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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)

**What’s So Fun about Training?**

**By: Melanie Kuse, Zookeeper**

During a visit to Cosley Zoo, you may see an animal participating in a training session. That animal was possibly touching a target pole with its nose, going into a crate, or allowing a zookeeper to pick up its foot. But why do we train behaviors like these? What is the purpose behind training our animals at the zoo?

Training is an important part in the lives of all zoo animals around the world. Training can be used for many purposes including research, husbandry, and education. At Cosley Zoo, we train our animals for physical exercise, mental stimulation, and cooperative behaviors (animals willingly participate in their own care such as nail trims, vaccinations, and teeth checks).

In the wild, animals get their exercise when searching for food and water, but in a zoological setting, food and water are provided. Zoos rely on training as an additional tool for providing exercise in an enriching and challenging way. Since challenges such as predators and searching for food are eliminated in a zoo setting, trainers strive to motivate the animals by teaching new behaviors or providing novel interactions, allowing the brain to be stimulated.

By teaching animals to cooperate in the health care process, the animal care staff can provide a higher standard of care for the animals. The benefits of a strong husbandry program include increased safety for both the trainer and animal while decreasing time to complete husbandry procedures. Some cooperative behaviors that are done in a training session include giving medications, beak trims, putting each animal on a scale to be weighed, and touching the animal in order to examine specific parts of the animal’s body.

Training a new behavior can be very challenging depending on the species and the individual personality of the animal we are working with. Training is 100% voluntary on the animal’s



*Red fox learning shape discrimination.*

## What's So Fun about Training?

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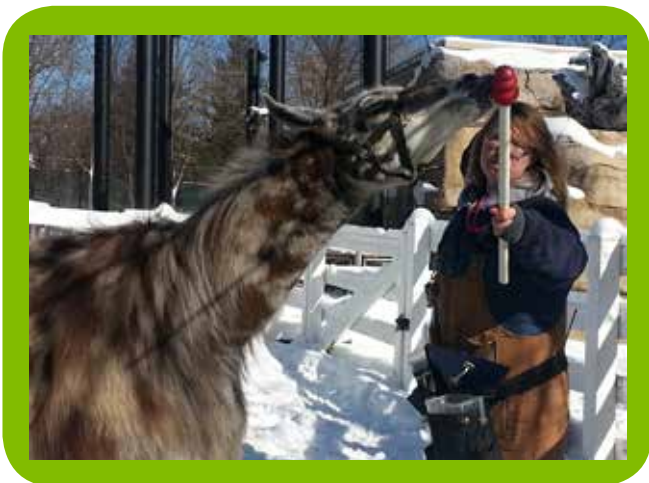
part. If an animal does not show interest in training that day, then the training session does not occur.

Every behavior that we train, regardless of its purpose, starts with a shaping plan. A shaping plan is a guide or map that will help train a new behavior. It is important to create a shaping plan to assist trainers to think about how to teach the animal the final behavior. Shaping plans can and will change throughout the course of training a new behavior.

While it's a key component of exceptional animal care, training does not have to be serious business at all times. There are many fun behaviors that we do with our animals at Cosley Zoo that are just that: FUN! These behaviors are not a necessary part of the animal's daily lives. It is the trainers at Cosley Zoo that come up with new and interesting ways to keep our animals healthy and enriched in a zoological setting. Some of the fun behaviors that are performed include a high five from a raccoon, a hug from a llama, a sitting fox, and a coyote jumping onto a log.

As with most things in life, there is always something that is a work in progress. Currently, zookeepers are working on getting a raccoon to open a closed container, a fox to spin in a circle, and a llama to ring a bell and take a bow. Other zoos have trained pigs to recognize certain scents, mules to count, otters to close their own crate doors, and rats to play basketball. While these behaviors may not be necessary to an animal's care, they do provide important mental and physical exercise necessary for good health.

Zookeepers train throughout the day and work to train each of their assigned animals twice daily. While some of these training sessions occur out of view in the animal's holding areas, many occur in the exhibits where zoo guests can watch. On your next trip to Cosley Zoo, be sure to keep an eye out for these animal training sessions. You never know what fun behaviors you might see during your visit!



*Big Ray the llama touching a target.*

## Be Happy... Volunteer!

By Jenny Rudnick-Volz, Zookeeper

April 6 will mark the beginning of National Volunteer Week. This is a time to celebrate people doing extraordinary things through service. It is about inspiring and encouraging people to engage in their communities and recognizing those that already do. As President Barack Obama stated, "America's story has been marked by the service of volunteers. Generations of selfless individuals from all walks of life have served each other and our nation, each person dedicated to making tomorrow better than today. They exemplify the quintessential American idea that we can change things, make things better, and solve problems when we work together."

