



# 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.



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## “Zoomates”: Planning and Preparing for Animal Introductions

By Heather Johnson, Zookeeper

A frequently asked question at Cosley Zoo is, “When are we getting a new animal?” Before we can acquire a new animal, we need to make sure the animal fits Cosley Zoo’s mission and the collection plan we have in place. One of Cosley Zoo’s goals is housing rehabilitated animals. This includes animals that are no longer able to survive in the wild due to permanent injury. As an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), we provide the utmost in excellent animal care and welfare and always obtain animals through legal channels such as wildlife rehabilitation centers or other accredited zoos.

When a zoo has space available to take in a new animal, there is a lot of planning and preparing that needs to be done prior to the animal’s arrival. There are many factors that need to be considered, such as the life history of the animal, how it will be quarantined, where it will be housed in the zoo, whether it will be housed with another animal, whether the exhibit is appropriate for the new animal, what it will eat, and if the animal will need to be trained. Those are just a few of the numerous questions zoos have to ask before a new animal arrives.

At Cosley Zoo, the majority of our wildlife comes from rehabilitation centers. This means most of our wildlife comes to us with physical or behavioral issues that we may need to accommodate. Examples of physical issues could be broken or amputated wings, head injuries, or blindness. Behavioral issues are typically caused by imprinting. Imprinting is when an animal becomes too accustomed to human interaction. This sometimes can occur due to the animal being raised by humans. Imprinted animals cannot be re-released into the wild because they have no natural fear of humans and no longer possess the skills they need to survive on their own.



*Red-tailed Hawk’s Erie & Anna after a successful introduction.*

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## “Zoomates”: Planning and Preparing for Animal Introductions

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Prior to new animals arriving at Cosley Zoo, we need to learn their life history. An animal's life history includes what type of injuries it might have, how old it is, where has it been housed before, whether it has lived alone or with a companion, what its diet consisted of, and whether it has ever received training. All of this information allows us to prepare and plan for the animal's arrival. While Cosley Zoo works with other facilities to ensure we are acquiring a healthy animal (veterinary exams, health papers, health history, etc.), every new animal that comes to Cosley Zoo goes through a mandatory 30-day quarantine period. During this time, we house the animal separately so that we can protect the animals already living at Cosley Zoo from any parasites or diseases that the new animal could potentially carry. While in quarantine the animal undergoes a complete physical examination by our veterinarian. Once the new animal clears quarantine with a clean bill of health, the new animal can be moved into its permanent exhibit. Quarantine is an important time as it allows zookeepers to assess the physical or behavioral issues that the animal may have. We are also able to determine a baseline for what type of behaviors we can expect from the new animal. Zookeepers can monitor the animal in a one-on-one setting, and make sure that it is ready to be put into an exhibit where it will experience public interaction. Some animals, like our bobcats, come from rehabilitation centers that do not have public access, so exposure to the public is a new concept for them. It is one aspect of introducing a new animal to the zoo that we have to take into account and monitor.

Once the new animal arrives and is placed in quarantine, we begin preparing and planning for when the animal will be put into its new exhibit. When preparing the exhibit, the first consideration is whether or not there is already an animal in the exhibit. If there is already an animal in the exhibit, the exhibit is set up for that animal and its needs or physical limitations. Along with exhibit set up, there is also research that has to be done on the natural history and behavior of the new animal. Zookeepers have to be prepared for all the possible interactions that can take place when introducing new animals. There are often meetings between staff in order to develop a step by step plan for moving the new animal to the exhibit, for releasing the new animal into the exhibit, and to set up observation shifts to monitor the new animal.

There are different ways to introduce a new animal to an existing animal or exhibit. One is through direct contact, when the new animal is released into the exhibit and can have free contact with the animal already living in the exhibit. In most cases we will use indirect contact to introduce new animals. For instance, when we get a new cow we will put her in her own stall right next to our other cow already living at the zoo. This way they can interact if they so choose, but will each have their own space. How animals are

introduced to each other all depends on the type of animal and what behaviors can be anticipated.

Recently the zoo welcomed a male Red-Tailed Hawk named Erie. He can now be viewed by the public in the Red-Tailed Hawk exhibit, along with Anna who has been at Cosley Zoo since 2002. Before Erie arrived, we learned that he had a wing injury, he was under the age of two, he had no previous formal training, and he was previously housed by himself. We also coordinated with his previous keeper and consulted our veterinarian to determine a suitable diet. With this information we started to plan for his arrival. We set up a separate a quarantine holding area for him that would be big enough to accommodate a Red-Tailed Hawk. The area was set up with perches that were strategically placed to make it possible for Erie to move throughout the holding area comfortably with his flight limitations.

