Calgary’s zoo is tops

After an extensive review and inspection by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the zoo received a five-year accreditation in September. This means that it meets or exceeds the highest standards for zoos in North America. It’s a significant milestone and accomplishment — only five Canadian facilities are accredited by AZA.

“Receiving accreditation is recognition of the tremendous efforts of all our staff and volunteers, the strong support we receive from the community, and our commitment to excel in everything we do,” says Dr. Clément Lanthier, Calgary Zoo President and CEO.

The AZA accreditation team looks at all aspects of the zoo including animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education and safety. A significant part of being accredited includes a promise to make significant contributions to conservation. In celebration of achieving our accreditation, we are sharing some of our many conservation efforts with you in this newsletter.

Whooping crane mothers know best

A seemingly chaotic collection of numbers from 16 years of data may help researchers find solutions to help increase hatching success in one of the world’s best-known endangered species. Whooping cranes reached an all-time low of about 16 birds in 1941. Although today there are approximately 500 wild and captive birds, numbers are still not high enough to ensure their future success as a species.

Scientists Dr. Des Smith and Keith Gibson from the zoo’s Centre for Conservation Research (CCR) are trying to find out exactly why some whooping crane eggs don’t hatch, and searching for ways to increase the number of successful hatchings. The incubation stage is one of the least studied and understood parts of whooping crane breeding programs. In some years, a significant percentage of embryos died during the incubation stage, so it’s an important problem to solve. Working through a puzzle of data from the world’s three top whooping crane breeding centres — the Calgary Zoo’s Devonian Wildlife Conservation Centre, The International Crane Foundation and Patuxent Wildlife Research Centre — Des and Keith tried to see if they could find a way to predict whether whooping crane eggs would hatch successfully.

They discovered that one of the strongest predictors of hatching success was the amount of time eggs spent under a real bird. The longer the egg remained under a real bird (either a biological whooping crane or a surrogate sandhill crane), rather than an artificial incubator, the greater its chance of hatching successfully.

So, the research proves that mother does know best in the world of whooping cranes.
Baby giraffe helps save frogs

The Calgary Zoo’s baby giraffe, born on July 29, used her very significant cuteness factor to help northern leopard frogs—a North American species at risk—during the zoo’s annual Zoogala fundraiser in September.

The rights to name the giraffe calf were auctioned to enthusiastic attendees at the president’s dinner as part of a new “Species Saving Species” program. When Mike and Sherri Balm learned that the funds raised would help address the serious crisis facing amphibians worldwide, they generously stepped forward to lend their support.

“We were absolutely delighted to be able to help the Calgary Zoo’s amphibian research efforts in this way,” said Sherri Balm. “When we understood that the magnitude of this amphibian crisis could have the same potential impact for species loss as the extinction of the dinosaurs, we felt it was so important to help.”

The funds contributed will be used to support research conducted by the zoo’s Centre for Conservation Research (CCR) to survey northern leopard frog habitat.

Mike Balm has requested that the calf be named “Sherri” after his wife.

Year of the Frog may soon be gone, but the research carries on

Year of the Frog may be coming to an end, but the northern leopard frog research at the Calgary Zoo’s Centre for Conservation Research (CCR) is just beginning. Nearly one third of amphibians around the world are at risk of extinction, including Canada’s northern leopard frog.

To manage and successfully reintroduce these frogs, we need to know how many are still in the wild and where they live. But amphibians don’t make this an easy task. With excellent camouflage and fantastic hiding skills, it’s difficult to find out how many ponds and water bodies are still home to amphibians.

In 2009, in association with Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and the Alberta Conservation Association, scientists at the CCR will begin surveying several northern leopard frog sites and keep track of how many times they see frogs at each location. They will create a mathematical model to calculate the odds of seeing a frog at a given site and determine how different habitat types and weather conditions affect those odds.

The information gained from this study will address major knowledge gaps in northern leopard frog ecology that will help researchers design better surveys in the future. It will also provide more information on frog habitat and what makes a good reintroduction site. Ultimately, the hope is to increase the northern leopard frog population in Alberta.
Recycling, horticulture style

Reduce, reuse and recycle is a way of life for the horticulture crew at the Calgary Zoo. We’re always looking for new ways to use our garden refuse. Trees removed for safety reasons are the perfect ‘furniture’ for animal enclosures. Pruned branches from dogwoods, willows, and poplars make great fresh snacks for many of our animals (the giraffes love fresh caragana boughs). We grind other woody material into wood chips, providing soft bedding for animal habitats and mulch for planted areas.

Leafy plant waste is also in demand here at the zoo. Edible annuals including pansies, kale and parsley offer variety in our animals’ diets and spent tulip bulbs make a wonderful treat for our gorillas. We send annuals, grass clippings and other plant waste that we can’t find a way to reuse to the City of Calgary for composting.

It is amazing to see how a little planning can transform regular garden chores into a program that benefits our animals and our environment.

– Corinne Hannah, Horticulturist

ENMAX Conservatory will have great energy

When the doors of the renovated ENMAX Conservatory reopen in fall 2009, it will be an amazing showcase for wonders of the horticultural world. Thanks to the generosity of ENMAX Corporation, it will also feature cutting-edge technology that supports energy conservation and environmental responsibility.

While the details of these new technologies might seem complicated, the message is simple: the energy they produce will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and transform the ENMAX Conservatory into one of the most sustainable complexes of its kind in North America.

Earth heat grows healthy plants

Geothermal (meaning ‘earth heat’) heating and cooling is one of several alternative energy tools to be used in the ENMAX Conservatory. Harnessing the natural constant temperature of the earth, geothermal technology circulates water beneath the earth’s surface, transferring natural underground heat into a heat source for the ENMAX Conservatory in the winter. In the summer, the system works in reverse, using cooler underground temperatures to cool the building.

Powered by sun and wind

Today, a wind turbine west of the Conservatory captures the power of wind, converts it to electricity using an electrical generator and directs it back into the electrical grid. Solar cells installed on the roof of a new banquet facility will convert energy from the sun directly into electricity.

Other technologies such as a combined heat and power system, and an evacuated glass tube solar hot water heating system that converts solar energy into heat will also increase energy efficiency in the building.

You will be able to learn more about each of these technologies, how they work and how they might one day be used in your own home, through interactive interpretive displays in the new ENMAX Conservatory.

