

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER | 2017



Lincoln Children's

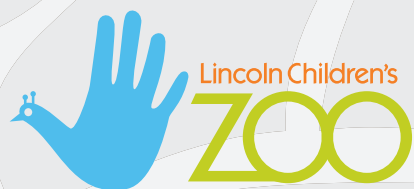
ZOOtracks

GRANDPARENTS OF THE ZOO
PAGES 3 – 4

OTTER-LY ADORABLE
PAGES 5 – 6

LOVE YOUR ZOO
PAGE 10

LETTER FROM THE WIZARD
PAGE 14



Learn firsthand.

Lincoln Children's Zoo

1222 South 27th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
402.475.6741

LincolnZoo.org

President & CEO

John Chapo

COO & General Manager

Evan Killeen

ZOOTRACKS MAGAZINE

Senior Editor & Writer | Ryan Gross

Art Director | Megan Maslonka

Copy Editor | Shannon Wilkinson

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

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:

CommunityServicesFund.org

EXPEDITION SOUTH AFRICA

ADVENTURES

By Lincoln Children's ZOO

MISSION: TO ENRICH LIVES THROUGH FIRSTHAND INTERACTION



For information on planned giving and endowments, please contact Kristine Lemons at 402.475.6741 ext. 136.



WITH LIVING THINGS.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



First National Bank



LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

James Anderson

VICE CHAIR

Hank Woods

SECRETARY

Maja Harris

TREASURER

Keith Peters

Taylor Ashburn, Clark Bellin, Bob Caldwell, Brian Cintani, Terri Dunlap, Greg Dynek, Megan Ehlers, Andy Frahm, Amanda Garner, Fleur Johnson, Cary Kline, Derek Kotschwar, Matt McKay, Jeff McPeak, Bruce Meister, Jason Muhleisen, Ryan Nelson, Amanda Ostergard, Kati Ripa, Ricki Scully, Jon Sevenker, Jamie Tallman, Sarah Teten Kanter, Len Weyeneth, Shannon Wilkinson and Michaela Johannis-Young
Ex Officio Members Lynn Johnson and Jerry Shorney

GRANDPARENTS OF THE ZOO

Lincoln Children's Zoo is a favorite to many grandparents but not just the ones that stroll through with their grandchildren by visiting their favorite animal friends. The grandparents we're talking about are our animal friends. From the wallabies to the lemurs, there are many honored senior citizens residing the Zoo.

Most of these animals can be found in their public habitat but a few live in retirement areas that are located behind-the-scenes. These retirement habitats are similar to the public areas they once lived in. They also have special accommodations to aid animals in their senior years.

For many animals in zoos the goal is for them to breed to add to their global population and genetic diversity. This

helps prevent extinction. At Lincoln Children's Zoo, when an animal reaches their senior years they often relocate to a retirement habitat with special accommodations to aid elderly animals. This creates space for younger animals to help grow their population.

"Providing exceptional care to our senior animals is especially important to me. Over the years our staff and guests have formed bonds with these amazing animals, and more importantly many of them have played a critical role in their species' conservation efforts," president & CEO, John Chapo said.

Two longtime residents of the Zoo recently moved to retirement areas: Milla the Matschie's tree kangaroo and Sophia the red panda. Both of them are well known in the animal world as incredibly

successful mothers. Over the past 14 years Milla has had eight babies—more baby tree 'roos than any other Matschie's tree kangaroo in captivity and the only mother known to have twins. This helps the population of tree kangaroos in captivity grow while their population in the wild continues to decline.

Grandparent animals still living in their public habitat include Moe the tammar wallaby, Naivasha the East African crowned crane, Nibbs the pygmy goat and Meara the ring-tailed lemur.

This year when celebrating Grandparents Day on September 10, remember the animal grandmas and grandpas at the Zoo as well.



Grandpa Moe
7 years old
tammar wallaby



Grandma Sophia
15 years old
red panda



Grandma Milla
15 years old
Matschie's tree kangaroo



Grandma Naivasha

25 years old
East African crowned crane



Grandma Meara

12 years old
ring-tailed lemur



Grandma Nibbs

Pygmy goat



R.C. (Rajun Cajun)

OTTER-LY ADORABLE

WHO ARE THE FOUR NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTERS THAT LIVE AT THE ZOO?

A visit to Lincoln Children's Zoo is not complete without saying hello to the North American river otters. Tucked between the West African dwarf crocodiles and the flamingos is a path that dives below ground level and is perfect for viewing the four otters who live there.

Living together in pairs, the Zoo's North American river otters take turns each day in their public habitat and the one behind the scenes. They are Hanz and R.C., and Richard and Lily. All four enjoy swimming in their pool and rolling in the sand.

The elder of them is Rajun Cajun or R.C. for short. She is one of the oldest river otters in captivity at 19 years old. The average age of a river otter in the wild is around 9 years.

