ZOOGRAM

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Spring 2021



Your support and encouragement have made a world of difference to us at the Zoo, and we are so glad to be able to lift your spirits as well.

It's been a full year since COVID-19 changed the world and the ways that we work, play, and interact with each other. It's been a tough year, and everyone has struggled in one way or another. Even at a social distance, though, we know how vital it is to support one another, with a kind word or just a wave hello.

Your support and encouragement have made a world of difference to us at the Zoo, and we are so glad to be able to lift your spirits as well. Since July, I've had the pleasure of welcoming so many of you to the Zoo and hearing how excited you were to get outdoors, stretch your legs, and enjoy our beautiful park. Hearing the laughter and exclamations of wonder from Zoo visitors makes me smile, as I know it does everyone who works here.

I've also been gratified by the positive feedback on Zoo Lights. It can be nerve-wracking to try something brand new or-in this case-to do something that hasn't been done in over 20 years, while simultaneously putting COVID-19 protocols in place. Our team put a lot of work into the preparations, and staff manned extra shifts without complaint each evening to pull off something truly spectacular. The response was fantastic! We appreciate all the comments and constructive ideas about how we can make Zoo Lights even better going forward.

And that's not all! We've been rolling out some other new experiences for visitors to try, and so far they're getting great reviews, too. If you haven't participated yet in a Goat Trek, Penguin Fish Toss, or Penguin Training, you've got plenty to look forward to. Join us for these creative versions of animal enrichment, and trust me, you'll be enriched too!

As we continue to create opportunities for visitors to enjoy the Zoo in person, we're also cognizant of the fact that many are still looking for ways to connect virtually. In this *Zoogram*, you can read about how our Education team has been connecting with school groups, extended families, and even some local businesses through virtual field trips and ZOOmobiles. Be sure to check out these options on our website.

Meanwhile, we haven't missed a beat in caring for the animals or in pursuing our wildlife conservation work. We may not be traveling to South Africa or Bolivia this year for field work, but we've been doing plenty right here at the Zoo to advance our conservation programs. This *Zoogram* spotlights our behind-the-scenes contributions to Project SNOWstorm, for example.

Enjoy learning about all that we've been up to for the past few months, and please come see us this spring at the Zoo!

Sincerely,

J. Kirby Fowler, Jr. President & CEO

Click the images or boxes below to navigate

P

ZOO SPOTLIGHT



NEWS FROM THE ZOO



CONSERVATION CORNER



KIDS SECTION



PLAN YOUR NEXT VISIT



FEATURE STORY



SUPPORT THE ZOO



ZOO SPOTLIGHT

to a whole new season of outdoor wonder

We'd like to invite you to stretch your legs and make some memories at the Zoo this spring. The world's tallest animal, a bird that flies beneath the sea, and a cat whose roar can be heard for miles will put the wild in your step. Come for breakfast, make a day of it, or take in a twilight event–your choice! Our calendar is filling up fast with Penguin Fish Tosses, Goat Treks, Sip n' Strolls, Wine in the Wilderness, Guinness Nights, and so much more. We hope you'll join in the fun.

It's all happening at the Zoo!

PLAN YOUR NEXT VISIT

It's a new year, a new season, and a new chance to visit the Zoo! Join us this spring for daily activities, visits with the animals, and a calendar full of special events for you and your family.

As you plan your next visit, please reserve your timed entry in advance and review modifications designed to keep you, our staff, and the animals safe and healthy.

We look forward to seeing you soon! And remember – your visits help support our mission to care for the animals and to promote wildlife



BUNNY BONANZOO Presented by Mary Sue Candies |

conservation at home and around the world, so thank you!



Constellation presents BREAKFAST WITH THE ANIMALS <u>Click Here for Tickets</u>

One of the greatest experiences you can have at the Zoo is back this spring—breakfast with the animals! The coffee is hot, the food is delicious, and the company is unforgettable. Sign up now to reserve your spot. Same-day admission to the Zoo is included.



YOGA AT THE ZOO

<u>Click Here for Tickets</u>

From downward dog to cow, to lizard, cat and more, wildlife has a deep tie to this ancient practice. Now's your chance to connect even closer to nature during Yoga at the Zoo. Whether you're just beginning or you're looking to perfect your practice, a yoga class at the Zoo offers something wildly different.

