



# Cosley Tails

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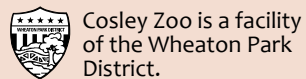
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## Cosley Tails

Information about Cosley Zoo and The Cosley Foundation, Inc. is available by calling 630.665.5534 or by writing to Zoo Director, Cosley Zoo, 1356 N. Gary Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187. You may also e-mail us at [CosleyZoo@wheatonparks.org](mailto:CosleyZoo@wheatonparks.org). We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Cosley Zoo is a facility of the Wheaton Park District.

**COSLEY ZOO** 1356 N. Gary Avenue  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
630.665.5534  
[cosleyzoo.org](http://cosleyzoo.org)

## Who's New at the Zoo?

**Tami Romejko, Education & Guest Experiences Manager**

This fall, we're excited to welcome several new animals. So, who's new at Cosley Zoo?

### Alvin the Chipmunk

Alvin the chipmunk (unfortunately, we don't have Theodore or Simon yet!) came to Cosley Zoo from Oakbrook Terrace Nature Center. He will live in the Wild Side Gift Shop. Alvin is partially blind, but you would never know by how well he maneuvers around his exhibit.

You might see him sniff out seeds and food items placed in his enclosure. Because of his poor vision, Alvin can't survive in the wild and needs a good home.



There are 25 known species of chipmunk, 24 of which live in North America. The Midwestern states are home to the Eastern Chipmunk.

This small, predominantly ground-dwelling rodent likes to live alone in holes called dens.

Active during the day, chipmunks feed on a variety of seeds, fruits, and nuts, as well as mushrooms, insects, earthworms, slugs, snails, and bird eggs. They gather lots of foods like nuts and seeds in late summer and autumn and take them back to their burrows for storage until winter.

Chipmunks hibernate in cold weather, which means they spend most of the time sleeping in their dens. A chipmunk can gather up to 165 acorns a day, and in just two days, enough food to last an entire winter, though chipmunks typically hoard much more food than needed.

### Dig the Nine-Banded Armadillo

Dig, a three-month-old nine-banded armadillo, arrived in mid-July from Arkansas. Like our new French Lop (see page 2), Dig will be a future animal ambassador for the zoo.

– continued on page 2

## Who's New at the Zoo?

—continued from page 1



Of the 20 varieties of armadillo, all but one live in Latin America. The nine-banded armadillo is the only species native to the United States. This may be new to you: not all armadillos can roll

themselves into a ball! Only the three-banded armadillo can, curling its head and back feet and contorting its shell into a hard ball that protects it from would-be predators.

Armadillos are insectivores (insect eaters), and their closest relatives are sloths and anteaters. While most of their diet is insects and invertebrates, armadillos also eat fruit, eggs, and small animals. They're truly industrious excavators, great at digging, and they serve as excellent insect control.

### Belle the French Lop Rabbit

Our new rabbit is four months old and already rather large, which makes sense; French Lops are the biggest breed of lop rabbits.

In fact, they're the only one considered a giant breed. On average, they weigh 10 to 14 pounds!



Being herbivores, rabbits eat a variety of plant material. At Cosley Zoo, our rabbits receive a diet mostly made up of commercial rabbit pellets and timothy hay, with fruits and vegetables as occasional treats.

That's good, because a rabbit's teeth never stop growing! We provide ours with plenty of chewing material to wear down their teeth.

French Lops are often sought after as pets due to their good temperament with people. But due to their large size, they can be difficult for children to handle, which may lead to back injuries for the rabbit.

Our staff will be working with this "little" girl to become one of our animal ambassadors, joining us for education programs and meeting visitors during animal encounters.

You'll be able to see her soon in the rabbit building or yard!

## Coins for Conservation

Cosley Zoo's conservation efforts don't stop at our own five shady acres.

As one of the 233 accredited facilities of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), Cosley Zoo contributes to AZA SAFE

(Saving Animals from Extinction), an initiative that's part of AZA's 2,700-plus field conservation projects in over 115 countries.



AZA SAFE focuses on ten endangered species, and you can now donate directly to three of them at the Coins for Conservation Kiosk just past the zoo's entrance.

Support the cheetah, whooping crane, and vaquita, and help save a local species, too: the Blanding's Turtle. Your donations go to work across the globe and right here in DuPage County.

Turn that change in your pocket into change in the world!

