

From Tim Tetzlaff, Director of Conservation and Communications

For Immediate Release

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Lions, Leopards & More Get in Holiday Spirit!

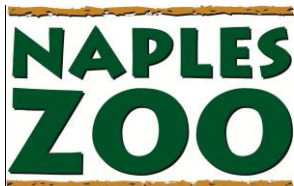
12 Days of Wild Holiday Fun at Naples Zoo Starts Dec 13!



On the twelve days of Christmas, Naples Zoo gave to you twelve gators swimming, eleven siamangs swinging, ten hyenas laughing, nine panthers prowling, eight gibbons singing, seven hogs-a-rooting, six spider monkeys playing, five tigers, four roaring lions, three spotted leopards, two Malagasy fozas, and a lemur in a palm tree.

Although there won't be that many of each animal, for 12 days in December, from the 13th all the way to the 24th, Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens will be delivering special gifts to the wild animals including a wildly-themed take on the lyrics of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Naples Zoo guests will watch lions, leopards, and fozas claw into beautifully decorated presents filled with meat treats; alligators swallow a festive turkey leg dinner; apes nibble fruity treats; Red river hogs play with their ice snowman; and the new giraffe herd will munch into their leafy presents; and many other animals enjoy holiday-related delicacies with a wild twist. The full schedule of events is online at www.napleszoo.org/holiday.

Adding to the community spirit, many Southwest Floridians are contributing to the holiday fun. Recreating a veritable subtropical Santa's workshop, residents at Brookdale Senior Living communities from Naples to Punta Gorda are once again crafting the animal-friendly treats that will add to the animal's holiday cheer. Some of the senior toymakers themselves will also make special visits to Naples Zoo to see their presents get wildly unwrapped. Ice sculpture services for the snowman are being donated by Cold Cuts, Inc. available at (239) 592-9670.



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Events like this are part of the daily animal enrichment program. Proper animal husbandry includes not only thorough cleaning, nutritional diets, veterinary care, and daily record keeping, but also behavioral enrichment. Enrichment begins with exhibit design, number and variety of animals living together, and also 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.

Naples Zoo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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 includes all shows and the boat ride (\$19.95 adults age 13+ / \$11.95 children 3 to 12, under 3 free. Twenty-five cents of each admission goes to the *Naples Zoo Conservation Fund* to support regional and international conservation projects.) Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age.

Visitors can also pick up a healthy lunch and snacks at *Wynn's at the Zoo* and shop for wild gifts in The ZOO Gift Shop. Pursuing its mission to delight guests with the wonders of the natural world to inspire the conservation of our planet's remaining wild areas and their wondrous inhabitants, the Zoo welcomes guests daily from 9:00 to 5:00 with the last ticket sold at 4:00. As always, Naples Zoo is closed on Christmas Day. Zoo memberships and discount tickets are available online at www.napleszoo.org or call (239) 262-5409.

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Print Quality Image of animals and holiday treats available for immediate download at www.napleszoo.org/press



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