



For Immediate Release

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## Unregistered Hotel Guests Check-in at Naples Zoo!

Naples, FL - Each winter guests flock to the beautiful hotels on Florida's beaches. And since 1897, the Belleview Biltmore in Clearwater has welcomed everyone from presidents and royalty to families and soldiers. And even though the hotel has been closed for two years, that did not stop some guests from making an unregistered stay this past winter. But these guests were no snowbirds. They were coyotes – a whole litter of them. With no adult around, the pups were rescued and taken care of by a nearby veterinarian before making their way to Naples. The coyote pups make their debut Friday, July 1 in the Safari Canyon presentations at Naples Zoo.

The coyote's eerie howl was once the iconic sound of the American West, but today these canines have been spotted everywhere from hopping on the light-rail train in Portland to jogging on the Columbia University campus in Manhattan. "These four new pups will help us teach guests how they can best live with local predators," explained Naples Zoo Director David L. Tetzlaff. "Coyote numbers are on the rise across the country and here in southwest Florida."

"The good news," says Tetzlaff, "is that many of the same strategies for living safely around the bears and panthers in Florida apply to coyotes as well." One example is using bear-proof trashcans like the one seen at the Zoo's Black bear habitat. Other practices include keeping the areas under bird feeders and fruit trees clean. These food items attract the predators themselves or smaller animals that the predators hunt. Not allowing your pets to roam also protects them from these predators. (This last one is also the law. It is illegal in Collier County to allow either your pet dog or cat to roam freely.)

Over the past few weeks, the education staff at Naples Zoo has been caring for the puppies and they are now ready to meet Zoo guests. Although subject to change based on the welfare of the coyotes, some of these new pups can be seen daily in one of the Zoo's feature shows in the Safari Canyon theater at either 11 a.m. or 3 p.m.

Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens is a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has opened five feature exhibits in the last five years including the Giraffe Preview Exhibit where guests can hand-feed the giraffe herd. The nationally accredited zoo is nestled in a 43-acre historic botanical garden founded in 1919 and cooperates in conservation programs both in and outside the wild for endangered species. Naples Zoo offers families a full day wild fun from apes to zebras featuring wildlife shows, cruises and other entertaining educational programming which reached over 300,000 guests in 2010.

Daily presentations include Alligator Bay Feeding, Meet the Keeper Series, and Jungle Larry™ and Safari Jane's™ Snakes Alive! Guests also enjoy two premiere presentations in the Safari Canyon theater where they see live animals from feline predators to venomous snakes along with exciting video footage. And one of the zoo's most popular activities is the Primate Expedition Cruise where guests embark on a guided cruise through islands inhabited by monkeys, lemurs, and apes.

The all-day pay-one-price ticket includes admission to both the nationally accredited zoo and historic garden along with all shows, tours, exhibits, and the boat ride. (\$19.95 adults age 13+/ \$12.95 children 3 to 12, under 3 free. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age). Annual memberships and the discount tickets are also available online at [www.napleszoo.org](http://www.napleszoo.org). Visitors enjoy healthy meals at Wynn's at the Zoo and shop for wild gifts in The ZOO Gift Shop. 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](http://www.napleszoo.org) or call (239) 262-5409. Follow the Zoo at [www.twitter.com/NaplesZoo](https://www.twitter.com/NaplesZoo).

**Print Quality Images** of the coyotes are available  
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