

Cosley Tails

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The Cosley Foundation



ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

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. We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Cosley Zoo is a facility of the Wheaton Park District.



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SAFE – Saving Animals from Extinction

By Alison LaBarge, Zookeeper

If you visited the zoo on Friday, May 15th, you may have noticed some unusual signs accompanying a few of our exhibits. The third Friday in May is Endangered Species Day. Established by the United States Congress and pioneered by the National Wildlife Federation, Endangered Species Day is an opportunity to recognize the importance of wildlife conservation, while simultaneously celebrating conservation accomplishments and acknowledging the risk of wildlife extinction.



Unsurprisingly, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the nonprofit organization that establishes the standards of quality animal care and offers accreditation to only the most exemplary zoological institutions in the country, chose May 15th, 2015, to introduce its newest conservation program: Saving Animals from Extinction (SAFE). As one of 229 AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, Cosley Zoo is pleased to be a part of this effort to help restore populations of endangered species in the wild. Cosley Zoo is home to three species that are endangered in Illinois: the Blanding’s Turtle, the Black-crowned Night Heron, and the Barn Owl. The signs posted on these three exhibits in honor of the SAFE program’s launch asked visitors to imagine a life without these fascinating animals.

With the introduction of SAFE, there is new hope for endangered species like the ones residing at Cosley Zoo. AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums have been leaders in wildlife conservation for nearly a century already; the American Bison and the California Condor are just two of over 30 species that have bounced back from the brink of extinction due in part to the efforts of these institutions. Additionally, AZA-accredited organizations invest over \$160 million per year on field conservation efforts throughout the world. Zoos and aquariums are currently doing great work, but SAFE will focus their efforts by gathering scientists and other animal experts to identify threats to wildlife, develop plans for conservation, and gather resources to put those plans into action.

Over the past two years, leadership within the AZA zoo and aquarium community has worked to identify the 100 most threatened species in the world. This year, SAFE will focus on ten

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species from that list, and begin work to help increase the populations of those species in the wild. Each year for the next ten years, at least ten additional species will be highlighted.

The 180 million guests who visit AZA-accredited institutions annually are critical to SAFE's success. Conservation efforts can only succeed with public support. SAFE seeks to engage zoo visitors, inspiring them to support conservation programs and to take action to aid wildlife. While extinction is a very real threat, SAFE brings hope that animals can be saved. You can help support SAFE by visiting or volunteering at a local AZA-accredited zoo or aquarium, adopting an animal or making a donation, and spreading the word to family and friends. Together, we can save the world's most vulnerable animals from extinction so they may continue to be appreciated by future generations.

For more information, please visit aza.org/SAFE or AZAsavingspecies.org.



Thank You to our Animal Adopters

Individuals

Jacqueline Amour, Nubian Goat
 Amanda Awanson, Blanding's Turtle
 Heidi Banks, Turtle
 Silas Bent, Shetland Pony
 Katelynn Brandt, Bobcat
 Jack and Libby Condon, Shetland Pony
 Mrs. Melissa Foster, Bullfrog
 Heather Fredericks, Nubian Goat
 Mia Grant-Funck, Barn Owl
 Gatlin Jones, Turtle
 Monty Kehl, Red Fox
 Gerald King Jr., Donkey
 Konrad Kinser, Bobcat
 Zosia Kinser, Shetland Pony
 Billy Marchese, Turtle
 Rachel Miller, Bobcat
 Genelle Monashan, Turtle
 Evelyn Mosley, Barn Owl
 Johanne Pachankis, Barn Owl
 Tim Rauworth, Bobcat
 Zef & Vinny Romann, Bobcat
 Amanda Scheller, Shetland Pony
 Tiffany Scherer, Bobcat
 Skyler & Summer Schmid, Bobcat
 Marlen Schuett, Raccoon
 Bryan Seiler, Turtle
 Drew Seiler, Bobcat
 Juliette Szewc, Shetland Pony
 Katie Thicksten, Raccoon
 George & Miriam Timko, Great Horned Owl
 Cheyenne Warricks, Bobcat
 Craig Willbanks, Red Fox

Organizations

Champion Kuehl Trucking LLC, Coyote
 Pleasant Hill Elementary School, Guinea Hogs
 Ridge Circle School, Fjord Horse
 Wheaton Public Library, Fjord Horse



Bobcats: A Conservation Success Story

By Katherine Anderson, Educator

Bobcats are a wide-ranging but elusive species. Although they are found in every state in the contiguous United States, they are rarely seen due to their shy and nocturnal nature. Cosley Zoo's bobcat brothers, Salvatore and Valentino, became an exception when they were found in an attic in California as kittens. The pair was brought to a rehabilitation center and lived there for a decade before coming to live in Illinois. Although they are stars here at Cosley Zoo, bobcats have historically had it difficult in Illinois. Read the timeline below to explore the social, political, and economic factors that led to the fall of bobcat populations, as well as the steps taken to bring them back from the brink.

