



# Cosley Tails

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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.

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

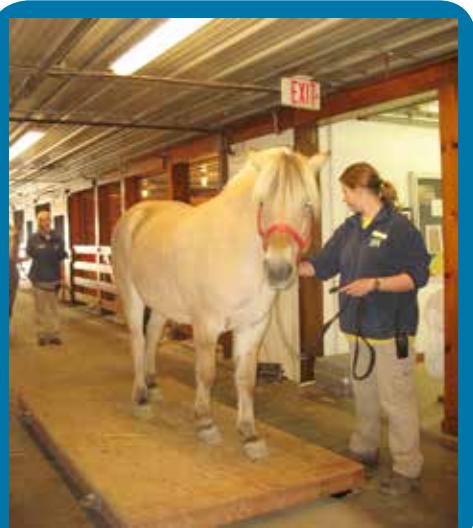
## Weighing In on Measuring Up!

by Jenny Theuman, Zookeeper and Angie Dosch, Animal Collection Supervisor

It might surprise you to know that animal care at Cosley Zoo takes a lot more than simply a love for animals. While every keeper here will tell you that passion and a love of working with animals is a big part of their day to day, it is only part of it.

Training, enrichment, nutrition, and health care are the four cornerstones of our animal care program at Cosley Zoo. One of the key tools that helps us measure our success is something similar to what most people have in their bathrooms: a scale. Cosley Zoo just acquired a replacement large animal scale and we would love to share why this is so exciting!

We use operant conditioning (in the form of positive reinforcement) to train our animals. One of the first things that some of the animals are trained to do is stand on a scale platform for a voluntary weight. Now, one might ask, why do you have to weigh the animals? Can't you tell if they are too skinny, or too fat? The answer for most of the animals is yes, of course we can.



But, the goal of our program is to maintain healthy weights for our animals, not to be reactive when they are too little or too big. By weighing the animals every month we can watch for trends and compare it to other information. It helps us determine the success of our feeding and nutrition practices. Some of the trends that we watch for include seasonal and medical changes. If an animal does become ill, knowing its weight allows us to provide the correct amount of medication for the most effective treatment.

While there are many tools used in our health care program, the scale has proven to be especially useful in treating chronic arthritic conditions, such as in one of our llamas, Olaf. The boys, Big Ray and Olaf, are 16 years old now, and for llamas, that is getting pretty old.

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## Weighing In on Measuring Up!

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Several years ago, Olaf (our big white llama) had some trouble with intermittent lameness, or occasional limping. In June of 2005 he was put on an anti-inflammatory medication and observed. Although the medication was successful at managing the discomfort, and only needed during the frigid winter months, we wanted to take a more proactive approach to treating the problem.

Looking at weight records, we found that Olaf weighed 604 pounds at his heaviest. Carrying all that extra weight puts a lot of stress on the joints, tendons, and ligaments. So a new weight management plan was created and monitored with the use of our scale. A reduction in weight did happen, slowly and over a long period of time. As we watched trends, we were able to adjust the llama diet as necessary until we reached a stable goal.

Currently, Olaf weighs 395 pounds, a much more manageable and healthier weight. Olaf received his last dose of anti-inflammatory medication in November of 2011 and has not suffered from lameness since! Walking, lying down, and getting up appear to be much easier now. The winters have not gotten any easier, and he has not gotten any younger; the only difference is a change in weight!

As the temperature cools and the season changes, so too do the activity level and the nutrition requirements of our animals, and we have to adjust to those changing needs. With our new scale we will be able to continue to monitor Olaf's weight as well as the other animals' weights over the winter. We will be able to make sure we provide the very best possible care for our animals!

**Thanks a ton to Matt Smogor,  
former Cosley Zoo animal care intern,  
who generously donated a brand new  
Gage-tek large animal scale  
to Cosley Zoo!**

## Holiday Shopping at Cosley Zoo

Are you looking for a unique gift? Be sure and put the Wild Side Gift Shop on your list of places to stop.

Check out the one-of-a-kind pieces of art painted by the zoo's animals. These animal paintings are a great source of enrichment for our animals and a great addition to any wall, mantel, desk, or shelf.

