three-acre site was chosen at Antelope Park in the old picnic grounds. Articles of incorporation were signed on Wed., June 10, 1959 by members of the Children's Zoo Association, which included James Ager, William O. Dobler, Arnott Folsom, Mrs. L. A. Enersen, George Holmes and Bennett S. Martin.

In late 1959 and into 1961 preliminary drawings were created for the new zoo. Among these were a large stegosaurus sculpture and a zany town center filled with crooked buildings. Ultimately, designs for the zoo would focus on encouraging interaction between children and animals. This was in contrast to many of the nation's zoos, which at the time were more walk-and-see layouts.

Planning and construction of the zoo started in the early 1960s. In 1963 families could take a ride on the newly opened Iron Horse Railroad and view the buildings being built on the zoo grounds. That year, the stegosaurus statue and fountain opened and became a fun and picturesque spot for children.

In 1964 the zoo neared its completion. Newspapers released previews, workers and volunteers added the finishing touches and local V.I.P.s were guided around the zoo in a Cushman Motor car. Families in Lincoln eagerly anticipated the grand opening for the public. The five-year project was coming to an end with an opening date set for summer of 1965.

On July 18, 1965 Lincoln Children's Zoo officially opened its gates to the public. The Lincoln Star's headline read, "Children's Zoo Opens; It Was Worth the Wait." The article told of the day's festivities, highlights of the zoo, what was yet to come and Folsom's palpable excitement. Bob Schrepf of the Lincoln Star

concluded his article with a portrait of a proud zoo founder:

"Folsom walked around the zoo again, pointing out the Barbados brown sheep with triplet lambs, the flamingoes, macaws, squirrel monkeys, the 'Mouse House,' post office, blacksmith's shop and the jail. Obviously proud of one of Lincoln's leading attractions, Folsom picked up a yellow slip of paper from the grass — the 150,000th ticket issued for a ride on the zoo's Iron Horse Railroad."

In the years following the 1965 opening, Lincoln Children's Zoo grew with the addition of new animals, beautiful scenery in the form of plants and trees and more ways for children to interact with nature. During trips to the zoo families would often catch Mr. Folsom walking the grounds, giving tours or working in one of the many gardens. He remained active in the community and at the Zoo until late in his life.

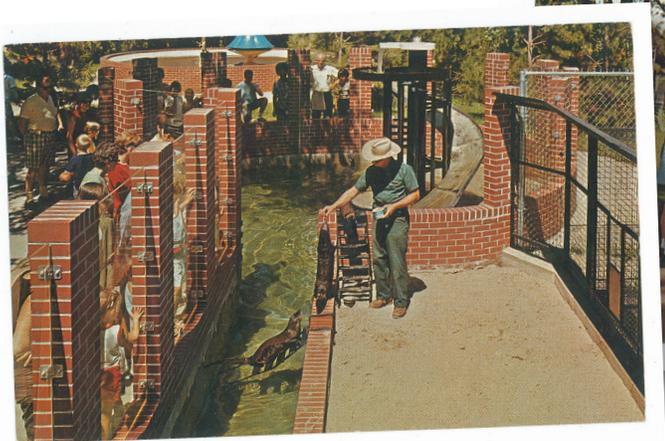
Today, the Zoo has grown and the estimated 190,000 people who attend in 2012 have the chance to see more than 40 endangered animals, get up close to incredibly rare species being saved at the zoo, take part in dozens of educational programs and enjoy events such as "Boo at the Zoo." Even after so much growth and change, one thing remains constant: Lincoln Children's Zoo is a place where children and adults can interact with nature — a vision Arnott Folsom fostered over 50 years ago.