R.C. spends her days like the other otters, swimming and sleeping. She isn't as active as her

much younger roommates but still loves to swim and float in the otter pool, her zookeepers say. She is the smallest otter at the Zoo and hangs out with Hanz. R.C. sometimes needs assistance entering her indoor habitat. Hanz sometimes helps her by providing support when it's time to go inside for the night.

In the wild, river otters live near water sources like streams, rivers and costal shorelines. They live in hollows under logs or in river banks and sometimes even take shelter in dens of other animals. At the Zoo their habitat has a variety of areas that are similar to what is found in the wild, including logs and rocks.

As in the wild, they eat fish at the Zoo—typically two to three pounds per day. This is more than 10 percent of their body weight, which can be between 10 and 30 pounds.

North American river otters are known for their playful-looking behavior of swimming, running and rolling in the sand. Each of the Zoo's four otters has a distinct behavior that may be difficult for the average guest of the Zoo to spot, but for their zookeepers it is easy.

Hanz is 16 years old with big eyes and loves eating. Richard is the youngest at 7 years old but is the largest of the otters, weighing 20 pounds. He loves to build nests. Lily is 10 years old, the darkest in color and the most energetic and playful of the four.

The next time you visit the Zoo, be sure to stop by the otter habitat to watch them swim and play and see if R.C., Hanz, Richard and Lily can be identified by their behavior or what they look like.



Hanz & R.C.



Richard



Lily



FASCINATING FACTS

- LIVES IN THE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY OF THE ZOO
- MOTHER TO FAMOUS RED PANDAS CARSON & WILLA
- 15 YEARS OLD

hello
my name is

Sophia
(the red panda)



COLLECTIBLE POSTER



Lincoln Children's ZOO



Holiday Train Ride • Hot Chocolate • Santa • Cookie Decorating • & More!

Tickets at
LincolnZoo.org

December
1-3 • 8-10 • 15-17



Lincoln Children's Zoo members receive exclusive early access to purchase tickets beginning November 1. Non-members may purchase tickets beginning November 15. **Tickets may sell out prior to November 15.** Advanced ticket purchase is highly recommended.

LOVE YOUR ZOO

On August 22, the Zoo opened a new parking lot paving the way for work to begin on the giraffe, tiger, education and entrance buildings. The opening of this lot gives the Zoo nearly twice as many parking spots as before. The entrance to this lot is located on the north side of A street. An entrance to the main lot from 27th street will open later this year. Additional parking is located on the south side of A street. Guests using this lot should use the crosswalk on A street and follow the bike path to the Zoo entrance.

A new milestone was reached in August in the fundraising efforts for the expansion. \$14.5 million dollars has now been raised moving the Zoo closer to its goal of \$20 million by 2020.

"We are overwhelmed by the support of individuals, businesses and organizations in our community for the Love Your Zoo expansion," president & CEO, John Chapo said. "It is because of you that we will bring even more up-close experiences to Lincoln Children's Zoo and continue our mission of enriching lives through firsthand interaction with living things."

For updates and giving opportunities visit LincolnZoo.org.



\$20 million
by 2020

\$19 million

\$18 million

\$17 million

\$16 million

\$15 million

\$14 million

\$13 million

ZOO CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER



Senior Discount Days

Every Tuesday & Thursday in September

Senior citizens (62 and older) receive half-price admission every Tuesday and Thursday for the month of September.



Grandparents Day

September 10 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Celebrate Grandparents Day with one free admission or one free train ride for grandpa and grandma all day! Grandparents must be accompanied by a grandchild to receive free admission or train ride.



Member Extra Hours

September 13 & 20 | 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Lincoln Children's Zoo members get exclusive extra hours from 9 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Plus, take advantage of great perks including discounted train rides, free cookies from Runza for the first 1,000 members, giveaways for children and additional Animal Encounter Stage shows! The Zoo is open to non-members from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PROUD SPONSOR



First National Bank

OCTOBER



Sensory Safari

October 4 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Visually and sensory impaired guests will have the opportunity to touch, feel, hear and smell at interpretative stations located throughout the Zoo. Zoo guides will lead tours to each station and nature experts from organizations across Nebraska will engage visitors at these interpretative stations. Sensory Safari is possible through a partnership with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Register at LincolnZoo.org



Zoo Last Day

October 17 | 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The last day of the 2017 Zoo season will be Tuesday, October 17th. Be sure to bring the whole family to the Zoo one more time!



Boo at the Zoo

October 26 – 30 | 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Boo at the Zoo is Lincoln's largest trick-or-treat event. The entire family will love stopping at over 40 trick-or-treat booths to get candy, coupons and more! All the money raised during Boo at the Zoo directly supports the Zoo and care for the animals. Purchase VIP tickets to get early access on the night of your choosing! Purchase tickets, treat bags and meal tickets at LincolnZoo.org. VIP tickets are limited and may sell out. Advanced purchase is recommended.



DECEMBER



North Pole Express

December 1 – 3, 8 – 10 & 15 – 17 | 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Board the Zoo's train for a journey to Santa's Village in the North Pole! Once inside the Zoo, your winter wonderland experience includes hot chocolate, cookie decorating and a visit to Santa's Workshop to see the big man himself. Tickets include admission, a train ride and all activities.