Some still may ask, "Why volunteer?" There are many reasons, and everyone's motivations may be different. Volunteering can provide a boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and overall life satisfaction. When you're doing good for others and your community, it provides a natural sense of accomplishment. A volunteer role can also give you something to be proud of and identify with. Researchers in London found people who dedicated time to volunteering to be 16% happier than those who didn't!

Volunteering can bring fun and social opportunities to your life. It is an easy way to explore your interests and passions. Volunteering also gives you the chance to learn a new skill set and practice ones that can be applied to your day-to-day life, such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, project planning, task management, and organization. A position in the animal care field is physically demanding, providing many health benefits. Whatever the reasons may be, giving to a cause that makes you feel accomplished and appreciated means you are making a difference, both in the community and in your own life.

Cosley Zoo offers volunteer opportunities in animal care, education, and guest services. These volunteers are an integral part of the zoo and its mission. Animal Care Volunteers work directly with zookeepers and dedicate at least four hours to the zoo weekly. Their essential duties include performing routine feeding, cleaning, and general husbandry for domestic and wild animals; observing animals for research, medical, and behavioral purposes; and interacting with zoo guests, offering education, information, and assistance.

One such animal care volunteer at Cosley Zoo is Megan McDonough, who has contributed over 450 hours of her time to our facility! Megan graduated from Augustana College in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biology and Psychology. She completed a 12 week Animal Care Internship at Cosley Zoo last year. Megan enjoyed the experience so much that she chose to stay on as a volunteer to gain more hands-

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## Be Happy... Volunteer!

—continued from page 2

on experience in a zoo setting. Megan appreciates that she is trusted to work independently in most animal areas, and she enjoys giving the animals enrichment and training the hedgehogs. She has participated in several other volunteer opportunities over the years, including volunteering at a cat shelter and a horse stable. Currently, Megan also volunteers at an aquarium. Megan's ultimate goal is to be a zookeeper or marine mammal trainer, and she knows the skills she learns during her volunteer experiences will help her to move forward in her career goals.

No matter what your reasons may be for volunteering, it is a beautiful, selfless act. Remember that all you need to contribute to any volunteer effort is compassion, an open mind, a willingness to help with what is needed, and a positive attitude.



*Volunteer Megan McDonough*

## Thank You to our Sponsors for Festival of Lights in December!

Presenting Sponsor  
Light Display Sponsors

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Animal Medical Clinic of Wheaton  
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Christopher B. Burke  
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Phil Suess, Wheaton Councilman  
Smashburger  
Superior Masonry, Inc.

## How Cosley Zoo Celebrates National Volunteer Week

By Tammy Janik, Zookeeper, and Natasha Fischer, Educator

**Volunteer:** verb; def: To offer oneself for a particular task, of one's own free will.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon established National Volunteer Week with an executive order in an effort to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers everywhere. Since then, every sitting U.S. president, along with many of the country's mayors and governors, has issued a proclamation during National Volunteer Week to honor and recognize these individuals.

Over the years, the original emphasis of National Volunteer Week has widened to become a nationwide effort to urge people to get out and volunteer in their communities. Every April, organizations including hospitals, non-profits, park districts, and zoos reinforce the week's official theme which in 2014 is, "Celebrate Service," by recognizing their volunteers and fostering a culture of service.

At Cosley Zoo, we could never accomplish all that we do without the assistance of our dedicated volunteers. Long term volunteers, interns, Junior Zookeepers, and Summer Teen Volunteers assist our staff throughout the year. They help to care for the animals, assist with special events, interpret exhibits for zoo visitors, conduct public duck feedings, and so much more. In 2013, volunteers donated 8,332 hours of their time to Cosley Zoo; this is the equivalent of four full-time staff members! Our staff has great respect for all of our volunteers and a true appreciation for the work that they do. Thank you! This year, National Volunteer Week takes place from April 6th through the 12th. We'll be celebrating by providing our volunteers with special recognition that week. Please help us to show our volunteers how valuable they are by thanking them when you see them, not just during National Volunteer Week, but every day!

If you are interested in becoming a Cosley Zoo volunteer, please visit [cosleyzoo.org/volunteer.htm](http://cosleyzoo.org/volunteer.htm) for more information.

## Summer Teens at Cosley Zoo

By Jackie Boquist, Educator

Is your teenager passionate about animals and the environment? Do you enjoy working with people of all ages? If you answered yes to both of these questions, then we have the perfect program for you!