April 2-4

Free with Zoo Admission

It's time once again for Bunny Bonanzoo! We'll be celebrating spring with chocolate eggs, candy chutes, games, crafts, food, and live entertainment. Fun for the whole family!



BIRTHDAY PARTIES Click Here for info and reservations

Bring your birthday crowd to the Zoo and enjoy a festive gathering on Celebration Hill, followed by a day with the animals. Let us help with the planning while you focus on the fun!



PICNICS

Click Here for more info and reservations

Want to take your family reunion or work party outdoors this spring? Then plan a picnic at the Zoo! You can host your group at Waterfowl Lake or Celebration Hill. Zoo staff will be on hand to assist, and any one of our approved caterers can help provide a spread.

CLICK HERE

to take a look at all of the Zoo's upcoming events and programs.

NEWS FROM THE ZOO

MAISIE MEETS THE TROOP

No doubt many of you have been following the story of Maisie, the newest and youngest member of the Zoo's chimpanzee troop. She was born at the Oklahoma City Zoo last August but soon moved to the Maryland Zoo after it became apparent that her birth mother could not properly care for her. The AZA's Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan (SSP) recommended the transfer, based largely on the Zoo's considerable experience and success with this species. For nearly six months, the Chimpanzee Forest team worked round-the-clock shifts, hand-rearing Maisie until she was old enough to meet some fellow chimpanzees.

In late January, Maisie's life took a dramatic turn. She began to meet the troop! Introductions between chimpanzees can be a tricky affair, as the Chimp Forest team knows very well, and patience and vigilance are essential to success. From the moment that introductions begin, the team takes its cues from the chimpanzees themselves. "From this point forward," said Erin Grimm, mammal collection and conservation manager for the Zoo, "every decision we make will be based on what we see happening between Maisie and the other chimps."

Maisie first met Abby, an adult female in the Zoo's troop that had been viewed as a potential surrogate mother. Abby has never given birth before, but she has helped raise several other orphan chimps and the hope was that she would do the same with Maisie. For whatever reason, though, Abby did not feel comfortable doing so this time around. Other adult females in the troop began to step in and show interest in Maisie, starting with Bunny and Rozi. Now, nearly two months along, it appears that Maisie will not be raised by any one female but by the entire group, with the help of Louie.

"Louie's role in all this has been helpful although unusual for a male chimp," says Grimm. "But that could change tomorrow, who knows!" The troop is sorting things out, and no matter what tomorrow brings, the Chimp Forest team will be ready to respond. Stay tuned!

CLICK HERE to see baby chimp videos!



RED-TAILED GUENONS

The colobus have new neighbors! A pair of young red-tailed guenons has moved in with them. Red-tailed guenons, like black-andwhite colobus, are tree-loving monkeys native to central Africa. They have colorful faces, long red tails, and cheek pouches that can store almost as much food as their stomachs. Depending on the day, you'll find the Zoo's pair inside Chimpanzee Forest, cruising the overhead primate trail, or outside at Lemur Lane. The six-year-old female, "Naim," came to the Zoo from ZooTampa at Lowry Park. The five-year-old male, "Gus," came from Zoo Atlanta. When they are old enough, they will have a chance to start their own family, as they have been recommended to breed by the AZA's Guenon Species Survival Plan (SSP).



AFRICAN PENGUIN CHICKS

The Zoo is celebrating another banner year for our African Penguin colony. Breeding season this past winter brought 10 new chicks into the fold. The last egg hatched in early February. After spending a few weeks in their parents' care, the chicks began getting to know their keepers and even learned to swim from them. The Zoo's colony is now more than 100 birds strong! African penguins are native to the rocky shorelines of South Africa and Namibia, and the species is endangered in the wild. You can see the youngest members of our colony at *Penguin Coast* this spring and summer.



CONSERVATION CORNER



The Zoo's male snowy owl sits quietly on the ground, facing into the sun, unaware of his contribution to science. Yet for weeks now, he has been test-driving a tiny transmitter that will tell a story of his species' flight and survival. He is a key player in Project SNOWstorm, one of the world's largest collaborative research projects focusing on snowy owls. To understand his role, we must first look back seven winters to 2014, when a snowy owl named "Delaware" took flight over Assateague Island.



A WINTER LIKE NO OTHER

Every winter, a smattering of snowy owls descends from the Arctic into southern Canada and the United States. The ghostly raptors pop up unpredictably on hay bales, atop utility poles, beside airport runways, and on the beaches of Atlantic barrier islands, among other places. Devoted birders keep an eye out for the occasional winged white wonder. Never in their wildest dreams, though, could they have envisioned a winter like that of 2013-14.