– Corinne Hannah, Horticulturist

A wind turbine west of the ENMAX Conservatory is just one of many technologies that will combine to make the new facility one of the most sustainable of its kind in North America. You will be able to see and learn about each of these technologies when the doors reopen in fall 2009.
Accreditation and conservation

Receiving accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is a significant accomplishment that comes with a promise to take a powerful stance on conservation. AZA accreditation requires zoos to be actively involved in animal health, research ecology, external conservation projects, and educating and inspiring the public about the wildlife and the habitats they call home.

The zoo’s Centre for Conservation Research contributes to this mandate with innovative research in areas including wildlife ecology and health, and captive breeding and reintroduction programs for some of Canada’s most endangered species.

Rolling, rolling, rolling

Electronic eggs give researchers a glimpse into whooping crane nests

Scientists at the zoo’s Centre for Conservation Research are using electronic whooping crane eggs to sneak a peek at conditions inside whooping crane nests and incubators. There are many factors that affect hatching success for these endangered birds including humidity, temperature, light and the number of times an egg is rolled. Electronic eggs have microchip data loggers that record this information, giving researchers an inside view of both nest and incubator conditions.

And the preliminary results are showing that this is something researchers need to see. So far, it looks like there are differences between natural nests and incubators that might affect the overall success in hatching whooping crane chicks.

Data from electronic eggs shows that average humidity is lower and average temperature is higher in some incubators compared with natural nests. Whooping crane eggs need to have the right level of humidity for embryos to stay healthy. If the egg is too wet or too dry, the eggs do not develop properly. High temperatures in developing eggs can also cause the eggs to be unsuccessful.

Electronic eggs also show that humans aren’t doing as well as whooping cranes when it comes to rolling eggs during incubation. Egg turning is important because it helps ensure all parts of the egg have an even temperature, prevents the embryo from adhering to the shell and plays a role in embryo nutrition.

In the future, this information will help researchers and technicians make improvements to incubators used in whooping crane breeding programs across North America and hopefully increase the total number of fledgling whooping cranes that are released into the wild.

Pssst … what’s an SSP?

You might have seen the term SSP in this newsletter or on signs throughout the zoo, but what does it mean?

Reintroducing endangered species into the wild is an important tool for restoring the planet’s ecological balance. One way zoos work toward saving endangered species is through programs like the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan (SSP). Through this program, populations of many endangered species in captivity are carefully monitored. The goal is to keep options open for possible future reintroduction to the wild. The zoo currently has over 20 different SSP species including western lowland gorillas, Siberian tigers and red pandas, just to name a few.

Did you know?

Whooping cranes can live into their mid-twenties and mate for life. They also have an elaborate dancing ritual, ruffling their feathers and performing leaps and bows to entice their mates.

Husky Energy Endangered Species Reintroduction Research Program

Husky Energy is a proud sponsor of the Husky Energy Endangered Species Reintroduction Research Program at the Calgary Zoo’s Centre for Conservation Research. This program is vital to the preservation of endangered species in Alberta and Canada and demonstrates Husky’s stewardship and support for the ecosystems on which we all depend.
Notes from the field

Anna Hargreaves, a Masters of Science student with the Centre for Conservation Research (CCR) and the University of Calgary, spent two months this summer in the Arctic studying shorebirds. Check out some new photos from her exciting summer research!

Why the look of triumph on the face of the researcher holding that bird? The researcher was me, and the bird was the twentieth female ruddy turnstone I’d trapped this summer. Not only was she the last bird I needed to catch of that species, but doing so was hard work.

In some ways, all the birds I trapped this summer were hard work — the months of painstaking planning that go into any research study were compounded by the fact that this project was taking place on a remote island in the Canadian Arctic. After our small plane dropped us off on the gravel esker we called home, we had only one re-supply flight for two months.

A link between shorebird declines and pollution?

Aside from the logistical challenges of working in the Arctic, there was the challenge of finding shorebird nests at all. My mission this summer was to collect blood and feather samples from adult birds, to see whether they are exposed to heavy metal pollution on their Arctic nesting grounds and southern wintering grounds, respectively. Exposure to pollution is one of the main hypotheses for the decline of so many Canadian shorebird species, but almost no data exists for our Arctic-nesters. The only way to catch shorebirds up there is on the nest, and their speckled eggs are amazingly, frustratingly invisible on the open tundra.

Researcher versus poo-showering birds

Even with these challenges out of the way, this particular bird was tricky. Most turnstones are feisty parents, and will loudly tell you off as soon as you’re within 50 metres of their nest. However, even more aggressive nest-defenders are Sabine’s gulls, which not only shriek in a particularly nerve-grating way, but kick you in the head and unleash a rain of gull-poo. They only stop to refuel. This particular turnstone and her mate were nesting right beside a Sabine’s nest, using the gulls as avian guard dogs.

I’d tried trapping this bird the day before the photo, walking 2.5 kilometres across soggy tundra in floppy hip waders to set up a drop-door trap on the nest. My opponent took one look at the cage-like trap and wasn’t having any of it. The next day I returned with my jerk net trap — the trap of last resort for fussy birds. As it’s name suggests, this trap requires the researcher to hide away from the nest with a cord that runs to the trap — when the bird sits on the nest, you jerk the cord, the net springs over the bird, and voila.

And the winner is...

Turnstones are no dummies, so hiding means lying on the ground, under a camouflage cloak, keeping perfectly still. Unfortunately, Sabine’s gulls are not fooled by camouflage cloaks. Every time the turnstone approached her nest I’d hear the diagnostic shriek of a Sabine’s gull, and feel on my face the fine mist of high velocity poo filtered through a camo-cloak. Which, of course, one cannot wipe off while pretending not to be there. Seven poos, 12 whacks to the head and 45 minutes of mosquito bites later, the turnstone finally decided the gull was simply paranoid, that I must be a rock after all, and sat on her nest.

Thus, the look of triumph.

— Anna Hargreaves

Catching shorebirds requires stealth and camouflage - the camouflage cloak Anna hides under provides both.
At least, if you are a wild animal living in Ghana, you might be! “We have been using remote cameras attached to trees to try to learn more about what animals are doing when we are not around,” says Donna Sheppard, Sanctuaries Advisor with the zoo’s Conservation Outreach Department.

Cameras have been used with much success in several parts of the world, but using this equipment in the tropics can be challenging. “We’ve gone through a series of cameras to see what would work,” says Donna. “The cameras need to stand up to the ruggedness of the tropics — it’s dry up north, humid on the coast and there are lots of bugs — it’s a good testing ground.”

Shedding light on hippos at night

The camera team started by strapping cameras to trees along hippo exits leading out of the river and into the feeding lawns. It was a good test for the cameras and they were pleased to capture images of hippos lumbering about in the dead of night.