## Members-Only Zoo-vie Day!

Saturday, November 5 | 2-4P



You've heard of Movie Day; now experience Zoo-vie Day!

Catch *Ice Age: Collision Course* (starring Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Denis Leary, Queen Latifah, and more) right here at Cosley Zoo! This afternoon screening will be indoors in the Vern Kiebler Learning Center. Feel free to bring snacks and non-alcoholic drinks.

This is the third in a three-part series of members-only movie screenings. Free with membership. Please bring your membership card the day of the event.

Not a member?

Join now at [cosleyzoo.org/get-involved](http://cosleyzoo.org/get-involved)

## The Leaves Aren't the Only Ones Changing: Cosley Zoo Staff and Fall

Brett Peto, Marketing & Communications Assistant

When the first leaves of autumn tumble past her window, Education Supervisor Natasha Fischer knows she won't see much of her desk until November.

"Between teaching programs and helping the rest of the staff unload pumpkins during our periodic October deliveries, our projects have to wait until October's over," she said.

That's because October is "usually our second-highest month for onsite educational programs," according to Education & Guest Experiences Manager Tami Romejko.

"We get a lot of schools doing fall field trips in October," she said. Only May, when teachers want to reward their classes for a school year well-done, sees more.

Midwesterners know fall is a time to say farewell to warm weather, but at the zoo, the changing of the seasons is also the changing of the guard, as we start a fresh season of our popular Junior Zookeeper program. It's a yearlong opportunity for young adults in grades 7 through 12 to receive comprehensive training in animal care, education, public speaking, and more.

Many advance to higher education programs in biology, environmental science, veterinary medicine, and other animal- and conservation-related areas.

"In September, Educator and Teen Specialist Jackie Karnstedt will hold orientation sessions with the approximately 50 teens chosen for the program," Fischer said.

Summer interns return to school and autumn interns arrive, said Lead Zookeeper Jenny Theuman.

"Animal Care will be looking to bring on three to four interns and will be working with a College of DuPage veterinarian assistant program to take on one extern this fall," she said.

That extra help is needed for seasonal facility projects.



"There's a lot of leaf removal from the exhibits and the grounds," Theuman said. "Some of the leaves are placed in garbage bags and frozen over the winter and offered as environmental enrichment for the animals, from nesting materials for songbirds to bedding for bobcats."

Precautions against the cold are undertaken, too.

"In late fall we winterize all of our ponds, adding heaters to prevent ice from accumulating. We also clean our duck pond. During that time, we check the ducks' weights and do a thorough exam of feather condition and feet," said Theuman.

Weighing the animals is one of the zookeepers' more important fall tasks.

"Though we monitor the animals' weight and body condition all year long, fall is the time of year we look for weights to trend up," she said. "For most of our animals, it's when they normally put on a little layer of insulation, or a thicker coat, or new feathers, and we monitor this closely so we can adjust the calories we offer them."



To its guests, the zoo offers pumpkins, thousands of which you'll find on the front lawn—along with a cornstalk tunnel, straw pyramid, gourds, apples, and straw bales—during Pumpkin Fest.

Open daily **9A-5P, October 1-31**, it's our celebration of the sensory delights of autumn.

You might find a favorite jack-o-lantern to prop on your porch.

"We offer group pumpkin packages in October, where participants take part in an education program and then receive pumpkins or gourds to take home," said Fischer. "These packages are quite popular."

A few activities, unfortunately, hibernate until spring.

"Some of our daily activities offered to the public wrap up," Romejko said. "Duck Feeding will end after October 10 and Chicken Feeding ends October 31, both to resume in the spring."

Our Discovery Stations, where guests can experience animal encounters, amphitheater presentations, and animal training sessions, will "move to weekends only in September and October," said Romejko, where they'll still be offered twice daily at 10:30A and 2:30P.

But even as some programs change, staff is already preparing others.

"Education staff will begin preparing supplies for Santa's Craft Corner in late fall," Fischer said. "Several hundred children will create Christmas- and winter-themed crafts during this event, so we have a lot of prep work to do."

Held **November 26** and **December 3 and 10, 10A-2P**, Santa's Craft Corner lets kids meet and take a photo with the big man himself, make crafts to take home, and enjoy refreshments.

By then, Fischer will finally have returned to her desk, at least until the first leaves of spring grow outside her window.

"Our staff doesn't sit down much in the fall," she said.

