

MARYLAND ZOO

NEWS

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THE MARYLAND ZOO TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ZOOS VICTORIA FOR ONGOING AUSTRALIA WILDFIRE EFFORTS

BALTIMORE, MD – The Maryland Zoo announced today that it will donate funds and begin a campaign to support wildlife rescue and rehabilitation efforts in response to the Australia wildfires.

An immediate donation of \$3000 from the Zoo’s Conservation Emergency Fund and Zoo volunteers will go directly to Zoos Victoria. As a nonprofit, state-run organization, Zoos Victoria includes three sites: Healesville Sanctuary, Melbourne Zoo, and Werribee Open Range Zoo, and is operating three wildlife triage centers on the bushfire front lines.

“The impact of the Australia bushfires on wildlife is devastating,” said Don Hutchinson, president and CEO of The Maryland Zoo. “Rescue and rehabilitative efforts will continue for a long time to come, and the needs will certainly grow. Conservation is at the forefront of The Maryland Zoo’s mission, and we want to support our conservation colleagues at Zoos Victoria.”

The bushfires have been burning since September 2019 and have consumed 15 million acres – more than double the size of the state of Maryland. Preliminary reports estimate that as many as one billion animals, representing thousands of species, have perished in the bushfires. The astonishing numbers include signature Australian species such as koalas and kangaroos, and also include thousands of lesser known species of birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects.

The funds will not only support immediate medical response, but also the long-term need for food, daily care and refuge for animals whose habitats have been destroyed by the bushfires.

To learn more about how you can donate, please check our website at www.marylandzoo.org/australia or visit Facebook at www.facebook.com/marylandzoo.

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 the award-winning Penguin Coast, Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the Children’s Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit www.marylandzoo.org.

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