Lincoln Children's Zoo members receive exclusive early access to purchase tickets beginning November 1. Non-members may purchase tickets beginning November 15. Tickets may be purchased at LincolnZoo.org. **Tickets may sell out prior to November 15.**

Advanced ticket purchase is highly recommended.

PROUD SPONSOR
 Charter

WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE ZOO!



ZOO CAMP

Lincoln Children's ZOO



OCT 13

MEMBERS: \$45 | NON-MEMBERS: \$60
REGISTER AT LINCOLNZOO.ORG
LPS ELEMENTARY NOT IN SESSION

WAKE UP THE TRAIN

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. | AGES 5 – 7

JR. ZOO VET

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. | AGES 8 – 12

OCT 16 – 17

MEMBERS: \$60 | NON-MEMBERS: \$75
REGISTER AT LINCOLNZOO.ORG
LPS NOT IN SESSION

CRITTER KEEPERS

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. | AGES 5 – 7

JR. ZOO CREW

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. | AGES 8 – 12

NOV 27

MEMBERS: \$45 | NON-MEMBERS: \$60
REGISTER AT LINCOLNZOO.ORG
LPS ELEMENTARY NOT IN SESSION

MINI ZOO VET

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. | AGES 5 – 7

JR. ZOOKEEPER

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. | AGES 8 – 12

JAN 2 - 5

MEMBERS: \$120 | NON-MEMBERS: \$140
REGISTER AT LINCOLNZOO.ORG
LPS NOT IN SESSION

ZOO ACTION HEROES

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. | AGES 5 – 7

JR. ZOO CREW

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. | AGES 8 – 12



TOTS & TURTLES

Lincoln Children's ZOO

Tots & Turtles Ages 2 – 4 + Parent

Wednesdays | 10 – 11 a.m. | Sept. 20 – Oct. 25

Thursdays | 10 – 11 a.m. | Sept. 21 – Oct. 26

Tots & Turtles is a toddler/parent program that will introduce your child to interactive environments filled with learning opportunities. Each week children and parents will meet a new animal friend and take part in activities designed to assist with toddler development. Each session is limited to 15 families to ensure individual attention.

Members: \$75 | Non-Members: \$85
Register at LincolnZoo.org

BOO AT THE ZOO

A LETTER FROM THE WIZARD

Hello all you trick-or-treaters out there!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! (Well at least for me!) It's Boo at the Zoo time and that means the Wizard is coming to Lincoln. As you all know each year John Chapo takes his annual October vacation which means that I, the Wizard, need to step in and help out. This will be year number 31 for me but don't worry I still have a few tricks and treats up my sleeves!

First, as you can see the Zoo is expanding! I've already stopped by to see how I can help with the construction, however, they told me it would be best if I just focused my time on Boo at the Zoo! The great news is there is more parking this year for the largest trick-or-treat event in town. I'm making a special Boo at the Zoo parking map so keep an eye out for it.



Boo at the Zoo is the Zoo's largest fundraiser of the year. The tickets and trick-or-treat bags you buy help the Zoo care for the animals during the winter months. It takes a lot of work to make Boo at the Zoo happen. Luckily we have great volunteers who love this event as much as I do!

Let me tell you some of my favorite things about Boo at the Zoo. There are over 40 businesses and organizations in town that set up stations along the entire Zoo path. These stations are decorated and each person at the booth dresses up which makes it even more fun! But don't worry these booths are not going to make anyone scream with fear because you know our motto "merry not scary!"

Treats anyone? There will be 1 million treats given out over the five nights of Boo at the Zoo! Plus, don't forget to check your treat bag for great coupons.

So let's recap things. First, I (the Wizard) and our volunteers work very hard while Mr. Chapo is on vacation to make Boo at the Zoo amazing! Second, the little ones in your family get a lot of great treats! Don't forget you adults can get a treat bag, too. Finally, when you attend Boo at the Zoo you are helping all of our critters and that is my favorite part!

I'll see you at the Boo!

Hauntingly yours,
The Wizard



Lincoln Children's
ZOO

1222 South 27th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
LincolnZoo.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT NO. 171

KFOR
FM 103.3 • 1240 AM

106.3 KFRX
LINCOLN'S HIT MUSIC

KX 96.9
LINCOLN'S ALTERNATIVE

LINCOLN'S SPORTS AUTHORITY
ESPN
((1480 FM))

104.1 BLAZE
THE HOT TALK

EAGLE 92.9
LINCOLN'S CLASSIC ROCK



Lincoln Children's ZOO

BOO AT THE ZOO

OVER 40 TRICK-OR-TREAT BOOTHS

OCTOBER 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30 | 5:30 – 8:00 P.M.

SAVE TIME! PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE AT LINCOLNZOO.ORG OR AT THE ZOO TODAY

RAISING CANE'S CHICKEN FINGERS MEALS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT LINCOLNZOO.ORG

OR WITH CASH DURING EVENT. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ZOO AND HELP CARE FOR THE ANIMALS.