## Autumn Changes: How Illinois Animals Prepare for Winter

Natasha Fischer, Education Supervisor

Here in Illinois, the temperature fluctuation between seasons forces animals to develop different strategies for surviving changing conditions. As many of us enjoy autumn, with its cooler temperatures and lovely colors, the animals living around us are undergoing important preparations for the impending winter. Survival strategies vary greatly by species, with animals exhibiting vastly different behaviors as they prepare for the cold, harsh season ahead.



Animals often adapt, or change, physically. In the fall, mammals such as deer, coyotes, and foxes start shedding their summer fur and growing a warmer, thicker winter coat. Birds planning to stay in Illinois over the winter start adding more feathers for extra protection against winter's freezes.

Animals can also adapt their

behavior, caching surplus food to consume through December, January, and February.

The squirrel is one such animal, storing food underground or in trees, but other Illinois animals cache food. Moles, for example, cache earthworms, biting off their heads to immobilize the worms before storing them. Many birds, including crows, and woodpeckers, also cache food, often wedging it into a tree cavity or under a strip of bark.

For animals that hibernate during winter, like woodchucks (also known as groundhogs), the shorter days and dropping temperatures of fall are cues to eat more food and build fat stores.

This extra body fat helps compensate for the weight loss a woodchuck experiences during hibernation, which can be up to a quarter of its body weight.

For other animals, migrating to a different climate is the best option. Birds are probably most well-known for their migration patterns.

Contrary to popular belief, most Illinois birds don't fly south to escape the cold; as warm-blooded animals covered in feathers, their bodies are designed to withstand it. They migrate, rather, because they no longer have a consistent food source once temperatures plummet.

The Dark-eyed Junco actually starts flying towards Illinois in the fall. The junco, which spends summers in the northern United States and Canada, doesn't require tropical temperatures and lush green grasses. It just needs to find edible seeds among the patches of snow and frozen ground.

Like animals that hibernate, birds preparing for fall migration start eating at an accelerated rate to build fat reserves for the challenging journey.

Regardless of each species' strategy for surviving winter, autumn is an important time of preparation. This season, as you start preparing your own home and family for colder weather, take a few minutes to enjoy the sights and sounds of the animals around you doing the same.



### *Make an Animal's Wish Come True*

Help our animals have an extra special holiday season by purchasing an ornament from our Holiday Wish Tree! Visit the Wild Side Gift Shop during your next zoo adventure November 25-December 31, pick the ornament that lists a great gift for your favorite animal, and we'll do the shopping!

Many of the items on the tree provide enrichment for our animals. Enrichment is the process of creating a challenging environment to address an animal's social, psychological, and physical needs. It enhances animal activity and provides mental stimulation. Enrichment is just as critical to an animal's well-being as the right food and medical care.

If you'd like to shop for the animals year-round, visit our Amazon Wish List at [amzn.to/2aUD9zm](https://amzn.to/2aUD9zm). It's easy to make an animal's wish come true!

## Pumpkin Fest + Spooktacular = Fall Fun

Brett Peto, Marketing & Communications Assistant

It's a tossup between what represents fall better: golden leaves on the ground, rows of pumpkins as far as the eye can see, tangy apple cider, tingly air, or the crunch of straw.

Daily **October 1-31, 9A-5P**, you can experience the sensory delights of autumn at Cosley Zoo's Pumpkin Fest, a celebration of the season and the bounty of the harvest.

See the animals enjoy their fall frolics. Discover pumpkins, gourds, bales of straw, apples, and other seasonal produce in the Pumpkin Patch on the front lawn. Conquer the straw pyramid, forge through the cornstalk tunnel, and hop on a ride. Take home some cider, or a bunch of apples, or the supplies to carve the pumpkin destined for the front yard.

Fall in love with fall.

At the end of the day, when twilight comes and it's time to head home, you can take a piece of Cosley Zoo with you.



Apples, gourds, pumpkins, cider, cornstalks, straw bales of various sizes, and other fall merchandise, including pumpkin-carving supplies, will be available for purchase in the Wild Side Gift Shop. Proceeds benefit the ongoing development of Cosley Zoo.



Pumpkin Fest is included with regular admission.

Wheaton Park District residents, Cosley Zoo members, and all children (birth to 17) are always free.

Nonresident adults (18-54) are \$5 per person; nonresident seniors (55+) are \$4 per person.