As the calendar flipped from one year to the next, snowy owls descended by the hundreds into southern Canada and across a large swath of the northern United States, from the lakes and prairies of Wisconsin to the frozen Great Lakes, east to New England, through the Northeast, and down the Atlantic coast. The massive irruption presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn more about this elusive species, and almost overnight, <u>Project SNOWstorm</u> launched.

Clockwise from top left: biological samples from wild snowy owls await processing at Project SNOWstorm Bio Bank; snowy owl blood sample, magnified; "Delaware" recuperating at Zoo; Delaware on Assateague Island

Now in its seventh year, the multi-national, multi-state, multi-agency effort brings together biologists, ecologists, licensed bird banders, state and federal wildlife veterinarians and pathologists, telemetry experts, citizen scientists, and one zoo—the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore—in a quest to better understand the summer and winter ecology of snowy owls. The heart of the

project involves tracking snowy owls by GPS transmitter. Biological samples are also taken from participating birds to glean information about their health. The Zoo maintains the Project SNOWstorm BioBank, and registered veterinary technicians on staff process and analyze all samples received.

THE STORY OF DELAWARE

One of the snowy owls that descended from the Arctic that first winter was Delaware. She turned up at Martin State Airport in Middle River, Maryland on March 18, 2014 with a severely injured wing. Dave Brinker, an ecologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a co-founder of Project SNOWstorm, referred the case to Dr. Ellen Bronson, Senior Director of Animal Health, Research & Conservation at the Zoo. She and her veterinary team partner frequently with DNR on wildlife and conservation work, including on Project SNOWstorm, and were uniquely well equipped to care for Delaware.

The young female snowy owl underwent a challenging surgery at the Zoo, spent nine months recuperating, and was then released on Assateague Island in December 2014. At the Zoo's request, she was tagged by Project SNOWstorm before release so as to be able to track her movements and make sure that she could still hunt successfully.

"We wanted to be sure that Delaware would return to a wild behavior pattern after the long time she spent recuperating at the Zoo," explains Brinker. "We were able to document the first few days it took her to return to expected movements, and it was good to see that she did that relatively quickly."

Delaware was fitted with a matchbox-sized, solar-powered GPS transmitter. She wore the transmitter backpack-style, tucked into a light harness of woven ribbon that fit around her wings and body. Altogether, the transmitter and harness weighed less than two ounces, a negligible amount for a bird her size and weight.

Project SNOWstorm has deployed dozens of these specially designed transmitters on the backs of wild snowy owls over the past seven years. The transmitters record an owl's location, altitude, and flight speed every six seconds and send data points every 30 minutes via cell phone towers. Over days, weeks, months, and in some cases years, thousands upon thousands of data points stitch together compelling narratives of how, where, when, and why particular snowy owls are resting, moving, hunting, or migrating.

DEBUNKING MYTHS

So far, the owls in the study have been debunking myths about their species. Let's start with why they're flying south to begin with. They don't seem to be doing so because of a food shortage in the Arctic, as many people previously thought. In fact, the opposite seems to be true. Most snowy owls that fly south in the winter are juveniles in good physical condition, not thin and starving. Scientists now theorize that they belong to bumper crops of owlets that hatched out the previous summer when lemmings—the popcorn of the tundra—were especially plentiful. More owlets in a summer breeding season means more juveniles taking flight in winter, spreading their wings and their territories below the Arctic Circle.

Project SNOWstorm also has pulled back the curtain on snowy owl hunting and confirmed what snowy owl researchers have known for decades. During the brief Arctic summer when the sun never sets, snowy owls hunt in broad daylight and mostly go after lemmings. On their summer breeding grounds, they are diurnal—or daytime—hunters because they must be. Those that fly south in winter, though, prefer to hunt at night, and those along coastlines often do so on open water. And it's not fish they're after – it's sleeping waterbirds!

Last but not least, we are learning that unfortunately many southbound snowy owls have toxins in their bodies, ranging from rodenticides and pesticides to lead and mercury. They face other perils down south as well, including car collision, electrocution by power lines, and danger at airports. (Interestingly, snowy owls seem to gravitate to airports, perhaps because the open landscape of runways resembles the Arctic tundra.)