**"He would be very impressed with how the zoo has evolved."**

*Sue Brouse, granddaughter of Arnott Folsom, on what Mr. Folsom would think of Lincoln Children's Zoo today.*

*For more memories and insights from the Zoo founder's granddaughter visit [LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org)*



# RECORD ATTENDANCE

AT LINCOLN'S NUMBER ONE FAMILY DESTINATION



Over the past 47 years, millions of visitors have passed through the gates of Lincoln Children's Zoo making it Lincoln's number one family destination. To many families, the Zoo is a tradition. These families are the reason the Zoo exists and succeeds. Throughout 2012, as a result of the thousands of members and countless others, the Zoo has flourished, and by the end of the year attendance is expected to set a new record.

This year's attendance is expected to be more than 20,000 visitors higher than last year. "We are expecting attendance to exceed 190,000 visitors this year," said John Chapo, president and CEO of the Zoo. "To put that into perspective, Lincoln's

population is about 260,000. To achieve such attendance amazes me."

This year the Zoo has grown with the births of four endangered species, more animal exhibits and a redesigned horse-riding and barn area. "We try to keep the Zoo fresh by adding something new each year," Chapo said.

Statewide, the Zoo is climbing the Nebraska tourism attendance ladder and now ranks third among museums and zoos in the state. The Zoo has also been in the national spotlight in 2012. In March, NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams featured the Zoo along with National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore. The birth of a

rare Matschie's tree kangaroo received the attention of national media and zoos, as well.

To thank all of the guests who've made this year's record possible, the Zoo created the "Biggest Celebration Ever". Back in July the Zoo began giving away envelopes at random to Zoo guests. The envelopes contain gifts ranging from free ice cream to memberships. As part of the celebration, the Zoo will remain open through October 20, extending the season by one week.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to all of the individuals and organizations in the Lincoln community and beyond for their support – we wouldn't be where we are without them," Chapo said.

# ZOO CALENDAR

## THINGS TO DO AT LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO

### SEPTEMBER

#### September 17 - October 8 | **Senior Mondays** 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Every Monday from September 17 - October 8 enjoy discounts and fun activities to celebrate Lincoln's senior citizens. Free admission to seniors 62+.

#### September 23 | **Laura's Butterfly Pavilion closes for 2012**

### OCTOBER

#### October 1 | **Animal Food Drive Begins**

Donate food items to help the Zoo feed more than 300 animals during the winter season.

#### October 3 | **Sensory Safari** 10 A.M. - Noon & 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

Hands-on activities for blind and visually impaired children at fun learning stations throughout the Zoo. Tour times listed above. To RSVP, visit [LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org).

#### October 6 | **Meet & Shriek** 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

It's time to dress up in a costume and head to the Zoo. This pre-Halloween event is a not so spooky celebration filled with fun activities. Sponsored by:



#### October 20 | **Zoo Closes for 2012**

#### October 26-30 | **Boo at the Zoo** 5:30 P.M. - 8 P.M.

Lincoln's biggest trick-or-treat party is at the Zoo. The entire family will love stopping at 40 trick-or-treat booths to get candy, coupons and more.

Admission or membership applies, plus \$3 trick-or-treat bag required. Sponsored by:  Bryan Health

### DECEMBER

#### December 1 & 8 | **North Pole Express** 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Board the Zoo's train for a journey to the North Pole. Once at the Zoo, your winter wonderland experience includes hot chocolate, candy canes and a visit to Santa's workshop to see the big man himself. Tickets include admission, a train ride and all activities.

Tickets on sale November 5. Member Tickets: \$4 | Non-Member: \$8.

# A RARE BOND

BY RYAN GROSS

The life of a zoo animal depends on care it receives from its keeper. From basic necessities like food and water to more advanced health care and companionship, a zookeeper provides animals with the TLC they need to thrive. The unique bond formed between a keeper and an animal is often overlooked, but the close relationship they share often leads to amazing outcomes – ones with profound implications.

Nearly 10 years ago at the Lincoln Children's Zoo, Davi Ann Norsworthy began caring for a young Matschie's tree kangaroo named Milla. Norsworthy fed and cared for Milla on a daily basis, building trust with the tree kangaroo and establishing a regular routine. The habitual care Norsworthy provided Milla soon evolved into a rare relationship.