But what if you want to try out your Halloween costume before the big day? What if you could try it out on our animals?

You can with Spooktacular! For one night only, we transform the zoo into a family friendly Halloween hotspot.

Choose one of two time slots (**5:30-7P** or **7-8:30P**) the evening of **October 28** and explore our Trick or Treat Trek stations, not-so-scary straw maze, straw pyramid, spooky pond path, craft stations, Halloween-themed games, pumpkin carving, and more.



Guests can also participate in animal encounters—safe, controlled interactions with animals supervised by zoo staff—to potentially include a turtle, hedgehog, rabbit, snake, and more.

Costumes are definitely encouraged, said Education Supervisor Natasha Fischer.

"I recognize many of the children who come to Spooktacular from zoo classes I teach throughout the year," she said. "It's fun to see them come with their families all dressed up, and they have a good time watching me try to figure out who they are when they're costumed."

Spooktacular is a paid event and preregistration is required. Space is limited.

For Cosley Zoo members, registration is \$7 per person (3-14); \$4 per person (15+); and free for kids 2 and under. For nonmembers, registration is \$10 per person (3-14); \$5 per person (15+); and free for kids 2 and under.

To register, call 630.665.5534, visit [cosleyzoo.org/events](https://cosleyzoo.org/events), or stop in the Wild Side Gift Shop.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact T.J. Hicks, Development Director at The Cosley Foundation, Inc., at [tjhicks@wheatonparks.org](mailto:tjhicks@wheatonparks.org) or 630.510.5105.

## Programs & Events | September-December

Register at [wheatonparkdistrict.com](http://wheatonparkdistrict.com) for Bookworms, Barnyard Bedtime Stories, and Zoo Tots Fall Play Group.

### Bookworms

It's storytime at the zoo – come join us as we read a story, meet an animal, and make a craft! Register for either the Wednesday or the Thursday series; different topics each session.

**Location:** Cosley Zoo

**Limit:** 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
<b>Series 1</b>					
18 mos-4	9/7-10/19	W	9:30-10A	\$45.50/\$63	406502-01
<b>Series 2</b>					
18 mos-4	10/26-12/14*	W	9:30-10A	\$45.50/\$63	406505-01
18 mos-4	10/27-12/15**	Th	9:30-10A	\$45.50/\$63	406505-02

\*No class 11/23. \*\*No class 11/24.

### Barnyard Bedtime Stories

Put on your pajamas, grab your teddy bear, and come to Cosley Zoo for an after-hours storytime complete with animal-themed books, an activity, and a bedtime snack. All ages are welcome, but all participants ages 18 months-12 years must be registered.

**Location:** Cosley Zoo

**Limit:** 25

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
18 mos-12	9/16	F	6:30-7:30P	\$12/\$16	406401-01

### Zoo Tots Fall Play Group

Curious toddlers experience learning through self-guided play in this special class for ages 2-4. Come play together with other families, meet a live animal, and learn how nature play experiences can have an important role in your child's development.

**Location:** Cosley Zoo

**Limit:** 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
2-4	9/20	Tu	9-10A	\$9/\$12.50	406205-01
2-4	10/18	Tu	9-10A	\$9/\$12.50	406205-02
2-4	11/15	Tu	9-10A	\$9/\$12.50	406205-03

### Morning Chores

Have you ever wanted to help take care of animals on a farm? Here's your chance for first-hand experience as you help clean and bed stalls, feed some farm animals, and try your hand at grooming.

- April-October, 7:15-9:15A
- Ages 8-adult (ages 8-13 must be accompanied by a paying adult): \$20 per person
- 10% discount for Wild Bunch Plus & Keeper Club Members

To sign up, call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534.

### Eco-Exploration Backpack Tours at Cosley Zoo

These eco-friendly packs are filled with a combination of activities and discovery items families can use while at the zoo. Each pack focuses on a different theme and will act as a "tour guide" as you make your way through the zoo, highlighting various exhibits and promoting animal and habitat conservation messages.

- \$3 per pack.
- Successfully complete your adventure and receive an official Eco-Explorer button. Complete each theme to collect all 8 buttons!
- Packs can be checked out from the Wild Side Gift Shop.

### Zookeeper for a Day

**Ages 14 & up | 10A-1P | available year-round**

Spend part of the day working side-by-side with one of Cosley Zoo's Animal Care staff as you assist with routine cleaning and care, provide enrichment to the animals, and take part in a training demonstration. Participants also receive a certificate, special souvenir, and photo.

