

# Cosley Tails

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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](mailto:CosleyZoo@wheatonparks.org). We welcome your comments and suggestions.



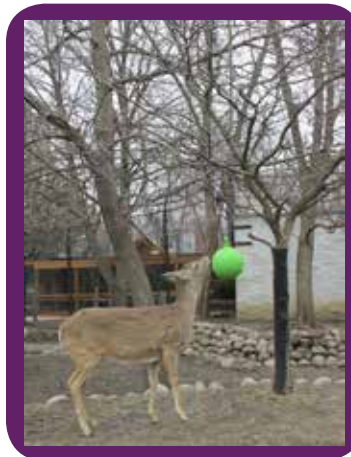
Cosley Zoo is a facility of the Wheaton Park District.

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

## The Importance of Behavioral Enrichment

By Caryn Johnson, Zoo keeper

At Cosley Zoo, enriching the lives of the animals in our collection is of utmost importance. But what exactly does it mean to enrich animals in a zoological setting? According to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums [AZA] Behavior Scientific Advisory Group [BAG], enrichment is defined as “a process for improving or enhancing animal environments.”



*A white-tailed deer explores a jolly ball.*

Enrichment provides the opportunity for zoos to improve the lives of the animals in their collections by providing them with a habitat that stimulates their senses, provides opportunities to exercise problem-solving skills, and encourages movement and exercise. Providing enrichment for our animals is a component of exemplary daily animal care, demonstrating our desire to continually strive for the highest degree of animal welfare. Animal enrichment programs are utilized by zoos in order to offer the opportunity for animals in captivity to actively make choices in their environment, express species-appropriate behaviors, and offer the best possible guest experience to zoo visitors.

First of all, encouraging animals in a zoological setting to make choices in their environment is crucial for their cognitive wellbeing. In captivity, animals don't encounter the same struggle to find food, water, or shelter that their wild counterparts do, since everything is provided for them; therefore, it's critical that zookeepers incorporate enrichment items that allow captive species to use their intelligence to actively make decisions within their environment.

For example, zoo keepers might give some of the animals, including raccoons Mika and Loca, a cardboard box filled with straw and a few pieces of hidden food items, such as fresh produce, dried fruit, meat, or insects. Since raccoons in particular have a very keen sense of touch and have a lot of tactility in their paws, utilizing enrichment items that allow them to investigate and feel with their paws allows for a more naturalistic experience. In this instance, Mika and

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## The Importance of Behavior Enrichment

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Loca would have to seek out and investigate the cardboard box in their exhibit and retrieve the hidden items inside after foraging through the straw. This activity is both physically active as well as mentally rewarding.

More complex enrichment items, such as a hanging puzzle feeder containing small cutouts with food items inside, would compel Mika and Loca to move around the exhibit to get to the puzzle feeder and then manipulate the feeder with their paws in order to receive the food items inside. Zoo keepers can also use creativity to construct particular enrichment items with seasonal changes in the weather. Seasonal enrichment might include constructing snowmen in animal exhibits in the winter. These snowmen may contain different food items, scent extracts, or seasonings that help entice the animal(s) to move around the exhibit and investigate the enrichment item further.

An effective enrichment program also utilizes enrichment items that help target desired behaviors for a given species. For example, bobcats are excellent climbers; therefore, it is extremely beneficial to Cosley Zoo's bobcats Valentino and Salvatore when we provide them with enrichment items in their exhibit that encourage them to climb and explore their environment. Zoo keepers work hard to provide climbing opportunities for the bobcats by hiding food items on high branches and/or on the rockwork, hanging items such as tires, jolly balls, and crates from various branches and perches, and using scent enrichment including spices, perfume, and fur from other animals throughout the exhibit to encourage the bobcats to move around. Additionally, scent marking is a natural behavior for bobcats to display in the wild, and here at Cosley Zoo, the presence of enrichment items can often encourage Valentino and Salvatore to "mark" their territory by spraying their own scent in areas of the exhibit that may contain scent enrichment.