From the beginning, Norsworthy worked to condition Milla. Conditioning an animal means working with them through feeding and other habits to establish a trusting relationship between the animal and the keeper. She knew the conditioning she implemented would play a crucial role later in Milla's life.

Lincoln Children's Zoo is one of the few zoos in North America that is part of the Matschie's tree kangaroo Species Survival Plan. With

an estimated 50 Matschie's tree kangaroos in captivity, births of the highly endangered species are uncommon. As part of the Species Survival Plan, Norsworthy and the Zoo worked to breed Milla when she was old enough. Their efforts were successful when, in 2008, Milla gave birth to twin joeys – the first known set of Matschie's tree kangaroo twins born in captivity.

The birth of Milla's twins was a milestone and would provide more in-depth research opportunities. But, Norsworthy knew better research could be conducted if she could observe the twin joeys actually inside of Milla's pouch. Her goal was to place a small camera inside Milla's pouch to view the joey's development.

To capture the footage, Norsworthy went through a specific daily routine. She started by feeding Milla a snack, and while Milla was eating, she placed a special camera in Milla's pouch. Thanks to the years of conditioning and the strong bond between Norsworthy and Milla, Milla trusted Norsworthy enough to allow her to place the camera and take video of the baby tree kangaroos. In turn, Norsworthy was able to gather a small amount of footage. This was the first time footage had ever been captured inside of a Matschie's tree kangaroo pouch.

To date, Milla is one of the highest offspring-producing Matschie's tree kangaroos in captivity producing roughly 1/4 of all captive joey births the past six years. The last birth came June 5, 2012. Norsworthy again succeeded in obtaining footage of the joey in the mother's pouch. After two months of filming, Zoo staff began piecing the daily videos together.

No other footage to date was as comprehensive in length and detail as Norsworthy's video. The end result featured more than three minutes of video showing the progression of the joey in Milla's pouch. The vivid portrayal of the joeys' development will help conservation efforts for years to come.

As the joey gets older, Norsworthy will continue capturing footage. The videos will give thousands more people the chance to glimpse one of nature's rare and endangered animals. It will also provide material needed to help save and grow the Matschie's tree kangaroo population. Without Norsworthy's passion and patience for Milla, the Lincoln Children's zoo and others would never have had the opportunity to watch a young joey's first weeks of life in its mother's pouch.

See video at [LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org)



Zookeeper Davi Ann Norsworthy with Milla the Matschie's tree kangaroo.

# BORN: RED PANDA CUBS

HOW LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO IS MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE



Sophia the red panda proudly presents her two new cubs.

On July 11, Zoo staff were excited to welcome the births of two red panda cubs. They are currently being nursed by their mother Sophia and will soon join the two other red pandas living at the Zoo.

The vulnerable, nearly endangered red panda, is native to area in and around China. In the wild, the red panda population has been decreasing yearly throughout the past decade with an estimated 10,000 remaining. An estimated 800 red pandas live in captivity with 17 born in captivity this year.

Lincoln Children's Zoo is part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP) for the red panda. As a

member of the red panda SSP, the Zoo is responsible for assisting in managing the population with the hope of preventing them from reaching the endangered classification.

"Being part of the red panda SSP is an incredible opportunity for the Lincoln Children's Zoo," president and CEO John

Chapo said. "The Zoo is also part of dozens of other SSP programs. We have a high number of SSP animals compared to the total number of animals that are at our Zoo," Chapo said.

The new red panda cubs will be available for the public to see in spring 2013.

**Red pandas are not actually part of the panda family. They were once classified as part of the raccoon and bear family, but they have recently been put into a family classification of their own.**

CATHOLIC HEALTH  
INITIATIVE

Saint Elizabeth  
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NEW ARRIVALS BY:

# BOO AT THE ZOO, BIGGER AND BETTER

BY THE WIZARD

I'm writing this letter while sitting in my lounge chair on a beach in Acapulco. I only have a few weeks left until it's time for me to prepare for my big appearance at Lincoln Children's Zoo. As many of you know, each year I spend five nights greeting thousands of guests who attend Boo at the Zoo.