They also had an unexpected spin-off from testing the cameras. A camera mounted near a protected area of the sanctuary caught hunters on film. What was originally set up as a research tool is now helping with management and monitoring of the sanctuary. The staff and Board of Wechiau are dealing with this obvious violation of the sanctuary bylaws and would like to use the cameras as a permanent monitoring tool to help inform sanctuary management decisions including where to put ranger huts.

New sanctuary uses cameras to establish boundaries

A newer Calgary Zoo conservation outreach project based on the Wechiau model of community conservation, the Avu Lagoon Sitatunga Sanctuary, is also benefiting from the camera technology.

During this first year of the project, a team has been working to set boundaries for the community-protected area for sitatunga. It’s no small feat considering these antelopes are very shy and difficult to see. They live in swampy areas with floating vegetation which is perfectly suited to them — but not for humans.

Sneaking a peek at an elusive species

The team started with information from aerial surveys that showed areas that would be likely sitatunga habitat. Then they travelled to these areas and found trackways showing that sitatunga had been there.

After mounting cameras and leaving them for a three-week period, they finally were able to get photos of these shy animals. “We were generously rewarded with images of a couple of different males,” says Donna. “One was a particularly remarkable fellow with long and twisty horns. He seemed as interested in the camera as the camera was in him, coming over to take a closer look in several shots.”

Determining which areas of the Sanctuary can be shared and which ones should be off-limits is an important part of establishing the sanctuary. “It’s a huge responsibility to get this right and the cameras are a big help in confirming which areas the animals are using,” explains Donna.

More cameras are already on order and with this expanded fleet, teams at each sanctuary will be working hard to continue to document the prevalence and activity patterns of our various target species.

New cameras offer a window on the nighttime world of hippos.

Meet the sitatunga

Sitatungas are antelopes that stand about one and a half metres at the shoulder. They have a waterproof coat that is dark brown in males and reddish brown in females. Both males and females have white stripes and spots as well as white splotches on their faces. Their hooves are long and thin to deal with their swampy habitat. Males have a mane as well as horns, which are twisted and can reach almost a metre long.
United Nations award recognizes hippo sanctuary success

We are thrilled to announce that the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary recently received a prestigious international award through the United Nation’s Equator Initiative. After being recognized as one of 25 communities worldwide demonstrating outstanding commitment to reducing poverty through conservation, the Sanctuary was awarded special recognition along with four other projects. The prize totalled US $20,000.

“As you can imagine, the people of Wechiau, especially the three chiefs, are ecstatic,” says Brian Keating, Head of Conservation Outreach. “It’s a great honour to be recognized among so many amazing projects and a wonderful tribute to the hard work of all the people at Wechiau, our own staff in the field and all the contributors to the project.”

Conservation lion raises funds to save species

On your next visit to the TransAlta Rainforest, don’t be surprised if you get a warm welcome from the zoo’s new life-sized animatronic lion. Perched on top of the Warden’s Cabin, the friendly looking, yet realistic ING DIRECT Conservation Lion encourages visitors to approach and learn more about conservation.

With a $1 donation, visitors can choose one of three video conservation messages that will appear on a plasma screen near the lion. The first set of videos includes: “Panthers and Pop Cans,” “Gorillas and Cell Phones” or “Frogs and Water Hippos.”

Equator Prizes are awarded to 25 communities that demonstrate outstanding commitment to reducing poverty through conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity at the grassroots level.

Over 300 nominations were received from initiatives throughout the Equator Belt that represent a wide array of efforts to reduce poverty through conservation, the demonstration of outstanding commitment to the sustainable use of biodiversity and the support of other initiatives. Nominations were accepted from local level organizations and communities as well as national and international organizations.

Conservation lion raises funds for a cause

The ING DIRECT Conservation Lion, now in place on the roof of the Warden’s Cabin in the TransAlta Rainforest, will help inform visitors about conservation issues while raising funds for conservation projects around the world.

Did you know?

The Calgary Zoo supports up to a dozen conservation projects in Canada and around the world each year.
Ask a zookeeper

In our September issue, we invited you to send us your questions for our zookeepers. We love to get your questions, keep sending them to: michellew@calgaryzoo.ab.ca — you might see the answer in one of our future issues!

How old is Sheldon, the tortoise?
From Dylan
You may have noticed Zoo volunteers walking our leopard tortoise, named Sheldon, inside or outside the TransAlta Rainforest. Sheldon arrived at the zoo in May 1993, but we have no information on how old he was at the time. Leopard tortoises have an average life span of 75 years.

Do lions eat ostriches in the wild?
From Morganna, Age 3
Lions will sometimes catch young ostrich, but usually avoid them once they reach adult size. Ostriches can see very well and run very fast. They try to protect their young with their strong legs and sharp claws and can sometimes kill lions.

How many giraffes do you have and how old are they?
From Sam
Right now we have four giraffes. They are:
Mardi (female) - 18 years old
Carrie (female) - 15 years old
Tenga (male) - 13 years old
Sherri (female) - 3 months old. She was born July 29.

Do you turn the lights on in the nocturnal area at night since it’s dark during the day?
Barb Campbell, zookeeper for Australia and Creatures of the Night, says that yes, the lights do go on during our night-time so the bats and other animals that are awake in the dark have time to sleep. Before the lights go on at about 9:00 pm, the animals start bedding down for the night. They begin to wake up in the morning when zookeepers are cleaning the habitats. The lights go out at about 10:00 am after the zookeepers finish cleaning.

How does the zookeeper get into the red pandas’ enclosure?
From Dylan Conley, Age 5
There is a door built into the west side of the rock wall. Once inside the habitat, zookeepers use a pin lock to keep it closed. In the photo to the right, zookeeper Ingrid Goemans waves from the zookeeper access door in the red panda habitat.

Ingrid gets lots of questions about red pandas. Here are a few commonly asked questions and answers.

When is the best time to see red pandas?
The best time to visit the red pandas is during feeding time. There’s no guarantee, but you can usually find a zookeeper feeding the red pandas sometime between 12:00 and 12:30 pm, then again between 3:30 and 4:00 pm. In the wild, red pandas live in the cold climate of the Himalayan mountains, so they like the cooler weather. Fall and winter are the best times of year to see them when they are most active.