With quarantine set up, we were ready for Erie to arrive. Once Cosley Zoo locates a potential new animal we begin planning for the move into the exhibit. With the Red-tailed Hawk, the exhibit was already set up for Anna, who like Erie has a physical wing injury that affects her balance. Because of this, the exhibit was already designed with easy access and perches that assisted limited mobility. However, we had to take into account that now there would be two birds living in the exhibit, so we installed more perches to give both birds the proper amount of room to move around and use the whole exhibit. Zookeepers did the research to determine the natural history and behavior of Red-Tailed Hawks so that they were prepared for all the possible interactions that might be seen between the two birds. Meetings were set up to go over the step-by-step plan of moving Erie from the quarantine enclosure to the Red-Tailed Hawk exhibit, and observation shifts were assigned to supervise the two birds. It was determined that direct contact introductions would be done between Erie and Anna. All of our research and planning went as we had hoped and everything between Erie and Anna went smoothly.

It is never a guarantee that introducing a new animal to an exhibit will go as smoothly as they did between Erie and Anna. Even in the best of circumstances, the animals need to determine who will be the more dominant. Once in a while the hawks can be seen spreading their wings and puffing up their chests to one another in a display of dominance, which is a normal and healthy display of natural behaviors.

When it comes to the world of animals you can never be too prepared. That is why zoos take the time and put in so much effort when planning animal introductions.

## Education Animals Unveiled

By Natasha Fischer, Educator

When you visit Cosley Zoo and view our animal collection, you will see an array of over 60 species representing native Illinois wildlife and domestic farm animals. The goal of our collection of exhibit animals is to connect our visitors to the animals that most affect our everyday lives, from the farm animals that provide the food that we eat to the wildlife with whom we share space. Visitors are often unaware that we have a separate, behind-the-scenes, education animal collection. These species, often exotics (animals that are not native to Illinois) are typically housed off exhibit and are used for education programming and special events. Live animals bring our education programs to life, and although they aren't visible to the public on a daily basis, they help us to realize a key component of Cosley Zoo's mission by helping us to create a lasting connection between people and animals.



*Pouco, Cosley Zoo's Hahn's Macaw*

Perhaps you've been in the Wild Side Gift Shop and heard something squawking behind the scenes? That's Pouco (pronounced Poe-coo), our Hahn's Macaw. When Pouco visits one of our programs, he often delights young visitors by performing from his repertoire of trained behaviors. His favorite behavior, "flip", is a huge crowd pleaser as he turns himself in a complete circle, flipping upside down while holding onto the instructor's finger with his feet. While our guests are enjoying Pouco's antics, we take the opportunity to educate them about birds and their characteristics.

Also popular among our program animals are our two hedgehogs. Our small ("pygmy") hedgehogs, with their big eyes, long noses, and large ears, inspire many visitors to marvel over how "cute" these spiny creatures are. Hedgehogs help us teach about

mammal diversity by demonstrating to visitors that although all mammals have hair or fur, not all of that hair is soft to the touch.



*Harry the Hedgehog*

Some of my favorite animals to bring to programs include the snakes, cockroaches, and tarantula. While it's fairly easy to get people excited about animals such as the hedgehogs, rabbits, or turtles, it's definitely more of a challenge to inspire them to care about reptiles, insects, and spiders. I often hear a collective sharp intake of breath when I take out one of these less-cuddly animals, and then I notice everyone in the audience take a step backwards. As we observe the animal and learn some of the fascinating facts about it, I'll notice the members of the group slowly creeping closer to get a better look, and often even touch the animal in my hand. It's in situations like these where I realize how important it is to have live animals available for programs: I can talk until I'm blue in the face about what an important role snakes and spiders play in nature, but it's only when people get the chance to see one up close, in a non-threatening environment, that they can truly begin to appreciate how amazing these animals are, and how deserving they are of our care and protection.



*Black Rat Snake*

The value that our education animals bring to our programs is immeasurable. As much as our education staff loves interacting with visitors and teaching classes, we know that the live animals are really the stars of our programs. These animals are true ambassadors, inspiring people to care about wildlife and to take action to protect animals and their habitats. We hope you'll join us for a program at the zoo, and experience the thrill of meeting one of our education animals for the first time. Please visit our website and click on the "Events" or "Programs" tab to learn how to register for a class or book your event here at the zoo. It will truly be a one-of-a-kind experience that you will never forget!



## Programs & Events

### Bookworms Series

Do you and your child love stories and animals? Come listen to 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 Kiebler Room which is assessible only by stairs. *Cosley Zoo members: Register at the Community Center in person or by mail to take advantage of reduced fees for members.*

**Limit:** 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
<b>Series 1</b>					
18 mos-4	1/7-2/11	W	9:30-10A	\$39/\$54	106502-01
<b>Series 2</b>					
18 mos-4	2/18-3/25	W	9:30-10A	\$39/\$54	106505-01

**Register online at [wheatonparkdistrict.com](http://wheatonparkdistrict.com) for Bookworms**



### 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.



### 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.

### 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 10am-1pm.
- Ages 14 and up.
- \$75/Cosley Zoo Member; \$95/nonmember.
- To sign up, call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534.