- \$95 per person
- 10% discount for Wild Bunch Plus & Keeper Club Members

To sign up, call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534.

### Bobcats Backstage at Cosley Zoo

Join our zookeepers for an exclusive behind-the-scenes visit with the bobcats. Learn about this amazing feline as you enjoy a close-up view of a training session where the bobcats learn how to participate in their own care.

- Available daily 11-11:30A
- Sign up by 10:45A in the Wild Side Gift Shop during your zoo visit.
- First-come, first-served; maximum of 6 participants each day
- \$12 per person
- 10% discount for Wild Bunch Plus & Keeper Club Members

## Daily Activities

### Duck Feeding

Offered daily 10-10:30A and 3-3:30P, weather permitting  
Through October 10  
Cost: \$1 per serving  
*All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.*

### Chicken Feeding

Offered daily 11:30-11:45A and 1:30-1:45P, weather permitting  
Through October 31  
Cost: \$1 per serving  
*All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.*

### Discovery Stations

Training demonstrations, animal encounters, and more take place at 10:30A and 2:30P, weather permitting, on Saturdays and Sundays in September and October. Look for the Daily Activities sign when you enter the zoo to see the topics and locations for the day's presentations. Programs are free and open to all ages.

## Programs & Events | September-December

### Pumpkin Fest

October 1-31

Take in the beautiful fall colors, see the animals, hop on a children's ride, and listen to the squeals of excitement from the kids conquering the straw pyramid or finding their way through the cornstalk tunnel.

Apples, gourds, pumpkins, cider, cornstalks, and various sizes of straw bales will be available for purchase. Check out the fall merchandise in the Wild Side Gift Shop, too! Proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.

- Regular admission rates apply
- Children's rides require an additional fee

### Spooktacular

Friday, October 28, 5:30-7P and 7-8:30P

Come dressed in costume, take a stroll through our not-so-scary straw maze, walk the spooky pond path, meet live animals, carve or decorate a pumpkin, play games, enjoy refreshments, make crafts, and stop at the Trick or Treat Trek stations to collect your supply of holiday goodies. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited, so register early! Payment due at time of registration. Call 630.665.5534 or stop in the Wild Side Gift Shop to sign up today!

- Cosley Zoo member: \$7 per person (3-14); \$4 per person (15+); free 2 and under
- Nonmember: \$10 per person (3-14); \$5 per person (15+); free 2 and under

### Christmas Tree Lane

Gather your scout group, friends, coworkers, or family to help decorate Cosley Zoo for the holidays! We provide a lit five-foot tree and you provide wildlife-friendly ornaments and imagination. Trees are displayed through December. Payment is due upon reservation. Call 630.665.5534 or stop in the Wild Side Gift Shop to sign up today!

- \$45 per tree
- Limit 35 trees
- Tree decorating to take place November 27-December 3

### Santa's Craft Corner

Saturday, November 26,  
December 3 & 10, 10A-2P

Can't make it to the North Pole? Do the next best thing and come to Cosley Zoo, where you can see Santa AND the animals! While visiting Santa, make a craft or two and enjoy refreshments.

- \$5 per family donation
- \$3 for printed photo with Santa



## Celebrate the Season



Supported by



**NOVEMBER 25 through DECEMBER 30**

Open daily 9A-9P | Lights on at 3P

*Free admission for everyone!*

We're honored that so many families have made it a tradition to purchase the trees for their homes from us every year, and we're excited to help you start your own tradition. Visit our winter wonderland of 20,000 twinkling lights, spectacular displays, hot chocolate, holiday gifts, tree sales, and five acres of cheer. Donations are greatly appreciated.



**COSLEY ZOO:  
A LIFETIME OF INSPIRATION BEGINS HERE.**



**COSLEYZOO.ORG**


1356 N. Gary Ave. | Wheaton | 630.665.5534  
Cosley Zoo is a facility of the Wheaton Park District

# Thank You to Our Cosley Classic Sponsors

The Cosley Foundation, Inc. would like to thank our 33rd Annual Mike Williams Cosley Classic Golf Outing sponsors, golfers, and volunteers!

**With your help, we raised over \$25,000 for Cosley Zoo!**

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## Sandhill Crane Sponsor



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