Red pandas stand out so much in this habitat – how do they hide in the wild?
With their red, white and black markings, red pandas may look like sitting ducks among all of our green foliage, but it’s not so in their natural habitat. The Asian forests wild red pandas call home have big red clumps of moss that hang on the branches of trees. The moss has a black underside and white lichen growing on it. It’s the perfect place for red pandas to hide from predators, including snow leopards.

Panda, bear or raccoon?
It’s all a bit confusing. In the past, red pandas were classified in bear family (along with giant pandas). Like giant pandas, they eat bamboo and share parts of their Asian habitats with giant pandas. But they also look a bit like raccoons with their striped tails. At one time, scientists classified them in the family that includes raccoons. Today, red pandas are in a league of their own and scientists classify them as the only species in the family Ailuridae.
**Hellos and goodbyes**

Stay up-to-date on new animals at the zoo, animals that have moved to another part of the zoo and others we’ve said goodbye to.

**The koalas are coming!**

The zoo is excited to welcome two koalas from San Diego Zoo that will be visiting from February through September 2009. Watch for them inside the Australia and Creatures of the Night building.

**Monkeying around in snow leopard habitat**

You may have noticed some unusual activity in the snow leopard habitat. A lot more swinging and scampering is going on since the Japanese macaques took up residence while their own habitat is being renovated. You can find the snow leopards in the Canadian Wilds — their temporary home while the renovations are completed. The snow leopards and macaques should be back in their regular homes early in the new year.

**Young giraffe heads east**

Richard, our male giraffe born at the zoo in 2007, hitched a ride east on September 23 to make his new home at African Lion Safari in Ontario. Richard had lots of fans and will be missed by visitors and zoo staff alike. Above, Richard says goodbye to his little sister Sherri the day before he made his trip.

**Red panda comings and goings**

There have been some changes to the red panda family at the zoo. Kayah, born at the zoo in June 2007, left for the Toronto Zoo in late September. A male from Winnipeg’s Assiniboine Park Zoo will be on exhibit in late November. Both moves were recommended by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan. Hopefully, the new male will breed with Malikha, the remaining red panda female. Kachin, her former mate is 12 years old and currently lives in his retirement home off-exhibit where zookeepers can provide special care for him in his old age.

**The road less travelled**

**Cute and cuddly but very endangered**

They may be cute and cuddly-looking, but it hasn’t kept both lesser slow lorises and Matschie’s tree kangaroos off the endangered species list. Both are part of the AZA’s Species Survival Plan (SSP) — see page four for more information. Learn a bit about these amazing species and make sure to stop by the Australia and Creatures of the Night building to check them out on your next visit.

**Matschie’s tree kangaroos**

No, they’re not monkeys! Most people don’t expect to see kangaroos hanging around in the trees, but that’s a Matschie’s tree kangaroo’s favourite place. With their big, strong forelimbs for climbing and rough pads on their feet for traction, they are perfectly adapted to live high up in the rainforests of Papua New Guinea. Their long, narrow tails aren’t prehensile, so they can’t use them to hold onto branches, but they are perfect for helping these kangaroos keep their balance way up in the trees.

**Lesser slow lorises**

Once your eyes adjust to our Creatures of the Night habitat, keep an eye out for our lesser slow lorises. These small, compact animals are active at night (nocturnal) and live in trees. During the day, lorises spend their time curled up in a tree hole or clump of dense vegetation. They live alone or in small family groups of an adult male, an adult female and one or two generations of offspring.

**Did you know?**

In the wild, red pandas only live to be about eight years old, but in zoos they live between 11 and 13 years.
Surround your family with the beauty and splendour of over 1.5 million twinkling lights. NEW THIS YEAR, 9 UNIQUE ANIMAL LIGHT FIGURES like you have never seen before! This interactive light show immerses you in the spirit of the season and will tempt all five senses with:

- **9 NEW ANIMAL LIGHT FIGURES**
- **SANTA VISION** CHAT LIVE WITH SANTA
- **SINGLES NIGHTS** EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT — SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
- **KIDS PLAY AREAS** INCLUDING SNOWBALL ALLEY, SNOW BOWLING, THE REINDEER STABLES AND SNIGLOO
- **CREAMY HOT CHOCOLATE** AND **CRACKLING FIRE PITS**
- **THE FESTIVAL OF CHOIRS**

FRI NOV 28 2008 – SAT JAN 3 2009
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY AND EXCLUDING DEC 31
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
GATES CLOSE AT 8:30 PM

**ADULTS $8**  **CHILDREN $4**

for more details visit
www.calgaryzoo.ca

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**Brunch with Santa**
Join us for a delicious buffet breakfast, a fun family-friendly interpretive show and a chance to meet Santa! After brunch, enjoy The Christmas Getaway, a holiday adventure with our popular characters Beaver and Caribou. Please note: seating will be preassigned in tables of eight based on when program tickets were purchased.

- **Date:** Saturday, December 13
- **Time:** 9:00 am or 11:30 am
- **Cost:** Adult/Youth $32.95  Senior $30.95  Child $21.95
- **Children under three are free, but must have a ticket to attend. (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)**

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**Wreath Making**
Design and construct a beautiful outdoor wreath for the holiday season! This year we are welcoming a new instructor who will help you create a wreath made of easy-to-find natural materials.

- **Date:** Saturday, November 22, Sunday, November 23, Saturday, November 29 or Sunday, November 30
- **Time:** 1:00 - 3:00 pm
- **Cost:** $50

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**Glass Snowflake Christmas Ornaments**
Whether you’re a beginner or a crafting expert, capture the unique beauty of snowflakes with your own stained glass winter wonder. Instructor Pia Brown provides the materials you need to create a shimmering work of art.

- **Date:** Sunday, November 30
- **Time:** 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
- **Cost:** $65

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**Call for volunteers**
Festive cheer is guaranteed when you volunteer during Zoolights! Various positions are available. Please contact Renée at (403) 232-9354 or reneef@calgaryzoo.ab.ca.
**Natural Melt and Pour Soap**

Learn to melt, colour and scent a 100 per cent natural soap base using a simple and fun technique. We will also try layering, embedding and more. Presented by Soap and More.

Date: Tuesday, November 18 or Thursday, November 27
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Cost: $40

**Bath Bombs, Truffles and Salts**

Create luxurious gifts for yourself or to give as Christmas gifts. Learn to make a large batch of fizzy bath bombs, a super softening bath truffle and soothing aromatherapy-scented bath salts.

Date: Thursday, November 20 or Tuesday, December 2
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Cost: $38

**Lotions, Potions and Body Butter**

Craft lotions, creams and body butters using top quality ingredients like shea and mango butter. The perfect Christmas present — if you don’t decide to keep them all for yourself! Presented by Soap and More.