Cosley Zoo's Summer Teen Volunteer Program is for ages 13-17. The program gives volunteers the opportunity to help the Education Department provide a range of hands-on experiences that make a guest's visit to the zoo unique and memorable. While participating in the Summer Teen Volunteer Program, young adults not only develop public speaking and career skills, they also learn responsibility and grow in their personal conservation ethic. The program is seasonal, with orientation taking place in May and shifts running from June through mid-August. Each Summer Teen Volunteer commits to at least a 2 hour shift each week.

Cosley Zoo is currently looking for mature, energetic teens that are eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with our guests! Do you think you have what it takes to help us spread our mission and our message? For more information, or to access an application link, please visit [cosleyzoo.org](http://cosleyzoo.org) and select the "Volunteer" option under the "Get Involved" tab. The application deadline is Wednesday, April 9, 2014. Interviews will take place on Saturday, April 19 and 26. All accepted applicants will be required to attend orientation and training on designated dates in May. The fee for the Summer Teen Volunteer Program is \$35. This fee helps offset the cost of a t-shirt, nametag, program materials, and training. Do not submit the fee with your application; all participants accepted into the Summer Teen Volunteer program will be notified of the fee due date.

We look forward to seeing you at the zoo!



*Teens Lend a Hand*

## Thank You to Our Annual Donors

We are genuinely grateful for the continued support of our friends who have helped us achieve and accomplish so much throughout the years in educating those in our community about nature, conservation, and wildlife. We cordially acknowledge the following people for their support in our annual end-of-year campaign:

### **\$0-\$49**

Adobe Online Giving  
Matthew Baldwin  
Bill & Dixie Evans  
David Haskins  
Terri Murray

### **\$50-\$99**

Sara Bonkowski  
Calvin Magnan  
Thomas Palmer  
Susan Wallace  
Maria & Jeffrey Walter  
Jeanette Yonk

### **\$100-\$499**

Mark Ahlemann  
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Rebecca Hardman  
Bob Hutchinson  
Kenneth Kwiatkowski  
Todd Manning  
Basia Martz  
Marie Pinegar  
Eileen Riesz  
Scott & Susan Shorney  
Philip Slocum  
Theodore Utchen  
Wheaton Sports Center

### **\$500-\$999**

Arthur & Barbara Pape

### **\$1,000+**

Jan Kiebler  
Sandy Paszczak  
Charles Schlau

The Cosley Zoo Foundation is pleased to be the recipient of a grant through The DuPage Community Foundation for the development of Animal & Nature Education Boxes.

## Programs & Events

March-May 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 #
18 mos-4	3/5	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106505-04
18 mos-4	3/12	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106505-05
18 mos-4	3/19	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106505-06
18 mos-4	4/9-5/28	W	9:30-10A	\$52/\$72	206502-01
18 mos-4	4/9-5/28	W	10:30-11A	\$52/\$72	206502-02

### 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	3/10	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	106510-05
2-3	3/24	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	106510-06
2-3	4/14	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	206510-01
2-3	4/28	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	206510-02
2-3	5/12	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	206510-03
2-3	6/2	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	206510-04

### 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	4/25-5/30	F	4:15-5:15P	\$66/\$90	206203-01

### Great Egg Scramble

Saturday, April 12 | 9:30-10:30 am and 11 am-12 pm

Come to Cosley Zoo for an egg-cellent time! Bring your baskets and scramble for eggs and other trinkets. Meet some of the zoo's residents and try fun activities. Children are divided into age groups for the scramble based on enrollment. Groups are scheduled consecutively. Pre-registration is required. Event will be held rain or shine, so dress for the weather. Please plan to enjoy this event with your child; this is not a drop-off program. Registration ends on 4/10/14. Participants can register in the following ways: On-line at [wheatonparkdistrict.com](http://wheatonparkdistrict.com) or fill out a registration form at the Wheaton Park District Community Center, 1777 S Blanchard Rd. Registration is not taken by phone. *Cosley Zoo members: be sure and register in person or by mail to receive a reduced fee.*

- Ages 2-10
- Wheaton Park District Residents \$12; Nonresidents \$15 (Registration code 109201-01 or 109201-02)

### Party for the Planet

Saturday, April 26 | 10 am-2 pm

Join us as we take part in the largest combined Earth Day celebration in North America with more than 100 other zoos and aquariums. Come visit with representatives from businesses and conservation organizations and learn about a wide variety of conservation efforts related to nature and wildlife. So stop by, enjoy a piece of Earth Day cake, and find out how you can help too!

- Regular admission rates apply.



