

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Naples Zoo, 30 November 2005
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No Scissors Required When Wild Animals Open Presents

It's not a partridge in a pear tree or five golden rings, but for 12 days in December from the 13th all the way to Christmas Eve, Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens will be delivering gifts to the animals. Zoo guests will watch lions claw into beautifully wrapped presents, hyenas lick candy canes made from blood and ice, lemurs nibble treats off a Christmas tree, and many other animals enjoy holiday-related delicacies.

Adding to the community spirit, some Neapolitans are contributing to the holiday fun. Recreating a Floridian Santa's workshop, several Collier County School District art teachers and classes are designing trains, painting presents, and crafting papier-mâché toys for the Zoo animals. Bill Ervin, who fashions masterworks in ice through his company Cold Cuts Inc., is creating a snowman out of ice. Ervin will then hide edible treats in the crystal clear ice to entice zebra and antelope toward the frozen smorgasbord. And topping it off, Wisconsin Trees located in the Naples Shopping Center is donating Christmas trees for the animals.

Tuesday, December 13 at 3:45 p.m.

African Wild Dogs chomp treats hung on a Christmas tree

Wednesday, December 14 at 11 a.m.

Spotted hyenas devour candy canes made from blood and ice

Thursday, December 15 at Noon

Zebras & antelope investigate an ice snowman filled with frozen treats
Ice sculpture provided by Cold Cuts Inc.

Friday, December 16 at 1 p.m.

Gibbons enjoy treats hung on a Christmas tree

Saturday, December 17 at 12:30 p.m.

African lions slash into beautifully painted presents made by area school children

Sunday, December 18 at 1 p.m.

Lemurs play on toy trains made by area school children

Monday, December 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Kangaroos gather bananas and other treats off holiday wreaths

Tues., December 20 at 11 a.m.

Binturongs (Asian bearcats) gobble gingerbread men made from monkey chow

Wednesday, December 21 at 11 a.m.

Panthers shred pretty presents with treats hidden inside

Thursday, December 22 at 1 p.m.

Siamangs (lesser apes) swing into the fun with toys made by area school children

Friday, December 23 at 3:15 p.m.

Tigers crunch candy canes made from blood and ice

Saturday, December 24 at 1 p.m.

Lemurs pluck treats from a Christmas tree and investigate presents

In addition to these scheduled festivities, the afternoon presentation in the Safari Canyon theater will feature daily holiday surprises for animals.

Events like this are part of the 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.

Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens is nationally accredited by the prestigious American Zoo and Aquarium Association. The Zoo is located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road in Naples across from the Coastland Center mall. 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 live 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. As always, Naples Zoo is closed on Christmas Day. To learn more, click www.napleszoo.com or call (239) 262-5409.

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