Date: Tuesday, November 25 or Thursday, December 4
Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Cost: $40

**Christmas Centrepiece Creations**

Design and construct a beautiful Christmas table centrepiece that will be the envy of all your friends! Join long-time zoo horticulture volunteer Gerda White to create a wonderful centrepiece with easy-to-find natural materials.

Date: Saturday, December 6 or Sunday, December 7
Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Cost: $50

**Give the Gift of the Calgary Zoo!**

Whether it’s a unique item from our gift shops or an unforgettable education program, the Calgary Zoo has gifts for the animal lover, plant enthusiast or family on your holiday gift list. Choose from one of our many ideas on these pages and give the gift of the Calgary Zoo!

**Education Program Gift Certificates**

Treat your loved ones to a unique gift this year by giving them a zoo experience that will create memories to last a lifetime! Choose from:
- Behind the Scenes with Bears, Giraffes, Lions or Tigers
- Zookeeper for a Day
- General Gift Certificate

Call 403-232-9300 to purchase your Education Program Gift Certificate today!

**Zoo Memberships**

If your gift list has animal lovers, plant enthusiasts or families with young children on it, gift certificates for Calgary Zoo Discovery Passport Memberships may be the best present you can give. Wrap up your holiday shopping early and support the zoo at the same time. Call 403-232-9300 or visit the Guest Relations counter at the zoo’s North Entrance to purchase Discovery Passport Memberships.

**Do Your Holiday Shopping at the Zoo’s Gift Shops!**

Find unique gift ideas and a variety of fantastic stocking stuffers at the zoo gift shops – and the proceeds from your purchase go back to the zoo! The North Star, Little Dipper and Tiger’s Den Gift Shop locations will be open daily for your shopping pleasure. Discovery Passport Members receive a 20% discount.

**Zoo Tunes CD**

Our talented Zoo educators have written a variety of fun, family-friendly songs about the amazing animals and plants at the Calgary Zoo. This twelve-song CD includes lyrics so you can sing along. Zoo Tunes CDs cost $10 including GST. Visit www.calgaryzoo.com or call 403-232-9300 to get your copy!

**Elephant Art ... the Perfect Gift!**

Who wouldn’t want a truly unique piece of art from the Calgary Zoo’s own resident artist this holiday season? Limited-edition prints of Kamala’s work cost $100 plus GST. The print comes with a DVD of Kamala painting the original work of art and a certificate of authenticity. This year, we are selling the print called “Hang 10”.

For more information or to purchase, please call 403-232-9334 or visit www.calgaryzoo.com to see some of her past work.

**Christmastime is ZooCare Time!**

ZooCare is the perfect gift for anyone on your holiday shopping list! Our feature animals will be listed at www.calgaryzoo.com. For $50, your special someone will receive a certificate with a colour picture, a biofact sheet highlighting the species of your choice, and a stuffie. Your donation to the ZooCare program goes toward the care and feeding of our animals. To order a ZooCare package, call 403-232-7774, or visit www.calgaryzoo.com.

**www.calgaryzoo.com**
Behind the Scenes with Lions

Discover our pride … of lions, that is! This popular program includes an interactive and informative talk about lions followed by an unforgettable opportunity to follow zookeepers behind the scenes. Maximum group size is 20 people. Ages eight and older only. Children must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Dates: Sunday, December 7, Saturday, January 10, or Saturday, February 21
Time: 12:15 - 1:30 pm
Cost: Adult $60  Child $55 (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

Behind the Scenes with Giraffes

Find out what it’s like to stand right beside a giraffe – see how long their eyelashes are and learn what colour their tongues are! Enjoy an interactive interpretive talk, then journey behind the scenes and meet the giraffes up close. Maximum group size is 40 people. Ages five and older only. Children must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Dates: Saturday, December 6, Sunday, January 11, or Sunday, February 8
Time: 1:45 - 3:00 pm
Cost: Adult $60  Child $55 (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

Red Panda Zookeeper Workshop

Get nose-to-nose with red pandas, Bactrian camels, fallow deer and pot-bellied pigs. Experience part of a zookeeper’s morning routine and get hands-on experience with activities that could include preparing food, cleaning habitats and participating in the animal enrichment program. Group size is limited to three to provide an unforgettable experience. Ages eight and older only. Children must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Date: Saturday, December 6, January 10, or January 31, February 14 or February 28
Time: 8:30 - 10:00 am
Cost: Adult $95  Child $75

Breakfast with the Koalas

Come on down, mate! Fill up on a hot pancake “brekkie” at Kitamaba Café and listen to some “kool” stuff about koalas. Take a short walk-about over to the Australia/Nocturnal building and get a gander at our visitors from San Diego. You will get a private viewing of these non-bears while the zookeeper completes her morning routine. Ages five and older only.

Date: Sunday, February 15, or Saturday, March 7
Time: 7:45 - 9:15 am
Cost: Adult $45  Child $29 (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

Zookeeper for a Day

Ever dreamed of being a zookeeper? Spend the day with staff in the zoo’s animal care department and help them prepare meals, feed animals, clean habitats, change exhibits, learn about our animal enrichment program and Species Survival Plans, and much more. This popular program is only available a limited number of times each month. Choose from Destination Africa (mostly indoors), Eurasian Carnivores (outdoors), Canadian Wilds (outdoors). Adults only. Call Estelle at 403-232-9362 for more information.

Date: Based on availability
Time: 7:00 am - 2:30 pm
Cost: $75 per person

Elephant Encounters

Watch for our elephant programs starting again Winter 2009!

Space is limited. To register call (403) 232-9300!
Wee Wiggles

Bring your 18-month-old to five-year-old child for a special visit with some of the coolest animals at the zoo. Children will get up-close-and-personal with small handleable animals and animal artifacts in a private classroom setting. Everyone can approach and explore at their own pace, no matter what their age or knowledge level. For these sessions, up to two children per adult are permitted and all children attending must be at least 18 months old. Ticket price does not include gate admission.