1810

Before settlers arrived, bobcats ranged throughout the entire state of Illinois. Forests, which are bobcats' preferred habitat, made up 38% of the landscape. However, bobcats are an adaptable species, and they established territories in the state's prairies and wetlands as well.

1820-1925

As settlers flocked to Illinois to secure their own land, forests and prairies were cut down and wetlands were drained to make room for agricultural fields, which bobcats could not use. During this time, the percentage of Illinois covered by forests dropped from 38% to 9%. Although the bobcat is a shy species whose diet comprises mainly of rabbits and rodents, early American farmers feared that the wildcat was a threat to their livestock. Bounties on bobcats spread like wildfire and though their pelts were worth very little, hunters started to target bobcats.

1970s

When big cats became protected from the fur trade under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the value of bobcat pelts rose dramatically because bobcats were not protected by the new laws. Bobcat hunting around the country continued to flourish.

1972

Illinois banned bobcat hunting as habitat loss and overhunting ravaged the species' population.

1977

Despite efforts to protect bobcats from hunting, bobcats were declared threatened in Illinois by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.

1979-1982

An official survey of bobcat sightings over this four year span found only 89 bobcats spotted in just 52 of Illinois' 102 counties.

1990s

The price of bobcat fur dropped to nearly pre-1970 levels.

1998

Bobcat populations began to rebound; bobcats were sighted in 33 more counties than previously recorded, bringing the total number of counties with bobcat sightings to 85 out of 102.

1999

Because of increasing populations, the bobcat was removed from Illinois' threatened species list.

2000

Bobcats were officially sighted in 99 of Illinois' 102 counties.

2008

Bobcat fur prices rose once again, though hunting remains illegal in Illinois.

2015

Today it is estimated that as many as 5,000 bobcats live or travel in the state of Illinois, including every county. Populations have rebounded so much that some legislators have proposed to make bobcat hunting legal again.



Photo by Ed Durbin

Bobcats are the only wildcat species that currently resides in Illinois, and we are fortunate to have them. They are beautiful animals that pose no threat to humans, and without bobcats, rabbit and rodent populations would bloom unchecked. Although bobcat populations in Illinois are stable now, the species continues to be threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation as well as the continued fear that bobcats are a threat to livestock. You can help bobcats by protecting and conserving forest habitat and educating your friends and family about this very special species. One great way to learn about bobcats is by visiting an AZA accredited zoo where you can see them up close and personal. Illinois has worked hard to protect bobcats and keep them from extinction. Let's all do our part to make sure that bobcats are here in Illinois to stay.

Programs & Events



Bookworms Series

Do you and your child love stories and animals? Come read a story, meet an animal, and try an activity. Children must be accompanied by a nonpaying adult. Meet your instructor by the gift shop. Please note: Class is held in our Duck Pond Pavilion, which is a covered outdoor space. *Cosley Zoo members: Register at the Community Center in person or by mail to take advantage of reduced fees for members.* (TR)

Limit: 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
18 mos-4	7/22-8/26	W	9:30-10A	\$39/\$54	306505-01

Zoo Tots

Curious toddlers experience learning through play in this special class for ages 2-4. Led by a Cosley Zoo educator, our class features a live animal visit and animal-themed activities. Each session is different. Meet the instructor by the gift shop. Please note: Class is held in our Duck Pond Pavilion which is a covered, outdoor space. Child must be accompanied by a nonpaying adult. *Cosley Zoo members: Register at the Community Center in person or by mail to take advantage of reduced fees for members.* (TR)

Limit: 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
Farm Animals					
2-4	7/14	Tu	8:30-9:30A	\$9/\$12.50	306510-02
Insects					
2-4	8/11	Tu	8:30-9:30A	\$9/\$12.50	306510-03

Register online at wheatonparkdistrict.com for Bookworms, and Zoo Tots at Cosley Zoo.

