

Lions & Tigers Hunt Easter Eggs

Monkeys, Hyenas, Kangaroos and More Enjoy Easter Early

The event: While children are out seeking small candy-filled plastic eggs this weekend, the creatures at Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples will be ripping into giant papier-mâché eggs stuffed with raw meat, fruit, and insects. This Saturday, March 26th, the zoo's animal enrichment committee and the Naples Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers will be playing Easter bunny to the animals by delivering these large decorated eggs filled with treats to a variety of the zoo's animals for them to claw and gnaw.

The zoo is open regular hours from 9:30 to 5:30 on Saturday. **The zoo is closed Easter Sunday.** Adult admission is \$15.95 and children ages 4 to 15 are \$9.95. Admission includes the zoo, botanical garden, Meet the Keeper Series, Alligator Bay Feeding, and the Primate Expedition Cruise as well as the zoo's two feature presentations: *Planet Predator* and *Serpents: Fangs & Fiction* which both feature live animals and exciting wildlife video. More at www.napleszoo.com.

When: Saturday, March 26, 2005. See times below.

Where: **Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples**
at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road across from Coastland Center.

Why: Proper animal husbandry includes not only cleaning, nutritional diets, veterinary care, and daily record keeping, but also *behavioral enrichment*. Professional zookeepers regularly develop new activities to keep animals mentally stimulated. Enrichment includes not only the obvious toys which can be manufactured for the animal to play with (or destroy), but also may include inter-species interaction, supplemental foraging activities, and even the use of scents to increase curiosity about objects. With a proper rotation of activities, animals have the opportunity to consistently engage in something fun or thought provoking.

Photo Ops:

- 10:00 Mustached monkeys** These small guenons will get fruit filled eggs.
- 10:30 The Australian kangaroos that live together with Asian muntjac** will enjoy large papier mache Easter egg during the Meet the Keeper presentation.
- 11:30 The cougars** in Panther Glade will get eggs with meat treats.
- 12:00** The zoo's **African lions** will rip into their Easter Eggs during the Meet the Keeper presentation
- 2:00** The **African crested porcupines** in African Oasis area will get eggs.
- 2:30 Africa's second largest predator**, the spotted hyenas, will get their eggs.
- 3:45** Indochinese tigers, **the rarest tigers in America**, will get large eggs during the Meet the Keeper presentation.

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CARIBBEAN GARDENS
ZOO