THE DELAWARE FINALE

You may recall, in fact, that Delaware was found at an airport. This brings us back to her story. Soon after she was released on Assateague Island, the signal from her transmitter began to weaken. Photos taken by a Project SNOWstorm volunteer revealed why. She was preening her back feathers over the transmitter's solar panel and, as a result, the battery was not charging adequately. Steve Huy, another co-founder of Project SNOWstorm and a co-founder of Project Owlnet, was fortunate to get a chance to re-trap Delaware and remove her transmitter before she and it vanished for good.

"It was clear that she was doing very well in the wild," wrote Huy of his final encounter with Delaware, "and because of the issue with the feathers covering the solar panel, we decided to remove the transmitter and let her live her life in relative privacy."



The Zoo's male snowy owl fitted with new transmitter

TESTING A NEW DESIGN

Delaware inadvertently revealed one of a handful of limitations to those first-generation transmitters. With all that is now known about what works best on a snowy owl, telemetry experts collaborating on Project SNOWstorm decided this past year to tweak the transmitter design. Among other things, they revamped the case holding the transmitter, making it a bit longer, narrower, and higher so that it would rise above a snowy owl's thick back feathers but still rest stably. Using 3D-printing technology, they were also able to take weight out of the design, producing an even lighter case.

Before putting the newly designed transmitters out there in the wild, so to speak, it made sense to test-drive the prototype. That is how and why the Zoo's male snowy owl became a contributor to science. "We are the only zoo in the project," notes Dr. Bronson, "so we were the only ones in a position to make this offer, but happy to do so."

Dave Brinker came to the Zoo in early January and worked alongside Jen Kottyan, Avian Collection and Conservation Manager, to fit the Zoo's snowy owl with his new backpack. "It was pretty cool to see the old design versus the new and to see how Dave actually puts one on," says Kottyan. "It went easily and quickly."

Meanwhile, ever since getting his transmitter, the Zoo's snowy owl has ignored it. He seems oblivious to the sleek piece of equipment on his back. He will continue to wear the transmitter through the summer at least, and keepers will continue to observe him, but so far so good. "There are no problems at all to report," says Kottyan. Researchers are encouraged by this news, and the newly designed transmitters are already making their way onto the backs of wild snowies.



"Nothing to see here," the Zoo's snowy owl might say if he could talk. "Go about your business, and I'll go about mine."

There is a big picture to see, though, and it comes into sharper focus with every data point from every transmitter on every snowy owl being tracked by Project SNOWstorm. That picture, now seven years in the making, is teaching us about snowy owls and informing how we may better protect this magnificent species. On a broader note, this is how science happens methodically, iteratively, driven by data—and the Zoo is proud to partner in the effort.

FEATURE STORY



In a normal year, the Zoo welcomes up to 60,000 Maryland schoolchildren to its campus to spend a day with the animals. As we all know, though, this year was far from normal. Did that put a stop to field trips and ZOOmobiles? Certainly not! Find out how our intrepid team of Zoo educators kept connecting with kids.

When the Zoo's three Education managers were sent home in mid-March 2020 to work remotely, they thought it would only be for a few weeks. They sat down at their kitchen tables and began calling around to reschedule ZOO mobiles and school field trips for later in the spring or summer. Little did they or any of the rest of us realize that we were in for an entirely different reality.

As weeks stretched into months and the true measure of the coronavirus pandemic became apparent, the managers–Kristin VanBuskirk, Sharon Bowen, and Hannah Rupert–got creative. They consulted with Kerrie Kovaleski, the Zoo's vice president of education, and began brainstorming

ways to go virtual. With schools closed, students everywhere and at every grade level had become masters of Zoom, the video conferencing platform now eponymous with remote learning. It was time to jump on the Zoom bandwagon.

SOFA SAFAR

From home, the managers researched the nuts and bolts and technological demands of live, interactive video production. *Interactive* was key to what they wanted to do. "We didn't want to produce a TV show," explains VanBuskirk, "because from all that we were hearing, we knew that kids were missing connection. We wanted to create a smallgroup experience that would allow us to really get to know the kids, know their names, and let them jump in and ask questions anytime they wanted."