The zoo also offers a selection of animal-themed ornaments. New this year, we have custom Cosley Zoo ornaments! Choose from four different scenes.

**Give a hand-carved animal figure.** These have the look of ivory but are actually made from Tagua nuts. The Tagua Nut, also referred to as corozo or vegetable ivory, is the naturally occurring fruit of the Ivory-nut Palm. What's even better is that the Tagua Nut is a sustainably harvested natural resource.



**Sponsor an animal.** Cosley Zoo has two ways to "adopt" an animal. Choose an animal and create your own adoption package using our Club Care Animal Adoption brochure, or purchase one of our special

prepackaged adoptions featuring a turtle, horse, rabbit, or bobcat. Each year, the zoo's grocery bill alone amounts to more than \$30,000. By purchasing any of our Club Care Animal Adoptions or our special adoption packages, you will help defray the costs of feeding and caring for your sponsored animal.

**Give the gift of a Cosley Zoo membership.** Not only do zoo members receive free admission to Cosley Zoo but they also receive free or discounted admission to more than 160 other zoos nationwide! Annual membership fees support the development of new exhibits and provide an environment for unique recreational and educational experiences for children and their families. Benefits vary with membership level. Pick up a membership form in the gift shop or download at [cosleyzoo.org](http://cosleyzoo.org).

## Holiday Wish Tree



Help the animals at Cosley Zoo have an extra-special holiday season by purchasing an ornament from our Wish Tree. It's easy! Visit the Wild Side Gift Shop, pick the ornament that lists a special gift for your favorite animal, and we will do the shopping!

Many of the items on the tree list are enrichment for our animals. Enrichment is the process of creating

a challenging environment to address an animal's social, psychological, and physical needs. Enrichment aims to enhance animal activity and provide mental stimulation. Enrichment is as critical to an animal's well-being as having the right food and medical care.

If you would like to shop for the animals, please visit Cosley Zoo's Wish List on Amazon. Go to [www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=wish\\_list](http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=wish_list) and enter "Cosley Zoo".

**Walking in a Winter Wonderland**

**Cosley Zoo's Festival of Lights and Christmas Tree Sale**

**November 29-December 30**

20,000 twinkling lights and spectacular displays transform Cosley Zoo into a fairy tale winter wonderland. Choose your perfect tree, visit the animals, and purchase a wreath or unique holiday gifts. The zoo is open from 9 am to 9 pm daily; lights come on at 3 pm.

**Santa's Craft Corner**

**Saturday, November 30, December 7 & 10**

Don't miss out on all the fun! Visit [cosleyzoo.org](http://cosleyzoo.org) for details!

Zoo admission is free during the Festival of Lights and Tree Sales. Donations are greatly appreciated. A fundraiser for Cosley Zoo. Your purchases are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Sponsored by **COMMUNITY BANK** WHEATON / GLEN ELLYN

## PVC: Not Just for Plumbing

by Melanie Kuse, Zookeeper

At Cosley Zoo, zookeepers spend part of their day preparing and presenting enrichment to the animals. Enrichment provides the animals with stimulating and challenging environments, objects, and activities and is as critical to an animal's welfare as having the right food and medical care. One item that zookeepers often use to create enrichment devices is PVC pipe. While the majority of people think of PVC as something you see when you look under your kitchen sink, PVC can help create some interesting objects for animals to interact with. Due to its durable nature, PVC can withstand the daily wear and tear that most of our enrichment items go through. It is also an item that can easily be washed, which, in a zookeeper's eyes, is a very important quality.

So what kind of enrichment items can we create with PVC? Animals that enjoy climbing, such as raccoons, can scramble around on a PVC ladder or climbing structure that is placed in their exhibit or holding area. Horses, pigs, deer, and even coyotes appreciate a good puzzle every once in a while: by placing their daily diet (or even just a light snack) inside a PVC tube with holes drilled in it, the animals have to work a little harder to get their food, fulfilling their need to forage. For our smaller creatures, a simple, short PVC tube can serve as a cozy hideaway.