Dates:

**Tuesdays:**
- Reptiles – January 13
- Birds – January 20
- Mammals – January 27
- Insects – February 3

**Saturdays:**
- Reptiles – January 17
- Birds – January 31
- Mammals – February 14
- Insects – February 28

Time: 10:00 - 10:30 am or 10:45 - 11:15 am
Cost: $12 per program (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

Kinderzoo (Ages 4-5)

One adult must accompany each child.
Time: 9:00 - 10:30 am

Zoo Rangers (Ages 6-9)

Time: 11:15 am - 1:15 pm

Junior Naturalists (Ages 10-13)

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Dates: All classes on Saturdays, January 10, February 7, March 7 and April 4
Cost: $100 (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

Home School Day – Junior High

Are you looking for a fun and educational field trip opportunity for your home-schooled student? Join us for our next in the series of hands-on, interactive programs based on Alberta curriculum for Grade 7 to Grade 9. Tour the wilds of Eurasia and learn why the snow leopard is an important part of its ecosystem, go ‘behind the scenes’ with one of our resident animals and examine our ‘mystery skulls’ to uncover animals’ diverse adaptations! Visit www.calgaryzoo.com for details.

Date: Friday, February 19
Time: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
Cost: $25 per student (does not include gate admission)

**Birthday Party Package Includes:**
- Admission to the Zoo for up to 20 people
- Themed activities
- A private room for cake and opening gifts
- A half hour guided tour
- Beverages
- A special gift for the birthday child
- Birthday Party Host
- Zoosquatch treat bags available

Cost: $299* ($273 for Calgary Zoo Discovery Passport Members)

Great for Children 5 - 12 years old!

Call 232-9353 to Register today or visit www.calgaryzoo.com for more information.

Preschool birthday party packages also available!

* Please note that birthday party package prices will be increasing on January 1, 2009.
Storytime at the Zoo

Learn about the amazing adaptations, diversity and behaviour of the mammals, birds and plants that thrive on this very interesting continent. We will discuss ice formations, the importance of ocean currents and the unique qualities of this habitat. Join Calgary Zoo docent Wanda Pedersen as she shares her personal journey and impressions of the continent.

Date: Tuesdays, November 20 and 27
Time: 7:00 - 9:30 pm
Cost: $60

Drawing with Colour

It may be cold outside, but the zoo has many places to keep you warm and inspired while you draw. Enjoy the TransAlta Rainforest, African Savannah and Elephant Crossing while you increase your confidence and drawing skills in this engaging class with instructor Averie Moppett. Explore techniques and observation skills using a variety of colour dry media (pastel, chalks, pencil crayon and felt pen.) Class size allows for individual focus and development. All levels are welcome.

Date: Tuesdays, January 13 - February 17
Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Cost: $225 plus supplies

Zoo Photo Safari

Our unique collection of plants, animals and birds makes for a sometimes challenging, but highly rewarding photography experience. Join instructor Barry Giles for a guided photo safari on grounds as you explore some of the tricks of successful zoo photography. A specific area of the zoo will be examined, allowing a wide range of subject matter to be shot. Working knowledge of your camera and its functions is required.

Date: Saturday, March 14
Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Cost: $65

Northern Night Sleepover

Experience the mystery and magic of sleeping in Cequel Energy Lodge. Enjoy a starlight tour of the Northern Forest, games and activities, a late night snack and a special edu-tainment program! Awake to the playful antics of our river otters, enjoy a hot pancake breakfast and receive a day pass for admission to the zoo. All children must be ages five and older and must be accompanied by an adult.

Date: Overnight on Saturday, March 7
Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 am
Cost: $55 per person

Seniors’ Safaris

Winter weather can limit seniors’ participation in many different activities. Our Zoo to You program is very popular during the colder months and great entertainment for seniors. This one hour program is entertaining, educational and highly interactive with information, stories and many opportunities to examine items such as the snow leopard pelt, ostrich eggs or grizzly bear claws. Presentation times are flexible to suit your group’s needs. To book your Zoo to You Program or to find out more about other great programs for seniors at the Calgary Zoo, please contact Pauline at 403-294-7677 or email paulined@calgaryzoo.ab.ca.
Window on the World Series

Join experienced naturalist, travellers and adventurers for slide shows and presentations that take you to remote corners of the world. Presentations are from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Each presentation is $18 per person (20% discount for Discovery Passport Members). Enjoy our enhanced intermission featuring touch tables and a coffee kiosk. For more information on each program, visit www.calgaryzoo.com.

Untamed Spirit

Doris Maron sold everything she owned except her motorcycle and a few personal belongings to live a dream. In 2001, at the age of 53, Maron left Edmonton on her Honda Magna to begin her journey around the world. For almost three years, she travelled to 44 countries on six continents. This presentation covers the first half of her journey to Alaska, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, and is an account of experiences travelling as a single woman into countries most people never dream of. It’s a story of adventure, challenge and living a dream.

Date: Wednesday, January 21

From Snow Fleas to Polar Bears

Join award-winning author Jamie Bastedo for a highly entertaining slide show exploring the fascinating faces of snow and ice as well as the impact of its demise in the Arctic due to climate change. Jamie is an ecologist and author from Yellowknife who has been described as “A writer with a gift for explaining the mysteries of the natural world.”

Date: Wednesday, March 11

Madagascar Magic

Join Brian Keating as he takes you into the wilds of Madagascar in search of primitive primates found only on this remote island, “spirits of the forests”, the lemurs. Earlier this year, Brian spent a month in Madagascar, searching the forest trails both day and night to discover some unique creatures. In addition to 18 species of lemur, he also found bizarre leaf-tailed geckos, outrageously coloured chameleons and endemic exotic birds. Brian promises an exciting visual evening of discovery using slides and his own live-narrated video that will take you to a tropical island landscape of surprising diversity, unique human culture and sometimes unearthly creatures.

Date: Thursday, December 4
Time: 7:00 pm
Cost: $25 (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

Japan’s Winter Wildlife

Join Trish Lund, the zoo’s Manager of Continuing Education, for a photo safari exploring Japan’s untamed side. The scenery, animals and culture will surprise you. Discover the stunningly beautiful, but rare, Japanese cranes as they dance and display, journey by boat in pack ice to discover Steller’s sea eagles, herds of Sika deer and, of course, extraordinary Japanese macaques – just a few of the gems to be discovered in this exotic adventure.

Date: Wednesday, April 22

Aspects of the Middle East

Lebanon, Syria and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have rich cultural, historical and archaeological aspects. Join Andy Stuart-Hill to adventure down the Euphrates River; camp in the Arabian desert with the ghost of Lawrence of Arabia, discover the Biblical Mount Nebo and swim in the Dead Sea. Andy’s travel experience, insight and storytelling will take you back to the time of pilgrim ways, trade routes and Crusaders.