Soon after returning to the Zoo in early June 2020, the Education team launched "Sofa Safari," an alternative to in-person Zoo Camp and their first foray into virtual programming. The theme of the week was "Zoo Detectives." Every morning, kids would log on to their computers from home to meet up with Zoo educators and follow the trail of animal tracks, scat, and other clues. They met Animal Ambassadors along the way, visited with several Zoo animals, and made use of kits containing observation journals and materials for crafts and other activities. (The kits were delivered to their homes days earlier by ZOOmobile, with "Giant Paco"–the Education department's unofficial

mascot-riding shotgun, no less!)

"It was fun in a stressful, overwhelming type of way because it was all so brand new," laughs VanBuskirk. "We just told the kids, 'we're going to be doing a whole bunch of things, it's going to be really fun, but if we have any tech issues just please be patient with us,' and they absolutely were." If a microphone went out or the Wifi was spotty or someone forgot to mute, the kids took it in stride. "Everybody just got it," says VanBuskirk.

TRIAL BY ERROR

During those three weeks of Sofa Safari, the Zoo team–which, mind you, still consisted of only the three managers and Kovaleski–was immersed in video production on the fly. The learning curve was steep, but the takeaways were invaluable.

They learned that iPads are great for this type of virtual programming, but not all iPad cameras are created equally. The one on the back of the device is much better than the one on the front. To overcome this situation, they mounted two iPads on separate tripods and flipped the images so



Top: Education manager Sharon Bowen presents a biofact clue to young Zoo Detectives participating from home in last summer's Sofa Safari.

Below: Bowen, VanBuskirk, and Hannah Rupert became trailblazers of video outreach for the Zoo.



that presenter and participants could see each other equally well.

They also learned that you can't demonstrate the dissection of an owl pellet from a distance. You need a close-up camera. They rigged up a third iPad on a tripod with an arm mount and trained its camera on the demonstration table.

Finally, they learned that WiFi reception on Zoo grounds is uneven. You can still take virtual learners around the Zoo but you need to pick and choose your spots!

All these lessons were helpful as Zoo educators-turned-producers moved into their next phase of programming. As they gained experience in video production, they maintained focus on the type of experience they were trying to create.

"We want to capture the excitement of being at the Zoo, of using your senses and moving and connecting with a variety of exotic animals," explains Kovaleski. "We've needed to be really creative to make you forget the experience is happening through a camera."

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS AND ZOOMOBILES

In the fall of 2020, three of the Zoo's most experienced educators were able to rejoin the Education team and they hit the ground running. They were tasked with creating content for a whole new slate of virtual field trips and ZOOmobiles. Within weeks, they were ready to go, and in the several months since, the team has been hosting up to five virtual field trips and three virtual ZOOmobiles per day. Each live program runs 30 minutes. One educator hosts while another acts as producer.

During a virtual field trip, the host takes kids around the Zoo in pursuit of a particular theme, using video footage of different animals and exhibits. For "Animal Giants," kids might peek inside the mouth of an African elephant and learn about its six giant teeth. For "Small but Mighty," they might watch African penguins swimming underwater like tiny torpedoes.

Virtual ZOOmobiles are similar in presentation but feature Animal Ambassadors rather than video footage. Certain Animal Ambassadors have really taken to the new format, especially the porcupine. He comes right out of his kennel, cruises around, and seems to enjoy a good close-up. Meanwhile, the beauty of a quiet and carefully sealed broadcast studio is that if someone–let's say a von der Decken hornbill–decides to fly up onto a light fixture, that's fine, no need to panic, he can do that and then kids can watch as his keeper recalls him.

SOCKS AND PENGUINS

For children participating from home, a virtual visit to or from the Zoo must be a welcome distraction. As one third-grade class recently signed on for a ZOOmobile presentation, multiple screens filled up with attentive faces or legs dangling from bunk beds or sock-covered feet perched on desks. Were these kids really listening? Were they really engaged? Definitely! When it came time to ask questions, they jumped right in, wanting to know how box turtles differ from snapping turtles and how penguin chicks differ from the fuzzy yellow kind and everything in between. Some kids even got up and started dancing during the presentation!

It just goes to show, it feels good to connect, even from afar. Zoo educators can attest to that just as much as their young audiences and will continue to offer virtual programming for the foreseeable future. So, whether we see you by Zoom or in person at the Zoo, we look forward to connecting soon!

Book a Sofa Safari 🛛 🖗

Book a ZOOmobile 🖉







Song is a great way to identify birds in your backyard or around your neighborhood. In spring especially, even before you can see a bird, you can often hear it singing.

Why do birds sing so much in spring?