Maybe you've visited Cosley Zoo recently and are now thinking, "Why have I never seen any PVC in any animal exhibits?" Through the art of disguise, we have placed PVC items in animal exhibits without the ability to be detected by the untrained eye. Since PVC is an incredibly durable material, it can be heated without ruining the surface. Heating the outside of our PVC enrichment items gives them a more natural look, turning the PVC into an earthy brown color with a marble effect. On a daily basis, we use a heated PVC tube clipped onto the fencing to feed our Sandhill Crane. See if you can spot it in the deer exhibit on your next visit to Cosley Zoo!

**Do you want to help us create more fun items for our animals to enjoy? Cosley Zoo is requesting donations of PVC pieces of any length and diameter. Redoing some plumbing in the house? Bring in your extra bits and pieces of PVC that were leftover from the job. These pieces will be used to construct exciting enrichment items for our animals at the zoo. Every little bit helps, so on your next visit to Cosley Zoo, don't forget to bring in some good ol' polyvinyl chloride, also known as PVC.**

## Cosley Zoo's Teen Scene

by Jackie Boquist, Educator



Have you ever visited Cosley Zoo and thought that some of the zoo staff looked a little bit too young to be working at a zoo? These young people are not actually paid zoo staff, but specially trained middle and high school-aged students. They were chosen by zoo staff to be a part of the Cosley Zoo's Junior Zookeeper (JZ) program because of their passion and curiosity about animals and the environment. The JZ program is a year-long commitment for up to 30 young adults in grades 7 through 12.

As members of the JZ program, students get the unique opportunity to work with zoo educators and zookeepers. This privilege allows them to begin developing many career skills and also gives them pertinent information to decide if this might be the career path that is right for them. Each month the Junior Zookeepers (JZs) meet with an educator to discuss and participate in science-related activities. Through these meetings, JZs learn that while working at a zoo can be very rewarding, it also requires great skill and dedication to the animals and the conservation message that is being promoted.

Not only do the JZs work on building their animal-related career skills at Cosley Zoo, they also have opportunities to develop important life skills such as leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and time management. While volunteering at Cosley Zoo, the Junior Zookeepers are expected to work as a team and cooperate with each other. One of the first things that they do each year is participate in the Lincoln Marsh's Teams Course to begin developing these skills. Time management and responsibility are also valuable skills that the JZs learn while being a part of this program. Each JZ signs a contract stating that he or she will contribute at least 60 hours of service to the zoo per year. Our students go above and beyond this requirement: In the last 5 years our JZs have given 7,650 hours of their free time to help with zoo events, attend meetings, assist with educational programming, and so much more.

As the JZs accumulate volunteer hours; they become eligible for more training and therefore gain more experience, responsibility, and privileges. One of these incentives, and perhaps the one that is most looked forward to, is animal handling training. Once the JZs have accumulated a total of 70 volunteer hours, they can become certified at handling and presenting some of Cosley Zoo's education animals including the rabbits, chickens, Blue-Tongued Skinks, box turtles, hedgehogs, and several invertebrates.

The hours of service that our JZs accumulate can be listed on job and college applications, showing future employers or schools how dedicated they are. Once in college, many of them pursue degrees in environmental studies, ecology, biology, zoology, and other science related fields. The experience that they receive at Cosley Zoo gives them an valuable head start towards acquiring another position or internship that can get them get that much closer to their overall career goal. Even if the JZs don't pursue an animal or science related degree, the life skills that they develop while in the program can help them excel at any other career path that they may choose.

So, next time you visit the zoo and see a Junior Zookeeper working, stop and say hello. Who knows, you may be speaking to the next generation of zoo professionals!



## Programs & Events

December 2013-February 2014

### Santa's Craft Corner

**Saturday, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 &**

**14, 10 am-2 pm**

Can't make it to the North Pole? Do the next best thing and come to Cosley Zoo! Enjoy a visit with Santa, make a craft or two and enjoy cookies, punch, and coffee.

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

Santa's Craft Corner is held upstairs in the Vern Kiebler Learning Center.

**Sponsored by**



### Festival of Lights & Trees

**Friday, November 29-Monday, December 30 | 9A-9P**

20,000 twinkling lights and spectacular displays transform Cosley Zoo into a fairy tale winter wonderland from the day after Thanksgiving (November 29) through December 30.