Cosley Zoo also has summer camps!

Sign up today at wheatonparkdistrict.com

Zoo Crew

What all goes on at the zoo? Experience various careers in the zoo and aquarium field, from animal care to education and exhibit design to research. Discover what it takes to be part of a zoo crew! (TR)

Limit: 16

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
12-15	7/13-7/17	M-F	8:45-11:45A	\$110/\$150	317328-01

Animal Tales

There are many wonderful tales about animals. Each day focuses on a favorite animal story with campers creating their very own animal tale throughout the week. (TR)

Limit: 16

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
4-7	7/20-7/24	M-F	8:45-11:45A	\$110/\$150	317331-01

CZI: Cosley Zoo Investigations

Come discover what makes an animal unique as we investigate some very interesting animals. A new mystery animal awaits campers each day as they work to solve their zoo clues and close the case. (TR)

Limit: 16

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
8-11	7/27-7/31	M-F	8:45-11:45A	\$110/\$150	317351-01

Backyard Buddies

From bugs and owls to salamanders and turtles, come investigate the animals that live in our backyards. There are a lot of interesting animals right under our noses! (TR)

Limit: 16

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
4-7	8/3-8/7	M-F	8:45-11:45A	\$110/\$150	317330-01

Programs & Events



Fun-damentals of Zookeeping

Do you want to be a zookeeper? Come spend part of the day and work side by side with one of Cosley Zoo's Animal Care staff. Assist with routine cleaning and care, provide enrichment to the animals, and be a part of a training demonstration. Participants will also receive a certificate, special souvenir, and photo.

- Available on a Sunday or Friday all year from 10A to 1P.
- Ages 14 & up
- \$75/Cosley Zoo Member; \$95/nonmember

To sign-up, call the Education Department at 630.665.5534.

Morning Chores

Have you ever wanted to help take care of animals on a farm? Well now is your chance to get a first-hand experience. Join the staff as you help clean and bed stalls, feed some farm animals, and try your hand at grooming.

- Available on Saturday mornings April-September from 7:15-9:15A.
- Ages 8-adult (Ages 8-13 must be accompanied by a paying adult)
- \$15/ Cosley Zoo Member; \$20/nonmember

To sign up call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534

Bobcats Backstage

A unique experience with the bobcats! 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 11:00-11:30A.
- 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.
- \$10/Cosley Zoo Member; \$12/nonmember

Eco-Exploration Backpack Tours

Cosley Zoo is offering backpack tours for families. These eco-friendly packs are filled with a combination of activities and discovery items that families can utilize 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. Backpack tours are a great way for parents and children to explore the zoo together.

- \$2 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.

Daily Activities

Duck Feeding

Offered daily through October 12 from 10-10:30A and 3-3:30P, weather permitting.

- Cost: \$1/serving
- All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo

Chicken Feeding

Offered daily through October 31 from 11:30-11:45A and 1:30-1:45P, weather permitting.

- Cost: \$1/serving
- All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo

Discovery Stations

Training demonstrations, animal encounters, and more will take place at 10:30A and 2:30P, weather permitting, daily through August. Look for the Discovery Station sign when you enter the zoo to discover the topics and location for the day's presentations.



Programs & Events



Cosley Zoo Uncorked

Thursday, July 16, 5:30-8P

Looking for a wild night out? We have just the thing! Enjoy a distinctive wine tasting experience, complete with the animals and atmosphere of Cosley Zoo. Join us for wine sampling, hors d'oeuvres, raffle, giveaways and more! You must be 21 years or older to attend. Registration is required by Friday, July 10. Payment is required at the time of registration. Call the zoo or go online at cosleyzoo.org/events/ to register. Wine tasting provided by Famous Liquors of Lombard.

• \$35/person; \$60/couple

Sponsored by



Mike Williams Cosley Classic Golf Outing

Monday, August 3

Get your foursome together for the 32nd annual Mike Williams Cosley Classic Golf Outing at Arrowhead Golf Club. Golfers enjoy lunch, a steak dinner, gifts, awards, raffle prizes, and a silent auction. Take your shot at winning a hole-in-one. This is the perfect outing to share with friends and business associates. For registration information visit cosleyzoo.org.

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Thank You

Many thanks to the vendors below for their donation of food and supplies for the animals!



Llama Llama Character Day

Thursday, August 13, 10A-Noon

Come out to Cosley Zoo and meet your favorite llama. No registration required. Regular admission rates apply.