

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Naples Zoo Animals Play with “Firecrackers” During Independence Day Weekend

Naples, FL — Even the animals at Naples Zoo are celebrating during the July 4th weekend. From Friday, June 30 through Tuesday, July 4, animals at Naples Zoo will get to play with firecrackers. Well, kind of. Instead of flashpowder filled explosives, giant red, white, and blue cardboard tubes decorated like firecrackers will be stuffed with the animals’ favorite treats throughout the weekend. Zoo guests can join in watching the fun of animals blasting their way into the firecrackers at these times:

Friday, June 30 at 1 p.m.	African wild dogs
Saturday, July 1 at 12:30 p.m.	African lions
Sunday, July 2 at 2 p.m.	Indochinese tigers
Monday, July 3 at 1 p.m.	Lemurs
Tuesday, July 4 at 3:30 p.m.	Spotted hyenas

Events like this are part of a daily animal enrichment program. Proper animal husbandry includes not only cleaning, nutritional diets, veterinary care, and daily record keeping, but also behavioral enrichment. Enrichment includes toys for the animal to play with (or destroy), supplemental foraging activities, and even the use of scents to increase curiosity about objects. By rotating activities, animals consistently engage in something fun and thought provoking.

Military Personnel Free During Independence Day Weekend

In honor of those who serve our country, Naples Zoo is offering free admission to all active and retired military personnel from June 30 through July 4. Military personnel will receive free admission to the Zoo by presenting military identification, plus adult and child guests in their party will also receive \$2 off regular Zoo admission during the weekend.

Naples Zoo is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road across from the Coastland Center mall in the heart of Naples. In addition to innovative presentations like Serpents: Fangs & Fiction and Planet Predator, the Zoo offers a historic botanical garden and many rare animals. Guests board the Primate Expedition Cruise to glide by islands inhabited by monkeys, lemurs, and apes living in natural habitats. Admission (\$15.95 adult/ \$9.95 children) includes all shows and the boat ride. Visitors can also pick up a healthy lunch and snacks at the SUBWAY® Cafe and shop for wild gifts at tame prices in The ZOO Gift Shop. The Zoo welcomes guests daily from 9:30 to 5:30 with the last ticket sold at 4:30. To learn more, click www.napleszoo.com or call (239) 262-5409.

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