The lights come on at 3 pm daily and the zoo closes at 9 pm. Visit the animals and purchase a cup of hot chocolate, your tree, wreath, and holiday gifts! Tree sales continue daily through Noon on December 24. Your purchases are tax deductible (to the full extent of the law). Zoo members: be sure and take advantage of your membership discount!

- Zoo admission is free during the Festival of Lights and Tree Sales. Donations are greatly appreciated.
- Cosley Zoo is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.
- Cosley Zoo is open 9 am-Noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

**Sponsored by**



### 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

<b>Age</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>R/NR Fee</b>	<b>Class #</b>
<b>Series 1</b>					
18 mos-4	1/8-2/5	W	9:30-10A	\$26/\$36	106502-01
18 mos-4	1/8	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106502-02
18 mos-4	1/15	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106502-03
18 mos-4	1/22	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106502-04
18 mos-4	1/29	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106502-05
18 mos-4	2/5	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106502-06
<b>Series 2</b>					
18 mos-4	2/19-3/19	W	9:30-10A	\$26/\$36	106505-01
18 mos-4	2/19	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106505-02
18 mos-4	2/26	W	9:30-10A	\$6.50/\$9	106505-03
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

### Toddler Time

Curious toddlers experience learning through play in this special class. Led by a Cosley Zoo educator, our class features a live animal visit and animal-themed activities. 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

<b>Age</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>R/NR Fee</b>	<b>Class #</b>
2-3	1/13	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	106510-01
2-3	1/27	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	106510-02
2-3	2/10	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	106510-03
2-3	2/24	M	9:15-10:15A	\$9/\$12.50	106510-04
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

# Program & Events

December 2013-February 2014

## Family Fun at Cosley Zoo: Winter Wildlife

What do the animals do in winter? Join us for an evening of activities including a tour and live animal encounter as we learn how an animal survives winter. Program is recommended for ages 3 and over, but all ages are welcome. Children and adults must register. Part of the program is outdoors, so please dress appropriately. (TR)

**Location:** Cosley Zoo      **Limit:** 25

<b>Age</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>R/NR Fee</b>	<b>Class #</b>
All ages	1/24	F	6:30-8P	\$12.25/\$15	106512-01

## Eco-Exploration Backpack

### Tours at Cosley Zoo

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 acts 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.

- Fee \$2 per pack
- Successfully complete your adventure and receive an official Eco-Explorer button. Complete each theme to collect all eight 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 11-11:30A.
- 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



Dear Friend,

Cosley Zoo, a nonprofit organization, is home to more than 300 animals, and your generous support is significant in our accomplishments and mission –

"to promote the understanding of relationships among humans, animals, and the environment through recreation, education, and wildlife conservation."

Because of friends like you, Cosley Zoo has been able to help in saving the lives and increasing the population amongst animals who are on the endangered species list, including the Black-Crowned Night Heron, Blanding's Turtle, and Barn Owl that find homes at Cosley Zoo.

We invite you to continue your support of our animals, programs, and exhibits through Cosley Zoo Foundation's Strength in Numbers 2013 End of Year Campaign. Your tax-deductible contribution will provide continued services in the areas of:

- Conservation – 1,500+ animals have been released back into the wild since 2000
- Education – 55,000+ people participate in Cosley Zoo educational programs annually
- Exhibits – 20+ exhibits and amenities have been constructed or updated since 1987
- Enrichment – 5,000+ hours are devoted annually toward animal training and enrichment
- Nourishment – 100,000 pounds of food are served annually to the animals of Cosley Zoo

Our animals depend on you, please help us soar higher and strengthen our numbers in 2014 and make your donation today! All Strength in Numbers contributors will be recognized in the 2014 Spring Cosley Tails Newsletter, and those who donate \$100 or more will be mailed a special gift from Cosley Zoo. Donate at [cosleyzoo.org](http://cosleyzoo.org).

Thank you for your consideration in support of Cosley Zoo, and we wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Wildly Yours,

*Art Pape*

Foundation President

*Susan Wahlgren*

Zoo Director

*Mike Benard*

Foundation Secretary