### 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.

### Save the Date for Zoo Nightlife

Friday, June 20

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! Look for more information about this new event in the Wheaton Park District Summer Program Guide and at [cosleyzoo.org](http://cosleyzoo.org).

## Program & Events

March-May 2014

### 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.



### 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 by 10:45 am in the Wild Side gift shop during your zoo visit or call ahead to

reserve. 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 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 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.

- March 29-April 6 and April 19-October 13.
- Cost: \$1/serving.
- All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.



### Discovery Stations – beginning weekends in April

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

## Thank You to Our Donors

### Wish Tree

Once again Cosley Zoo supporters were very generous during the holidays, purchasing ornaments from the zoo's Wish Tree to benefit our animals. Each ornament listed an enrichment item for a specific animal. The selected enrichment items have now been purchased and are being put to good use! Thanks to the following people that made the holidays merry:

Aaron Rojas	Kristin, Mike & Bear	Savanna H
AJ Ficaro	Kroll Family	Selena & Frank
Alex & Isabella Malachowski	Lambert & Linda Sue	Shannon McElmeel
Alex Kwiatkowki	Laura & Joe Fornal	Skylar & Shane
Alvia	Lily Huntzinger	Stephanie Gebbia
Amelia B	Logan James	Sydney
Andrew Jensen	Macholls	Terri Saucedo
Ann & Joe Orendorff	Mackenzie Mason	The Barone Family
Anthony Lederer	Maggie	The Carlsons
Aria	Mark Fornal	The Curtis Family
Arnie & Sandy Krause	Mary	The Foresters
Ashley Prescott	MaryAnn	The Fuller Family
Bella, Kadyn & Sissy	Matthew Harrington	The Fuller Girls
BKNOS	Matthew, Grace & Lily	The Harkers
Bob	Max	The Kazmierzon Family
Boyd Family	Mia	The Knoxs
Brody & Sadie McCormac	Michelle Leonard	The Kosans
Byran Seiler	Mira	The Leonards
Chris Thomas	Mira Mason	The Lunds
Chuck & Beth Seen	Nathan & Rhianna	The Mielkes
Clayton	Nicholas	The Miller Family
Danielle Aauw	Nicole & Thomas Zapota	The Podell Family
Deb & Ron Smith	Nikki & Jon	The Ramine
Dorrian	Nolan, Norah, & Beckett	The Revillas
Drew Spiler	Norm & Susan Carlson	The Schultzs
Eloise L	P Licina	The Sullivans
Emma	Pat Romejko	Thomas
Eve	Paul & Sharon M	Tracey LoVecchio
Evie	Paul, Joanne, Sydney, Lucas	Travis
Flip Mueller	Peter & Anna Turano	Tyler
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Ginny Fuller	Pucher Family	Valerie
Harringtons	Randall & Megan Mueker	Viven LoVecchio
Harvey	Reily Wilson	Zac
Henry Hilsabeck	Rick Savcedo	
Iris	Rick, Pam, Nicki, Aidan	
James Huntzinger	Gantt	
Janet Bashi	Riley, Scooby & Frtiz Mueller	
Jenny Bartos	Rowan	
Jess & John& Cindy & Bob	Rusty Haney	
Jill Casey	Ryan & Evan	
Jim	Sam & Mitch	
Joan, Bri & Ari	Sami Powell	
Julia & Luke	Sara & Steve	
Juliane Farrell	Sarah Bartos	
Katie & Javier	Sarah Fornal	
Kayley, Ryan, Tina	Sarah Garlinger & Anita	
Kirsten Johnson	Salvaggio	

### Animal Adoptions

Thanks to the following people who have generously chosen to support Cosley Zoo through our Club Care animal adoption program. Animal adoptions are not only a great way to support your favorite animal at Cosley Zoo but also make a unique and meaningful gift. For more information on Club Care, please call the zoo at 630.665.5534.

Katie Thicksten – Raccoon  
 Judith Ivek – Blanding's Turtle  
 Adelyn Yang-Lee – Blanding's Turtle  
 Tricia Cimms – Blanding's Turtle  
 Stacy Baessler – Rabbit  
 Kyle Paul – Coyote  
 Brooke McClure – Bobcats  
 Abby Ittner – Rabbit  
 Isabella Marie Carter – Pekin Duck  
 Julia & Henry Pragit – Blanding's Turtle  
 The Popp Family – Guernsey Cow  
 Kyle Yezak – Red Fox  
 Thomas Lindsay – Wood Duck  
 Theresa Fotis – Rabbit  
 Marlen Schuett – Raccoon  
 Dave & Val Hough – Barn Owl  
 Quincy Rubald – Shetland Pony



**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:

