

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Floridians! 50% Off Coupon to See Bears & Bushmasters plus Ghosts, and Flying Wolves, and a Dragon

Valid Now thru November 8, 2009

NAPLES, FL -- Naples Zoo is offering Florida residents an online coupon for 50% off tickets through November 8, 2009. Floridians can see the all new Black Bear Hammock - the largest black bear exhibit at an accredited zoo in the Eastern USA - and a diverse array of new animals appearing at different times in the Safari Canyon theater's wildlife presentations including raptors, venomous South American pit vipers, and a young Komodo dragon.

With **proof of Florida residency** and **FL resident coupon** from www.napleszoo.org, Florida residents can enjoy the nationally accredited zoo all day including all its presentations and the Primate Expedition Cruise for half off admission. Regular zoo admission is \$19.95 for adults and \$11.95 for children. So with a Florida resident discount coupon, guests can enjoy all day at the Zoo for just \$10.10 for adults and \$6.10 for children. (Each paid Zoo admission includes 25 cents for Naples Zoo Conservation Fund.)

Naples Zoo continues to diversify its feature shows and now includes more birds and non-native venomous snakes. A sampling of some of these animals may be seen during a visit. Because of the nature of working with live animals and rotating through all the different animals in the shows, not every animal may be seen on each visit.

In addition to the Zoo's screech owls, a barn owl is now part of the collection. Called barn owls because of their habit of living in these structures, they are also referred to as the ghost owl because their shocking white face is often the only part of their body seen in the dark. Even though large barn owls can have a wing span up to 48", they weigh just about one pound. This owl is

currently in training to free fly in the Safari Canyon theater. They can be found on every continent except Antarctica.

By contrast, the Harris hawks at the Zoo come exclusively from the American Southwest. Known as the wolves of the sky, these raptors actually hunt in packs. Not much escapes their keen vision. A Harris hawk's eyesight is sharp enough to be able to read a newspaper across the length of a football field. One of the Harris hawks at the Zoo is already flying in the show a few days a week. Both hawk and owl species should be flying regularly by the end of the year.

Further south in Brazil, you'll find another of the Zoo's recent additions: the Caatinga lancehead pit viper. Only three other AZA accredited zoos care for these rare pit vipers and Naples Zoo is only one in the southeastern USA. Small but deadly, adults typically grow to less than three feet.

Also new at the Zoo from the Americas but much bigger is the Bushmaster - the longest venomous snake in the New World. Large specimens range from 9 to 11 feet with a record length of over 14 feet. This renders snake boots useless as these snakes are capable of striking the thigh or even higher. Ranging from Costa Rica to Brazil, their Latin name is translated "silent bringer of death" and an adult bushmaster's bite will kill a horse.

Also venomous, but much more famous, is the Zoo's latest lizard arrival: the Komodo dragon. Just a year and a half old, he has much growing to do before he reaches full size around 9 feet. Largest of all lizards, the Komodo dragon eats large prey like Sunda deer, pigs, horses, and water buffalo as well as smaller creatures like birds, fish, snakes, and even young Komodo dragons. Just this year, researchers confirmed that the king of lizards' bite delivers venom in addition to a nasty wound.

Naples Zoo is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization cooperating in conservation programs both in and outside the wild for endangered species. The all day pay-one-price ticket includes admission to both the nationally accredited zoo and historic garden along with all shows, botanical tours (offered on Sundays), exhibits, and the boat ride. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. **Zoo memberships and the Florida resident coupons are available online at www.napleszoo.org.** Naples Zoo welcomes guests daily from 9:00 to 5:00 with the last ticket sold at 4:00 and is located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road across from the Coastland Center mall in the heart of Naples. To learn more, click www.napleszoo.org or call (239) 262-5409 or **follow the Zoo at www.twitter.com/NaplesZoo.**

Print quality images of bears and other new animals at www.napleszoo.org/press