Date: Wednesday, February 25

Speaker’s Bureau

Are you looking for a unique speaker or presentation for your corporate event, banquet, community program or conference? The Calgary Zoo offers a wide variety of nature, travel and horticulture presentations that we can bring to you! Funds raised from these speaker programs support the zoo’s conservation and education programs.

For more information, visit www.calgaryzoo.com or email gillianc@calgaryzoo.ab.ca.
For aspiring gardeners and gardeners new to the Chinook zone – no experience necessary.

**Getting Grounded Presentation Series**

We love gardening in Calgary, and we want you to love it too! This series of talks is perfect for anyone taking up gardening in Calgary for the first time. New homeowners unfamiliar with basic garden care, and experienced gardeners adapting to the Calgary’s unique gardening challenges will benefit from the experience and knowledge of the zoo’s horticulture experts. Topics will be presented in clear, simple terms, with the zoo’s trademark conservation-minded approach.

**Days:** Tuesdays  
**Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
**Cost:** $20 per program (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

**From the Ground Up**

Calgary is notorious for its dramatic, unpredictable weather conditions and heavy clay-based soil, both of which make gardening a challenge. This session will provide the information and techniques you need to create a successful garden – how to amend your soil, create and utilize microclimates, and how to work with existing conditions instead of fighting against them.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 27

**Uninvited Guests**

It’s easy to over-react when your garden is under threat from interlopers such as weeds, pests and diseases, but this is often neither necessary nor effective. By learning to recognize common garden intruders you can better determine whether they are friend or foe, minor inconvenience or a real threat to your garden’s health and well-being. We’ll also discuss sustainable strategies for control.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 24

**Foolproof Plants**

The selection of plants in the garden centres is mind-boggling, which makes choosing plants for your yard both exciting and daunting. Let us demystify the process by introducing you to the most reliable choices for Calgary gardens, including the best trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and bulbs. We’ll also discuss how best to match the conditions in your garden with the most appropriate plant choices, offering the best possible chance for success.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 10

**Uninvited Guests**

It’s easy to over-react when your garden is under threat from interlopers such as weeds, pests and diseases, but this is often neither necessary nor effective. By learning to recognize common garden intruders you can better determine whether they are friend or foe, minor inconvenience or a real threat to your garden’s health and well-being. We’ll also discuss sustainable strategies for control.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 24

**TLC for Gardens**

Even the most low-maintenance garden needs a certain amount of care and attention to keep it healthy and looking its best. Maximize your effort and protect your investment by learning the essential tasks specific to Calgary gardens. We’ll discuss the basics of keeping your lawn, beds and plants in peak condition including topics such as watering, pruning, feeding, dead-heading and much more.

**Date:** Tuesday, March 3

**Pruning Clinic**

Join a certified arborist for an informative day-long clinic. The classroom component will cover the basics of proper pruning for the health and vigour of trees and shrubs, followed by a hands-on component outside where you can practice your technique. Bring hand-pruners if you have them, and be sure to register early for this popular program!

**Date:** Sunday, February 22  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Cost:** $75

**Garden Designers Through the Ages**

Join gardener and artist Katherine Ylitalo for an intimate, 14-hour seminar series on key historical and contemporary garden designers. From ancient Persia to current day, this series will focus on significant gardening personalities whose work impacted their contemporaries, and whose influence is still felt today. Enhance your design skills and elevate your practice through an understanding of the historical perspective.

**Dates:** Wednesdays, January 28 - February 25, 6:30 - 8:30 pm and Sunday, March 1, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
**Cost:** $250

**Make More Plants – Starting from Seed**

There’s something deeply rewarding about seeing plants in your garden that you grew from seed yourself. The act of selecting, collecting, saving and starting seeds adds a whole new dimension to the practise of gardening. Join us for a day-long session including a lecture, demonstrations and hands-on activities, covering all the steps, materials, and conditions in detail. Bring your lunch for this intensive day-long workshop.

**Date:** Sunday, March 22  
**Time:** 9:00 am - 3:30 pm  
**Cost:** $85

**Coming Soon:**

Make More Plants - Vegetative Techniques for Woody and Herbaceous Plants

Space is limited. To register call (403) 232-9300!
Branching Out Presentation Series

Having mastered basic gardening techniques, most gardeners seek to deepen their knowledge and refine their garden. This series of presentations will help you to look at your garden with a more discerning eye, providing you with the tools you need to evaluate and improve your garden’s look and functionality. Watch for these programs coming soon in this series: Colour Theory, Hardscaping Basics and Putting Nature First.

Date: Tuesday, March 17

Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm
Cost: $20 per program (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

Beautiful Gardens by Design

‘Happy accidents’ in the garden occur when a coincidental or experimental combination or placement has particularly pleasing results. Gardeners can learn how to create these scenarios purposefully rather than by accident, using tried and true design principles. In this lecture, landscape designer Sue Gaviller discusses how to apply these universal principles to create greater unity and balance, whether planning a new garden or ‘editing’ an existing one.

Date: Tuesday, March 17

Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm
Cost: $20 per program (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

Winter Containers

Containers allow gardeners to express their creativity — and there is no reason to limit your imagination to just one season. Corinne Hannah, Calgary Zoo horticulturist, is a self-confessed container fanatic who will share her design ideas and tips for creating stunning arrangements that will brighten your doorstep over the winter. Watch while she works her magic in front of you!

Date: Monday, November 24
Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm
Cost: $25 (10% discount for Discovery Passport Members)

Spring Garden Tour to Vancouver, British Columbia

Instead of waiting for spring to arrive, why not visit the west coast where spring is well under way! Join a small group of fellow garden enthusiasts on an intimate tour of the best gardens Vancouver has to offer. We’ll visit the internationally recognized Van Dusen Botanical Garden and explore the many themed gardens at the University of British Columbia Botanical Gardens. Be ready to bring home a few plants from the specialty nurseries on our itinerary, and enjoy an exclusive look at a select group of private gardens. Price includes hotel accommodation, six meals, garden admissions and transportation in Vancouver. For details, visit www.calgaryzoo.com. Call Estelle Blair at 403-232-9362 to book your spot.

Date: Monday, March 30 - Friday, April 3
Cost: $1250 based on double occupancy

What is Horticultural Therapy?

Horticultural Therapy (HT) uses plants and the natural world to improve the social, spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing of individuals who participate in it.

This two-day course, taught by Christine Pollard of Home Farm, will introduce the basics of horticultural therapy so that you can begin to explore its potential and value. Appropriate for those involved in health care, social work, horticulture or other related fields, this course can stand on its own, or provide the foundation for further investigation of horticultural therapy, including the Home Farm’s five week Horticultural Therapy Certificate.