## Programs & Events

### Festival of Lights and Tree Sales

November 28-December 30

A winter visit to Cosley Zoo has become a family tradition for many. Make sure it is one of yours! Cosley Zoo is transformed into a winter wonderland with 20,000 twinkling lights creating spectacular displays, an amazing selection of Christmas trees for you to purchase, hot chocolate, and holiday gifts. The Festival of Lights and Tree Sales begin the day after Thanksgiving (11/28/14) and continue through December 30. The zoo is open 9A-9P daily; lights come on at 3P. All proceeds support the zoo, its animals, programs, and development.

- 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 9A-Noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve



### Animal Light Display Sponsors

- Animal Medical Clinic of Wheaton
- Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
- DuPage County Historical Museum
- DuPage Family Dental
- EP Doyle & Sons, LLC.
- Kramer Tree Specialists
- Councilman Phil Suess & Family
- Tom's Farm Market & Greenhouse, Inc.
- Western DuPage Special Recreation Association

### Santa's Craft Corner

Saturday, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 13, 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/family donation
- \$3 for printed photo with Santa



### 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 provide 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 [amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=wish\\_list](https://amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=wish_list) and enter Cosley Zoo.



## Cosley Zoo Foundation's Tail End of the Year 2014 Campaign

Dear Friend of Cosley Zoo,

Since 2004 and because of the support of friends like you, hundreds of young aspiring conservation advocates have participated in the Junior Zookeeper program at Cosley Zoo. Their commitment allows for important wildlife messages to be shared with over 150,000 visitors and program participants annually.

Cosley Zoo's Junior Zookeeper program is vital to ensuring a promising future for our community and our world's conservation efforts. Please take a few minutes to read the letter from one of Cosley Zoo's Junior Zookeepers and learn how your support has help shape their future.

**Please help Cosley Zoo to continue its offering of enriching programs for all ages by making a charitable gift to Cosley Foundation's Tail End of the Year Campaign.**

Your tax-deductible contribution will provide needed support for these programs, excellent services, and quality care of animals that you and your family have come to know at Cosley Zoo.

You are welcome to send your gift in with the enclosed commitment card or you may make your donation online at [cosleyzoo.org](http://cosleyzoo.org).

Thank you for your generous support and we look forward to seeing you soon at Cosley Zoo!

Happy Holidays,



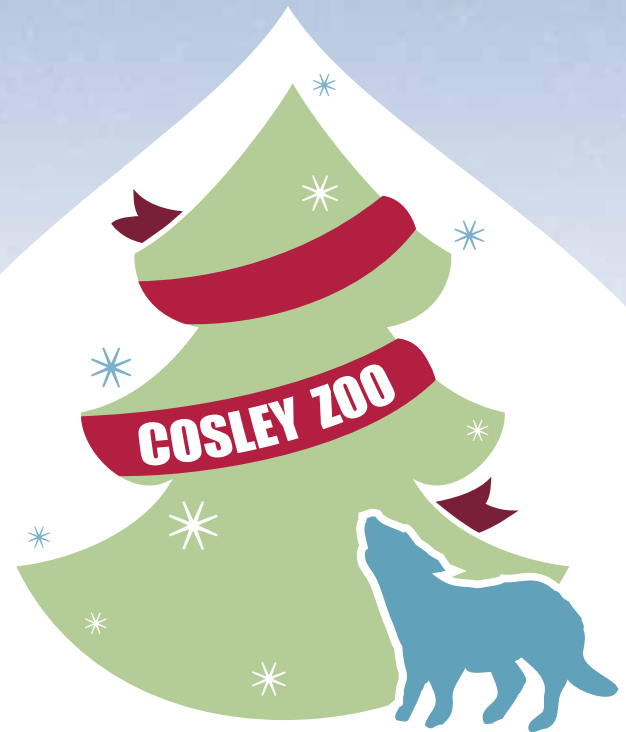
Art Pape  
Foundation President



Your contribution will go to programs like Junior Zookeepers. JZ Caroline Fischer shares her positive experience:

*"A critical value I've gained as a JZ is responsibility. Through engaging guests in environmental discussions, restoring local ecosystems, and learning about the care of animals, being a JZ has provided me with a lifelong responsibility to nature and wildlife."*

# Celebrate THE SEASON



## Festival of Lights AND CHRISTMAS TREE SALE \*

NOVEMBER 28  
through DECEMBER 30  
Open 9A-9P

FREE  
ADMISSION

**GIFT CARDS  
ON SALE!**

All gift card purchases of \$50 or more receive an Arrowhead Restaurant Holiday Bonus\*

\*Restrictions Apply

**COSLEY  
ZOO**

**COSLEYZOO.ORG**

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