



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MARYLAND ZOO WINTER HOURS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2014**

**BALTIMORE, MD** – The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is pleased to announce that the Zoo will again be open to the public in January and February 2014 each Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm with half price admission. “Many people have come to realize that a winter Zoo visit is a vastly different experience than it is any other time of year,” said Don Hutchinson, president/CEO of The Maryland Zoo. “Of course, it’s that difference that makes the Zoo a special place.”

Each day, the zoo keeper staff assess weather conditions such as temperature, wind, and ground slickness to decide whether particular animals will be safe and healthy outdoors. “Some animals, such as tortoises and a variety of African birds, are currently in their winter barns and will remain off exhibit until springtime,” said Mike McClure, general curator. “Many of the animals such as the leopard and penguins go in and out all winter long. And, as you can imagine, the otters and polar bears love our Maryland winters.”

Keepers also go the extra mile to prepare exhibits before the weather turns cold, and develop a variety of ways to care for animals in order to make the cold weather even more tolerable. “We also focus on making sure our staff is prepared to work in every type of weather condition,” continued McClure. “The animals need daily care, so the cold weather, the ice and the snow can’t keep us from doing our jobs.”

The Zoo will be closed on Christmas Day, and then open December 26 through December 31 from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. **The Zoo will be closed January 1 and 2, 2014.** Admission will be reduced to half off the regular weekend admission price beginning Friday, January 3, 2014. Adult admission will be \$8.75, children ages 2-11 \$6.25 and seniors \$7.25. Children under 2 and Zoo members are always free! The Zoo will resume daily operations and regular ticket pricing on Saturday, March 1, 2014.

Visit our website at [www.MarylandZoo.org](http://www.MarylandZoo.org) or Facebook ([www.facebook.com/marylandzoo](http://www.facebook.com/marylandzoo)) for up-to-date information on the Zoo in the winter, as well as possible weather-related closings.

### **About The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore**

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo’s varied natural habitat exhibits in areas such as Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the award-winning Children’s Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit [www.marylandzoo.org](http://www.marylandzoo.org).

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