Date: Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29
Time: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Cost: $250

www.calgaryzoo.com
**Valentine’s Programs and Events**

**In the Heat of the Night**
This romantic evening includes a delicious candlelit dinner buffet in the Safari Lodge. Follow dinner with a naughty talk about the mind boggling world of critter romance! The program includes dinner, a natural history presentation, live music and a cash bar. Adults Only.
You can also surprise your sweetie with a plush turtle for only $10!

**Spa Package**
Formulate your own exotic spa products in time for Valentine’s Day. Learn to create a Cleopatra whipped body butter, an Oriental body polish, a cleansing body moor mud, a glove moisturizing overnight spa experience and a scalp massage. Make four luxurious spa products to use yourself or to give as a gift. Presented by Soap and More.

**Valentine’s Chocolate Making**
Looking for something different and personal to give your special someone for Valentine’s Day? Create scrumptious homemade chocolates with adorable packaging. No experience necessary. All supplies are included.

**Valentine’s with Gorillas**
Come show your love for our gorilla family by making Valentine’s Day enrichment “presents” for these fascinating apes. Learn how we enrich our gorillas on a daily basis and find out how to identify each of our gorillas. Then, watch the gorillas enjoy the fruits of your labour as they savour the tasty treats. Please note this program does not include a behind-the-scenes component. Children must be age seven and older and accompanied by an adult.

**Lip Saver, Salves and Solid Massage Bar**
This workshop teaches the art of crafting non-petroleum, non-animal lip balm with the most luxurious ingredients (e.g. hemp oil). The salve formulas include a natural vapour rub, great for the cold season. The massage bar is fantastic and makes a great gift! Take home three lip balms, one salve and one massage bar. Program presenter: Soap and More

**Get Ready for Zoo Camps**
Children and teens can explore the zoo in our week-long day camp programs. Qualified staff design unique programs so kids can attend more than one week. Check out our website for more information. Registration begins February 2009. Camps run weekly June 29 - August 21.

**Zoo Tots (ages 4-6)**
Children ages 4 to 6 will enjoy a fun and educational half-day camp looking at animals through games, songs, activities, animal visits, stories and crafts.

**Zoo Camps (grades 1-6)**
Budding zoologists discover the natural world through activities, games, crafts, stories, interpretive programs and animal visits.

**Art Camp**
Art Camp includes all the same fun-filled activities as other summer zoo camps with an emphasis on art projects. Available for grades 3 through 6.

**Youth Wildlife Workshop**
Design and build enrichment projects for our animals and watch them enjoy your creations! Teens get a chance to explore animal behaviour, wildlife conservation and take on a leadership component with younger camps. Includes a half-day rafting component with RiverWatch water ecologists.

**Registration**
Please visit www.calgaryzoo.com for more information and to register. Registration begins in February 2009. For those without Internet access, phone the zoo and registration forms can be mailed or faxed. Register early to avoid disappointment!
We appreciate your patience

New zoo access turnstile system

We appreciate your patience as we work through the challenges of switching from staffed gates to turnstiles. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and cooperation. As with any major change, we’ve had a few hurdles to overcome, but we are committed to working hard until the rest of the kinks have been worked out.

We are always here to help so if you are experiencing any difficulty with the turnstiles, please do not hesitate to ask a staff member for help. We recognize the value of our members and want all of your zoo visits to be great ones!

Two of our zoo members successfully navigate the new turnstile system on their first try.

Go green!

Read your newsletter on-line

Did you know that receiving your newsletter by email can help our conservation efforts? You’ll be saving trees and the zoo will redirect the money it saves in mailing and printing costs toward its conservation programs.

Simply email your request to memberships@calgaryzoo.ab.ca and let us know that you would like to participate. We will discontinue your hard copy newsletter and send you an email message each time a new issue is published. Thank you for going green!

Education programs by email

Stay on top of all the zoo’s Continuing Education programs! If you’re interested in receiving our monthly calendar of education programs by email, send an email to estelleb@calgaryzoo.ab.ca.

Remember to keep your card!

Did you know your membership card is reusable? Keeping your card not only saves you money (we charge $5 to reprint lost or discarded cards), but it also saves administrative costs for the zoo. Additionally, reusing your card reduces waste – imagine if all of our 80,000 members recycled their cards year after year.

To register for zoo programs

To register for a program, please phone (403) 232-9300 or visit the Calgary Zoo Guest Relations Desk at the North Entrance (9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily).

Calgary Zoo Discovery Passport Members receive a discount on selected education programs. Unless otherwise listed, program fees do not include GST and are nonrefundable and nonexchangeable. Registrations are accepted in the order in which fees are received. Enter via the Calgary Zoo’s North Entrance. Please note that prices and dates are subject to change.

DON’T MISS OUT ON YOUR GREAT RENEWAL OFFER IN 2008!

Renew your adult Discovery Passport membership in 2008 and you will receive a $20 dinner coupon from one of Calgary’s most popular family establishments. Adult Annual Pass holders that renew will receive a $10 dinner coupon.

Smitty’s Family Restaurants (five participating Calgary locations).

Take advantage of these special renewal offers in 2008 by renewing your Calgary Zoo membership today!
Koalas are coming!

Colour this koala bear and send this page to us along with your name, age and telephone number by January 1, 2009. You could win a prize! Congratulations to the winner from our September 2008 issue, six-year-old Devin Clark.

Cool koala facts:

- Koalas might look cute and cuddly, like teddy bears, but they are actually not bears at all. Koalas are part of a group of animals with pouches, called marsupials. Kangaroos, wallabies, wallaroos, wombats, possums, and opossums are marsupials too. Lots of marsupials live in Australia.

- Koalas look soft, but their fur actually feels like the wool on a sheep.

- Koalas only eat eucalyptus leaves. It might not sound exciting to eat only one kind of plant, but there are more than 600 different eucalyptus trees - each looks and tastes different to a koala!

We welcome and value your comments and suggestions about this newsletter. If your address has changed or if you would like more information on donation options, please contact us at:

The Calgary Zoo
1300 Zoo Road NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7V6
Phone: (403) 232-9300  Fax: (403) 237-7582
donations@calgaryzoo.ab.ca

Please send me information about:
☐ Conservation  ☐ Education Programs
☐ Legacy Giving  ☐ Annual Giving

I have enclosed a gift of:
☐ $100  ☐ $50  ☐ $25  ☐ Other $________

Charitable Registration #: 11882192 RR0001