Because of babies! Spring is the start of breeding season for most Maryland birds. Males sing to attract females and to warn other males away from their territory.

When a bird sings, it is telling you what it is and where it is.

To females, a male bird sings "come visit me." To males, he chirps "buzz off, I was here first."

If a female likes what she hears, she will enter a male's territory to check him out. She will look at all sorts of things, from the quality of his feathers to the skill of his nest-building. If she likes what she sees—and hears—she will accept him as her mate.

Let's listen!

Click below to hear the songs of four birds common to Maryland. Once you've trained your ears to their tunes, set your alarm for early morning and step outside. Who do you hear? Anyone familiar?





Northern Cardinal







Downy Woodpecker



Keep practicing, and one day you will be as good as Zoo Naturalist Peter Martin at identifying birds by their songs and calls.

Peter first became interested in birds as a kid growing up in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Now, he spends a lot of his spare time bird-watching—and listening! He has become a good mimic, too, and uses his skills to participate in citizen-science projects focused on birds.

<u>CLICK HERE to listen</u> as Peter answers the call of an Eastern Screech Owl on a recent spring evening near his home in Hereford, Maryland.

SUPPORT THE ZOO

GEM OF A PENGUIN

This breeding season, 10 African penguin chicks hatched out at *Penguin Coast*. Each received a gem of a name, in keeping with this year's naming theme. And the Zoo had a gem of a partner, Maryland's very own Smyth Jewelers, to spread the word about the precious newcomers!

"We are feeling the love! It has been great fun partnering with the Zoo to help them name this year's rare penguin chicks after equally precious gemstones," said Ruthann Carroll, director of advertising at Smyth Jewelers. "African penguins are endangered in their native range, and we are happy to help bring more attention to the great work the Zoo does on behalf of the penguins in their care as well as in the wild."

To celebrate the first chick hatched in 2021, the Zoo and Smyth Jewelers held a public naming contest. More than 4,400 votes were cast, and Ruby was the big winner!

Thank you to everyone at Smyth Jewelers for your support of the Zoo and for feeling the love for penguins.

Thank you for your support! We could not have made it through this past year without you. We are here for the animals no matter what, and we appreciate that you have been here for us. As the Zoo continues to recover from the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic, we ask for your continued support. If you can, please donate, and help us continue to provide the best possible care for all of the amazing animals at the Zoo.

Click to Donate Today

WINE IN THE WILDERNESS

Call it a vineyard variation. Instead of Brew at the Zoo this year, we'll be celebrating Wine in the Wilderness! This event is scheduled for Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20.

Join us after hours in the *Maryland Wilderness* to take in the serene sights and sounds of the evening while also enjoying wine, charcuterie, decadent pastries, and live music. You'll be able to visit with some of our Maryland native species as well, including bobcats and North American river otters.

There will be a flower-wall backdrop for photos and vendors on hand for those who want to do a little shopping. Guests will also receive wine tumblers and fun temporary tattoos as favors.

Wine in the Wilderness will be a good time, to be sure, but also a vital fundraiser for the Zoo. Your attendance will directly benefit the Zoo's animal, education, and conservation programs. We appreciate your support—and could not do it without you!—so please mark your calendar and reserve your tickets.

Reservations are required for this event. Tickets go on sale Friday, April 23rd.

Your safety is important to us, and you can be sure that we will be adhering to all State and City public health guidelines in hosting this event. Luckily, we have plenty of room in the Wilderness to spread out and gather safely! Guests are encouraged to stay with their groups, practice proper social distancing, and wear a face mask when not eating or drinking.



ake your roars OUTDOORS

Before you visit, <u>click here to review</u> our

important health and safety measures.

Click here to purchase tickets and reserve your entry time.

Administrative offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. during the months of March through December and Friday-Monday during the months of January and February. The Zoo is closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

To all our friends and members, thank you for your continued support of the Zoo and its amazing animals. Here's to a happy and healthy 2021! We look forward to seeing you on grounds this spring.

While planning your next visit, please check the Zoo's website—<u>www.MarylandZoo.org</u>—for timely updates on events, programs, exhibits, and improvements. Follow the tabs on the website to reach any Zoo department, including Group Sales, Membership, and Education.

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Visit <u>MarylandZoo.org</u> for a full listing of the Zoo's leadership, including the <u>Board of Trustees</u> of the Maryland Zoological Society, Inc.

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