Enrichment also provides the opportunity for zoo guests to have a highly memorable zoo experience. The presence of enrichment items in an animal exhibit often means that at some point during the day the animal in question will seek out and investigate these items. On any given day at Cosley Zoo guests have the chance to observe zoo keepers distributing enrichment items as part of their daily duties. In addition, Cosley Zoo occasionally offers an Enrichment Table, where guests help create enrichment items for the zoo's animals. This table is set up at various times throughout the week during the warmer months. Guests who visit the Enrichment Table to make enrichment items for the animals can then watch the items being given out by the zoo keepers! This is an activity that guests of all ages can enjoy.



*Raccoons use their keen senses to hunt for tasty treats.*

The next time you visit Cosley Zoo, look for enrichment items such as an orange traffic cone in the deeryard or a hanging tire in the raccoon exhibit. These items, which might seem ordinary to us, greatly impact the species at the zoo and are a crucial component of our animal welfare program.

## Save The Date



2014 Mike Williams  
**COSLEY CLASSIC**  
GOLF OUTING

Monday, August 4  
Arrowhead Golf Club

## Congratulations Lorraine Pachankis!

By Natasha Fischer, Educator

Cosley Zoo staff is pleased to recognize Education Volunteer Lorraine Pachankis, who recently reached a major milestone in her volunteering career. As of March 2014, Lorraine has donated over 450 hours of her time to Cosley Zoo!

Lorraine began volunteering at Cosley Zoo in 2010. In the warmer months, Lorraine teaches visitors about the animals residing at the zoo. She can be found stationed outside an animal exhibit with animal pelts, skulls, or feathers for visitors to touch, providing them with a unique hands-on experience. Lorraine's favorite exhibits to interpret are the birds of prey, foxes, and bobcats. She also helps to facilitate our public duck feeding sessions. In the winter, Lorraine assists the education department with a variety of indoor tasks, including craft preparation, filing, and organizing items for upcoming special events.

Volunteering is an important part of Lorraine's life, and she donates her time to several additional area organizations, including Willowbrook Wildlife Center. During the four years she has been at Cosley Zoo, her contribution has been immeasurable. She has interacted with thousands of zoo visitors, raised considerable funds for the zoo through the sale of duck food, and saved our education staff countless hours of time by assisting with program preparation. She is also a recycling champion and is constantly supplying the zoo with newspaper, cardboard tubes, and plastic containers, which are all used by both the education and animal care departments on a regular basis. Thank you, Lorraine, for all you do for Cosley Zoo! You are a most valuable part of our team.



*A fox, one of Lorraine's favorite animals.*

## Celebrate National Zookeeper Week

By Angie Dosch, Animal Collection Supervisor

Cosley Zoo is celebrating our zoo keepers and the inspiring work they do as animal care experts, conservationists, and frontline educators. Zoo keepers commit their lives to enhancing the welfare of animals every day through enrichment, training, and husbandry practices. Their dedication and passion is displayed seven days a week, 365 days a year, any time, day or night. They work holidays, weekends, and outside on snow days when most people are tucked away in their warm homes.



*Zookeeper Jenny Theuman shares a Blue-tongued Skink with an eager zoo visitor.*

Zoo keepers arrive in the middle of the night to feed a lamb and stay late to introduce animal ambassadors during special events. They truly are willing to do whatever it takes to provide for the animals in their care while enthusiastically sharing information with visitors.

Cosley Zoo is joining the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) and zoos and aquariums across the nation in celebrating National Zoo Keeper Week. Come join us at the zoo July 20 - 26 for a chance to thank your favorite zoo keeper and learn more about the awesome job these dedicated professionals do every day. During National Zoo Keeper Week, daily Discovery Stations at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm will feature zoo keepers or present opportunities to learn more about what a zoo keeper does.



**Calling all teens entering grades 7-12!**  
**Interested in being a part of Cosley Zoo's Junior Zoo Keeper program? Applications for the 2014-2015 year will be available June 4, 2014. Visit [cosleyzoo.org/junior.htm](http://cosleyzoo.org/junior.htm) for more information.**

## Programs & Events

May-August 2014

### Bookworms

Do you and your child love stories and animals? Come read a story, meet an animal, and try an activity. Each week is different. Join us for all sessions! Children must be accompanied by a nonpaying adult. Meet your instructor by the gift shop. *Cosley Zoo members: Register at the Community Center in person or by mail to take advantage of reduced fees for members.* (TR)