You would think after 20 years it would be easy to get ready for Boo at the Zoo, but there is a lot that goes into my preparation. I have to make sure my hat is pointy, that my castle elves have cleaned my cape and ZooWilla, my hairdresser, must have sharp scissors for trimming my hair and beard. I also have to get my voice ready. Greeting 20,000 people takes a toll on my throat. I've been gargling salt water and mosquitoes for the past month to help condition my voice.

This year's Boo at the Zoo promises to be the biggest and best in its history. The Zoo's magicians, wizards and witches are pulling out every spell possible to transform the Zoo into the biggest trick-or-treating spot in town. There will be 40 booths handing out some delicious trick-or-treat candy. Plus, this year there will be fun and exciting activities planned while you stand in line outside of the Zoo. This year, my friends at Raising Canes will be selling chicken strip meals and all the proceeds go to help the Zoo.

I'm ready to greet every ghost, goblin, witch, fairy and all the Halloween haunters this year at Boo at the Zoo. To borrow a phrase from my mortal friend John Chappo, "I will see you at the Zoo!"

THE  
WIZARD



# END OF SEASON SALE

Select items on sale October 6 - October 20.



Learn firsthand.

# Zööhique

BOUTIQUE



## HOLIDAY TRAIN RIDE

Hot Chocolate & Santa  
December 1 & 8 | 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tickets include train ride, hot chocolate, visit with Santa and Zoo entry.  
Purchase tickets starting Nov. 5 at [LincolnZoo.org](http://LincolnZoo.org) or at the front gate the day of event.

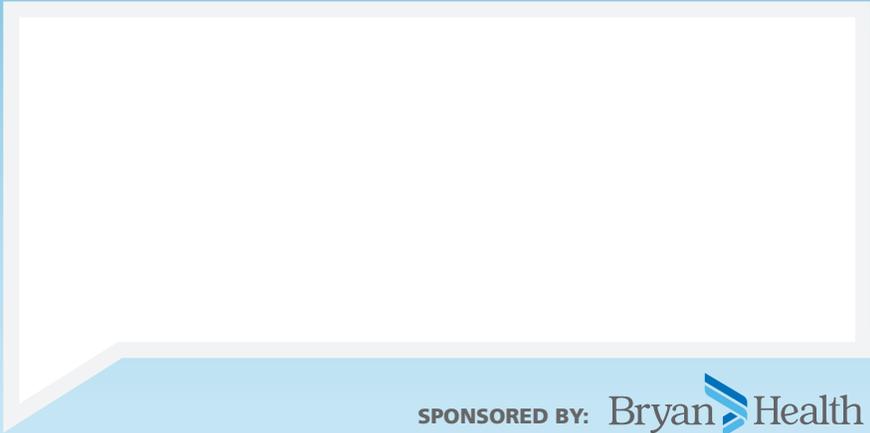
Members: \$4 | Non-Members: \$8



Lincoln Children's

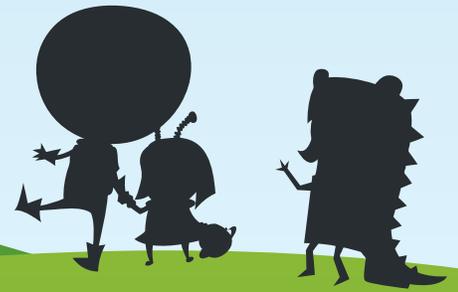
ZOO

1222 South 27th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
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SPONSORED BY: Bryan Health

ZOO



Lincoln Children's ZOO

BOO AT THE ZOO

40 TRICK-OR-TREAT BOOTHS

OCTOBER 26, 27, 28, 29, & 30 | 5:30 - 8 P.M.

PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE ZOO IN ADVANCE OR NIGHT OF EVENT.  
CHICKEN STRIP MEALS BY RAISING CANES FOR PURCHASE. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ZOO.