**Location:** Cosley Zoo

**Limit:** 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
<b>Series 1</b>					
18 mos-4	6/11-7/9	W	9:30-10A	\$32.50/\$45	306502-01
18 mos-4	6/11-7/9	W	10:30-11A	\$32.50/\$45	306502-02
<b>Series 2</b>					
18 mos-4	7/23-8/20	W	9:30-10A	\$32.50/\$45	306505-01
18 mos-4	7/23-8/20	W	10:30-11A	\$32.50/\$45	306505-02

### Toddler Time

Curious toddlers experience learning through play in this special class for ages 2-3. 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. 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)

**Location:** Cosley Zoo

**Limit:** 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
2-3	6/2	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	206510-04
2-3	6/16	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	306510-01
2-3	6/30	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	306510-02
2-3	7/14	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	306510-03
2-3	7/28	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	306510-04
2-3	8/11	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	306510-05
2-3	8/25	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	306510-06



### Zoo Investigators

Use all your senses to experience the world as an animal would. Hands-on activities and animal interactions will guide your exploration of animals and nature. Drop-off and pick-up children in front of the admissions booth. *Cosley Zoo members: Register at the Community Center in person or by mail to take advantage of reduced fees for members.* (TR)

**Location:** Cosley Zoo

**Limit:** 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
5-7	6/13-7/11*	F	4:15-5:15P	\$44/\$60	306203-01
5-7	7/25-8/15	F	4:15-5:15P	\$44/\$60	306203-02

\*No class 7/4.



### Turtle Day

**Saturday, May 17 | 10 am-2 pm**

Come and experience all things turtle (or chelonian)! On May 17, Cosley Zoo will celebrate turtles and tortoises throughout the world. Learn about the zoo's efforts to protect the Illinois

endangered Blanding's Turtle, meet live turtles and tortoises, and take part in other activities.

- Regular admission rates apply.

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### Zoo Nightlife

**Friday, June 20 | 7-10P**

Ever wonder what it's like at Cosley Zoo after dark? Zoo Nightlife will include family activities, animal encounters, a guided zoo night hike and lots of family fun! Sign up by calling 630.665.5534.

- \$6/ages 2-12; \$9/ages 13-adult; ages 2 and under: Free
- Members receive \$1 off per person based on membership level.

### 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.

## Programs & Events

May-August 2014

### 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 11-11:30 am.
- Sign up (630.665.5534) by 10:45 am in the Wild Side gift shop during your zoo visit or call ahead. First-come, first-served; maximum of 6 participants each day.
- \$10/Cosley Zoo Member; \$12/nonmember.

### 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 7:15-9:15 am.
- 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.

### Fun-damentals of Zookeeping (Ages 14 & up)

Do you want to be a zoo keeper? 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 9am-1pm.
- Ages 14 and up.
- \$120/Cosley Zoo Member; \$150/nonmember.
- To sign up, call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534.

### Duck Feeding

Offered daily from 10-10:30 am and 3-3:30 pm, weather permitting.

- Now through October 13.
- Cost: \$1/serving.
- All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.

### Discovery Stations

Training demonstrations, animal encounters, and more will take place at 10:30 am and 2:30 pm, weather permitting, on Saturdays and Sundays in May, daily June-August. Look for the Discovery Station sign when you enter the zoo to discover the topics and location for the day's presentations.



#### Thursday, July 17 | 5:30-8P | Cosley Zoo

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 12. Payment is required at the time of registration. Call the zoo at 630.665.5534 or register online at [wheatonparkdistrict.com/tickets](http://wheatonparkdistrict.com/tickets). Wine tasting provided by Famous Liquors of Forest Park.  
• \$35/person; \$60/couple

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run for the  
animals  
5K/10K  
COSLEY ZOO 2014

Saturday, June 7

Cosley Zoo Run for the Animals 5K/10K | 7:30A

Zippity Zoo 1/2 Mile Run | 8:45A

Wheaton Park District's Memorial Park

Register at [active.com](http://active.com)\* through June 2

\*Online processing fee applies.

•5K/10K – \$30 through June 2; \$38 during packet pickup; \$40 on Race Day

•Zippity Zoo (ages 6-12) – \$10 through June 2; \$15 during packet pickup; \$20 on Race Day

Questions? Contact the Race Director at 630.510.4989.

Event sponsored by:

